

THE DEVELOPMENT OF ATHLETICS IN  
SOUTH AFRICA : 1814 TO 1914

THESIS

Submitted in Fulfilment of the  
Requirements for the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
of Rhodes University

by

DOUGLAS VICTOR COGHLAN

November 1986



Mr R. E. WALKER

# TEXT BOOK ON SPRINTING

By R. E. WALKER  
OLYMPIC  
SOUTH AFRICAN AND ENGLISH  
CHAMPION · HOLDER OF  
SEVERAL WORLD'S  
RECORDS

LONDON  
HEALTH & STRENGTH Ltd  
12 BURLEIGH STREET  
STRAND W.C.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### VOLUME ONE

PREFACE	i
ABSTRACT	iii-iv
INTRODUCTION	v-xi
CHAPTER ONE	
General developments in sport and athletics	
The origin of sport	1 - 4
The Dark and Middle Ages	4 - 6
England 1700-1900	6 - 14
Athletics in nineteenth century England	14 - 22
CHAPTER TWO	
Athletics in South Africa in the early nineteenth century and the influence of the British Army	
General activities	23 - 27
Military influences	27 - 37
CHAPTER THREE	
Pedestrianism and athleticism	
Pedestrianism	38 - 52
Athleticism in South African schools	52 - 62
Summary of early developments	62 - 63
CHAPTER FOUR	
Developments in Western Province	64 - 88
CHAPTER FIVE	
Developments in Eastern Province	89 - 115
Grahamstown	90 - 98
Port Elizabeth and country towns	98 - 115
CHAPTER SIX	
Developments in Border	
East London	116 - 124
Queenstown	124 - 137
King William's Town	137 - 142

CHAPTER SEVEN	
Developments in Pietermaritzburg	143 - 172
CHAPTER EIGHT	
Developments in Durban	173 - 215
CHAPTER NINE	
Developments in Kimberley and Bloemfontein	
Kimberley	216 - 229
Bloemfontein	229 - 243
CHAPTER TEN	
Developments in Pretoria	244 - 263
CHAPTER ELEVEN	
Developments in Johannesburg	264 - 289
CHAPTER TWELVE	
Controlling bodies	
Introduction	290 - 291
Natal	291 - 304
Cape Province	304 - 320
Orange Free State	320 - 321
Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and Mozambique	321 - 323
Transvaal	323 - 327
The National Association	327 - 331
The S A Olympic Games Association	331 - 337
The International Amateur Athletics Federation	337 - 338

## VOLUME TWO

### CHAPTER THIRTEEN

#### Long distance running and the 'Walking Craze'

Cross country running	339 - 360
The 'Walking Craze'	360 - 365
The 'Marathon Craze'	365 - 374

### CHAPTER FOURTEEN

#### The problems of amateurism

Introduction	375 - 377
Early developments	377 - 384
Prize money and prizes	384 - 393
Betting	393 - 402
Expenses	402 - 405
Officials	406 - 408
Reciprocity	408 - 409

### CHAPTER FIFTEEN

#### Professional athletics

Track and field	410 - 433
Professional walking	434 - 441

### CHAPTER SIXTEEN

#### Minority groups

Women	442 - 446
Blacks	446 - 457
Afrikaners	457 - 461
Juniors and schools	462 - 473
Walking	474 - 481

### CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

#### Influencing factors

Public and half-holidays	482 - 488
War	488 - 495
Tours	495 - 507
Economics and finance	508 - 513

### CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

#### Coaching and training

514 - 530

### CHAPTER NINETEEN

#### The men

E J L Platnauer	531 - 538
J T Wallace	538 - 543
H S Nourse	543 - 549

## CHAPTER TWENTY

### Conclusions and recommendations

Introduction	550
Conclusions	550 - 555
Recommendations	555 - 556

### TABLES

1. The organization of sport in England	13
2. The first list of English AAA records 1887	20

### ILLUSTRATIONS

Queenstown Hospital Sports - 100 yards start	128(a)
Pretoria Harriers. Social Gathering and Smoking Concert 1904	256(a)
PEAAC Cross Country Handicap 1886	341(a)
Transvaal Cross Country Championships 1912, and Pretoria Harriers fixture list 1905	355(a)

### APPENDICES

Appendix A : Abbreviations	557
Appendix B : English AAA rules 1880	558 - 559
Appendix C : Results of 6th Regiment Sports 1847	560
Appendix D : David S Barrable's editorial 1868	561
Appendix E : Advertisements	562 - 568
Appendix F : Cape Town AC first sports 1875	569
Appendix G : Queenstown Hospital Sports 1888: the balance sheet	570
Appendix H : Dates of first sports	571
Appendix I : First S A Championships results 1894	572
Appendix J : Poem on cross country running, <u>Star</u> 1898	573
Appendix K : 'Walking Craze' walks 1903	574
Appendix L : Results of S A athletes competing over- seas	575 - 584
Appendix M : Biographical sketches of prominent men	585 - 595

REFERENCES	596 - 603
------------	-----------

BIBLIOGRAPHY	604 - 609
--------------	-----------

## PREFACE

At a meeting of the South African Athletic Statisticians in 1972 it was agreed that the history of South African athletics needed writing. This study began in 1974 and the original intention was to cover the period 1860 to 1960, that is, the one hundred years preceding the expulsion of South Africa from the Olympic Games. So much information was gathered, however, that it soon became apparent that the study would have been superficial, and it was therefore decided to stop at the First World War.

This thesis thus forms the first part of a three part study: before World War One; between the two World Wars; and after World War Two. The writer has collected the information and will present it in book form in the near future.

Thanks are due to the Department of Sport and Recreation (now Education: Sport Advancement), and Rhodes University, who provided financial assistance. This enabled the writer to visit the various centres to collect the data.

Many people have been involved with this study, and some have been helpful whilst others have not. My thanks are due to the many librarians and assistants in archives and museums who cheerfully and willingly assisted with obtaining information. Thank you to those people who came forward with information, and to all those who provided accommodation, especially after the financial assistance was withdrawn.

My thanks are also due to Professors Rodney Davenport and Jack Charteris for their advice, and to the late Arrie Joubert who assisted in so many ways. The writer wishes to thank his family

for their patience and understanding, Ms J Barnard for her efficient typing, and finally Professor Eugene Locke for his support and encouragement throughout the long period of this project.

## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to record the development of athletics in South Africa from 1814 to 1914. This period was chosen because sport and athletics originated and developed into a social institution during that time and the First World War brought progress to a temporary halt, after which there were many new developments. The Cape Colony became British in 1814, and it was British influence that played such a dominant role in the social history of the period.

In 1814, both Dutch and British settlers in South Africa participated in rural sports (boeresport). By 1914, athletic clubs had been formed, provincial associations established, a national association founded, records recognised, teams sent overseas, and athletics had become one of the major sports in the country. In this study the early origins of sport in the world and in Britain have been outlined, with particular emphasis on developments that affected South Africa. Attention has been paid to the influence of British immigrants, such as teachers, soldiers, journalists, fortune-hunters and religious ministers, who came to South Africa and introduced their customs, attitudes, values, mores and expertise. The close links with Britain enabled South Africa to become one of the leading athletic nations in the world. Throughout the study the socio-cultural role of athletics has been indicated, and the interrelationship between athletics and factors such as geography, economics, politics, religion and society in general.

In part one the development of athletics in each of the main centres was covered in detail, leading to the formation of clubs and associations in those areas. The interaction between the provincial associations, the national association and the South

African Olympic Games Committee is then considered.

In part two, particular topics have been studied separately, such as: long distance running; professional athletics; walking; the role of women, blacks, juniors and Afrikaners; social aspects including half-holidays, wars, tours and finance; coaching and training; and the influence of outstanding men.

The final chapter proposes some conclusions and recommendations. The study confirmed the dominant role of the British; the fact that developments in athletics reflected developments in society; that athletics was considered an important socializing agent; that athletics had become institutionalised before World War One; and that progress was dependent on human endeavour. Advice on problems to avoid in future studies of this nature is given, and topics for further study are suggested.



## INTRODUCTION

If the man-in-the-street in Europe or America was asked to name some South Africans, there is a distinct possibility that they would be P W Botha, Dr Chris Barnard, Gary Player, Archbishop Tutu and Zola Budd. South Africa has produced a young, Afrikaans-speaking, female runner who has not only set world records, but also attracted the attention of governments, statesmen, business entrepreneurs and the mass media. Zola has emphasised two aspects pertinent to this thesis.

Firstly, she has confirmed that sport is intimately interwoven with the political, social and cultural aspects of modern societies, and it is impossible to separate them. As Snyder and Spreitzer (1983, p. 1) say:

Sport represents one of the most pervasive social institutions in our society.

This point of view is supported by Mandell (1984, p. xi):

The significance or at least ubiquitousness of sport in the twentieth century is almost burdensomely obvious.

Mandell concludes (p. 281):

Elsewhere sport is becoming less of an academic's or an intellectual's taboo.

There are now a few careful English historians who are investigating the origins of sport in the country where it all began."

The second important point to which Zola draws our attention is the complete contrast she represents to the ideas prevalent in athletics in the period covered by this study. In the nineteenth century, athletics in South Africa was confined, with one or two notable exceptions (the Blignaut brothers) to adult, male, white, English-speaking South Africans. Zola was the opposite of all those except one, when she became world news, an indication of how athletics and social change are inextricably linked.

This study traces the development of athletics in South Africa from rural sports to an institutionalised activity. It is primarily about the people who were involved, and as Paul Maylam said, reviewing An Illustrated History of South Africa, edited by Cameron and Spies (1986) in the Sunday Times (4/5/86):

An important worldwide trend in the discipline of history in recent years has been a growing interest in social history. This new social history is not one that celebrates the lifestyle of the ruling elite, but rather a history which tries to capture something of the everyday experience of 'ordinary people'.

#### THE PROBLEM AND AIM OF THE STUDY

According to Van der Merwe (1978, p. 16), little systematic research into South African sport history has been conducted. In recent years, several national sports bodies have appealed to academics to assist with the documentation of their history.

The writer noted the desire of the South African Athletic Statisticians and the South African Amateur Athletic Union to

have the history of South African athletics recorded, and had their approval in attempting this study.

The purpose of this study was to trace the origin and development of athletics in South Africa from 1814 to 1914 and to draw attention to factors which have influenced that development.

#### LIMITATIONS AND DELIMITATIONS

The writer has delimited the period of study to the hundred years 1814 to 1914. These two dates are significant. Cape Colony became a British possession in 1814, and in 1914, when the First World War began, athletics reached a watershed. Athletics virtually stopped in the First World War period, and when it resumed again there were many developments that changed the character of the sport.

The focus of this study is on athletics: running, hurdling, jumping, throwing and walking. Other sports associated with athletics have been mentioned, particularly cycling, but only where they have influenced the development of athletics. Attention has also been focused on athletics in South Africa, with only passing reference to South Africans competing in other countries. The writer has also reluctantly decided against recording the performances of athletes in detail, except where these were integral to and illustrated overall progress and development.

A further delimitation was the decision to confine the study to the mainstream of athletics and to make only passing comment on particular aspects such as school athletics, military athletics and university athletics, where these have impinged on the central theme.

A major limitation of the study was the reliance on newspapers as

sources of information, particularly for the nineteenth century. A further limitation was the complete lack of information about important men before the study began, so that their influence could be judged only in retrospect. Valuable data may have been lost, therefore, because at the time it was not considered relevant.

#### METHOD OF STUDY

A study of this magnitude posed several problems for the writer. It was necessary to obtain a background to the topic in order to place it in perspective. This background material can be placed into four categories.

##### 1. Historical background.

The writer became a South African citizen at the age of forty years and, therefore, had to familiarise himself with the general history of the period, and for this purpose used Davenport (1978), Geen (1961), Boeseken et al (undated), Randall (1982) and Bryant (1945, 1954).

##### 2. Social history.

There were few sources, but those consulted were Hattersley (1969), Henning (1975), van der Heever and Pienaar (1945) and Cameron and Spies (1986).

##### 3. History of sport.

Sources consulted were Zeigler (1979), Smith (1974), McIntosh (1952, 1963, 1979, 1981) Brasch (1972), Strutt (1801), Brailsford (1969), Dunning (1971), Dobbs (1973), Harris (1964), Potgieter (1972), Van der Merwe (1976, 1978) and Mandell (1984).

#### 4. General background.

In order to gain insight into the lifestyle of the period and to obtain a fuller picture of the social background, the author read novels such as They Seek a Country (Young, 1937), City of Gold (Young, 1939), Wild Dog Running (Scholefield, 1972), The Romance of the Golden Rand (MacDonald, 1932), Wobble to Death (Lovesey, 1970), The Outlanders (Crisp, 1964) and the novels of Wilbur Smith.

The data collection was conducted according to recommendations made by Best (1970), Berkhofer (1969), Clarke and Clarke (1970), Good (1966), Liebenberg (1976), Mouly (1963) and Woody (1947). Best (1970) classified primary sources as documents and actual written records such as minutes, constitutions, letters, diaries, newspaper and magazine accounts, advertisements, books, pictures, receipts and similar material. Remains and relics such as clothing, pictures, utensils, tools and equipment are also primary source material, as is oral testimony gained from interviews. Secondary sources are history textbooks and encyclopaedias.

The main sources of information were twenty seven libraries, museums and archives in South Africa and London. A letter of appeal for information was placed in one hundred and thirty-seven newspapers and magazines, which brought forth several replies, and the writer was interviewed on radio and television, which also stimulated responses. People came forward with photographs, scrapbooks, trophies, letters, programmes and other material. Many people were interviewed and some were recorded on tapes.

Newspapers provided the main source of information. These were studied at libraries, museums, and archives, and this was a time-consuming process. The writer had to travel to the holdings in vacation time. Many of the newspapers were in a dilapidated

condition and difficult to read. Officials were understandably often reluctant to have the newspapers damaged further, and photocopying was, therefore, forbidden. Many of the newspapers were being micro-filmed, which was occasionally a problem. The use of micro-film was avoided by the writer where possible because it placed great strain on the eyes, especially since many machines were old and ineffective. The design of the machines is also not conducive to long periods of operation, and they make daily scanning very slow and tedious.

Early newspapers had no sport section, which meant that the whole newspaper had to be scanned since there are no indexes available. In addition, the author collected information for a much longer period than that required by the thesis, and this, combined with the difficulties mentioned above, meant that the project took a long time to complete.

Newspapers scanned in detail were the Star, Cape Times, E P Herald, Friend, Daily Dispatch, Queenstown Free Press, Natal Mercury, Natal Witness, Pretoria News, Diamond Fields Advertiser, Grahamstown Journal and Latest. Other newspapers used included De Volkstem, Transvaal Leader, Cape Argus, Sporting Star, Rand Daily Mail, Transvaal Advertiser and Cape Mercury. Several periodicals were also used, such as the Bloemfontein Pelican, Outspan and S A Review.

As noted by Van der Merwe (1978, p 20), much of the material such as minute books and reports prior to World War One have been lost or destroyed. Fortunately, the nineteenth century newspapers often carried detailed reports of committee meetings and such reports were often more detailed than the original minutes. Minute Books were hard to find, and people were often reluctant to allow them out of their possession. People also appeared reluctant to allow minute books to be placed in museums and archives, which is disappointing because it is quite clear that much valuable material has been lost when people become senile or



die with it in their possession.

Interviews and scrap-books were of limited value. There were only a few people alive who had experience of athletics before World War One, and scrap-books often contained unreferenced material, newspaper and magazine clippings without date or source. Photographs, programmes, advertisements and trophies were useful.

#### PRESENTATION OF MATERIAL

The thesis has been divided into self-contained chapters concerned with particular topics. Where possible, socio-cultural factors have been referred to in the text, which has led to some repetition. Certain men, for instance, have been associated with many different aspects of athletics and, therefore, appear in many chapters.

#### ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations have been used freely in the text to reduce the length and facilitate easy reading. The main abbreviations are given in Appendix A. The full title has also usually been given before the abbreviation has been used.

#### REFERENCES

All books and articles from periodicals have been included in alphabetical order using authors' names in this section.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

All other material is listed under this heading in alphabetical order.

## CHAPTER ONE

## GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SPORT AND ATHLETICS

This chapter is concerned with the origins of sport and the emergence of sport as an institution; the birth and growth of modern sport, particularly in Britain; and the early developments in sport in South Africa.

## The origin of sport

According to Mandell (1984) activities that we would now call 'sport' have existed in most societies, but formal, and even more so, informal recreation have left little evidence for the historian. Mandell asserted that this is because

Institutionalized play, games, and competitions have been so common and well-integrated into cultural life as to be ignored by artists and chroniclers. (p. xiii)

Brasch (1972) also agreed that sport has existed since the beginning of time. Huizinga (1971) went further and postulated that play, the basis of sport, preceded culture and civilized man. Mandell (1984) commented that if sport is, in essence, play, the claim might be made that sport is much older than mankind for, as we all have observed, the beasts play. Mandell, summarising the available evidence, went on to say:

We may assume that early man - whose origins we now place in Southern Africa roughly some 500,000 years ago - played and practiced rather variously. (p. 5)



Despite the paucity of evidence, Mandell believes that the activities which appear to resemble our games and sport that were practised in societies before our own, were usually associated with magic, the sacred. Formal games and contests were akin to dance, ritual, and the theatre. Brasch (1972) discussed the roles that sport has played in past societies, and summarised them thus:

A religious cult : a means of influencing the Gods.

Preparation for life : e.g. training for warfare.

Easing of tensions : play as a cathartic medium.

Love of achievement : Man's innate need to strive and overcome what the Greeks called agôn.

Survival needs : learning to run, jump, throw, climb and swim to escape danger.

Fertility magic : praise of the supernatural to ensure birth, growth, the return of spring.

Novelty : man's fascination with new things. (pp. 1-4)

Mandell (1984) referred to the activities practised by the Maoris, the Central Americans, the North American Aborigines, the Hawaiian Aborigines, the Eskimos, the Chinese and Japanese, in pre-historic times and concluded that a great many sports were in existence before agriculture and the domestication of animals allowed the development of civilization.

Using archaeological artefacts and ethnographical evidence, we can be sure that a great variety of athletics and spectator, sports, and sports festivals existed long before the founding of the great empires from which we date the beginnings of civilization. (pp. 14-15)

But Mandell continued by emphasising the point that similarities between those activities and modern sport are tenuous:

The thesis offered here is that it is idle to look for the precursors of the competitions and games of modern industrial society by tracing the history of these activities themselves. (p. 13)

Thus, the role, place and purpose of sport in early societies should not be assumed to be the same as it was in the nineteenth century, or is today. Howell (1971, pp. 31-44) has listed nineteen points which should be considered when studying sport in ancient societies.

Organised sport is generally thought to have originated in Mycenaean Greece. Mandell (1984) considered the development of sport in the Ancient Middle East, such as Mesopotamia, Crete and Egypt and concluded:

However, it was not until pre-classical Greece that we see sport becoming so formalized and taking on rich symbolic meanings that were broadly integrated into social religious usage. (p. 35)

Harris (1964, pp. 32-35) cited evidence that the Mycenaean Greeks practised athletics. Their empire endured from about 1600 B.C. to

about 1200 B.C. At the other extremity of the western world, Watman (1968, p. 15) noted that the Tailteann Games in Ireland date back to 1829 B.C., but beyond that time there are no accurate records and they become confused with myth and legend. The Tailteann Games continued unbroken until the Norman invasion of 1168 A.D.

Organised athletics is generally thought to have originated in Greece about 1400 B.C. at first associated with funerals, and later with religious festivals. The study of literature and the work of archaeologists have revealed much about Greek sport and athletics, and for detailed treatment of this period readers are referred to the texts by Harris (1964) and Mandell (1984). According to Harris (pp. 35-36), four religious festivals had become prominent by the sixth century B.C., the Pythian Games, the Nemean Games, the Isthmian Games and the Olympic Games. Documentary evidence about the Olympic Games is available from 776 B.C. to their abolition in 393 A.D. Commenting on sport in Greece during this period, Mandell (1984) writes:

...it seems that never before, and possibly never since, have sporting competitions... been so deeply integrated into the soul of the people. (p. 61)

#### The Dark and Middle Ages

Little is known about sport in the period 500 A.D. to 1750 A.D. and after the fall of the Roman Empire, the philosophy of ascetism was dominant, which frowned upon worldly pleasure and ignored the physical aspects of man's nature. Brailsford (1969) wrote of this period:

recreations of the pre-modern Europeans. Modern sport has rather particular origins in particular places and in social and ideological conditions... (p. 131)

The birthplace of modern sport and athletics was England, and as South Africa became a British colony in 1814, and later a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations, the British had enormous influence on all aspects of life in South Africa, particularly in the spheres of sport and athletics. It is, therefore, necessary to trace the developments in sport that took place in Britain, especially in England, during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

#### England 1700-1900

During the Renaissance, attitudes to physical activity slowly changed and the acceptance of playful physical activity became increasingly evident. The reader is referred to Brailsford (1969) for an in-depth study of sport in England from Elizabethan times to the eighteenth century.

At the close of the eighteenth century sport had become an integral part of the life of Englishmen of all classes. The aristocracy enjoyed the 'country life' to the full and enthusiastically indulged their love of 'blood sports', hunting, shooting and fishing. These activities became so popular that they became almost synonymous with the term 'sport', and 'game' referred to the creatures being hunted. This was similar to the situation in South Africa in the early nineteenth century. In England, cricket was popular, and noblemen even took part in boxing and pedestrian events,\* sometimes against the lower classes. The aristocracy also patronised sports such as boxing, foot-racing, and horse-racing. These activities often attracted

---

\* Pedestrianism: a term used to denote a foot-race between two people, often as a result of a challenge, and usually with wagers at stake. Sometimes it was an individual feat.

large crowds, and betting and gambling were rife. Mandell (1984) places emphasis on the role of the horse in the development of sport and recreation, and how horse-racing influenced foot-racing. He also explains how boxing and wrestling replaced the duel in British society. From the ranks of the aristocracy came the British army and naval officers, ministers of religion, politicians, administrators, educationalists and commercial adventurers who established British influence throughout the world. Wherever they travelled they took their love of sport with them. A substantial number of Englishmen settled in Cape Town after 1814 and began to play a prominent role in the life of the capital (Davenport, 1978). Their main sporting activities were hunting, horse-racing and cricket.

The lower classes in England also practised a wide range of sporting activities. Before the Industrial Revolution had concentrated people into towns and cities and created the middle class, the general populace in England had sufficient leisure and wealth to play football, hunt, fish, shoot and play cricket. Boxing and wrestling were popular - a man had to show 'bottom' (courage) - and at fairs and festivals rural sports with a wide range of athletic events were common. The history and development of football in England is a fascinating study, reflecting the social, political and educational developments of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Readers are referred to Young (1968) and Dunning (1978).

Similar activities were known throughout Europe, so rural sports, football, and field sports (i.e. hunting) were familiar also to Dutch, French and German settlers in South Africa. The Dutch held 'boeresport', which is the equivalent of the English rural sports. Games and sport had more chance of developing in England, however, as the English, untroubled in their island fortress by the military actions that ebbed and flowed across the mainland of Europe, had the opportunity to develop a passion for games and

sports and came to regard them as a birthright.

Although sporting activities in England were class-related, some were common to both classes, such as boxing, pedestrianism and cricket. According to Bryant (1954, p. 263) "boxing was the national nursery of manliness", and professionals such as Tom Cribb were national heroes. "Contests were debated, not only by draymen and coal-heavers, but by men of culture." (Bryant, p. 263). On the cricket field too, the conventions of rank were forgotten." (Bryant, 1954, p. 290).

The game was played by the Prince Regent - before he let down his belly - on his ground at Brighton, by the aristocracy who liked to gamble over it, and by the young farmers and labourers of almost every country village. (Bryant, 1954, pp. 289-292)

It was the English, Mandell (1984) claims, that invented and developed practically every facet of modern sport. Almost all the track and field events were invented by university students. Distances, rules and standards were set for swimming, rowing and horse-racing by the English and they devised rowing boats and yachts for racing and equipment such as goal posts, stop watches, boxing gloves and uniforms. Englishmen formalised and recorded the laws and rules of the team games. They were also responsible for introducing the concepts of handicapping, betting, amateurism, fair play, teamwork, and training. According to Mandell (1984) it was not coincidental that these developments took place in conjunction with the Industrial Revolution.

We know that as English society became transformed by industrialization, the qualities of rationalization, standardization, calculation and measurement became ever more integrated into English life and culture.



These same attributes came ever more to characterize English popular pastimes as well. (Mandell, 1984, p. 151)

Sport development on the European mainland in the nineteenth century was mainly ideological, what Mandell (1984) refers to as induced sport. It had little influence on the English-speaking world, which up to at least World War One assumed that only English-speaking people had the right to enjoy and excel at sport.

The industrial developments in England led to the rise of a middle class and the growth of towns and cities. Bryant (1954) states that by 1850 the urban population had exceeded the rural. The middle classes adopted many of the lower and upper class games and sports, and demanded educational opportunities for their children. Society and culture was dynamic, in a state of flux, and this had an influence on games and sport.

Education was essential if the middle classes were to properly wield their new-found political and commercial power. Not only were the existing schools too few, they were also badly in need of reform. Arnold at Rugby was in the forefront of the reform movement in the English public (private) schools and his ideas were accepted and copied, especially by the newly-established schools such as Marlborough and Uppingham. Arnold sought to re-establish the authority of the headmaster, reduce brutality, improve living conditions and broaden the curriculum. He abolished hare-hunting at Rugby, disbanded the pack of hounds kept by the boys and encouraged them to play sports. The control of sport was left in the hands of the boys, and it was soon realised that sport was a powerful medium through which character training and leadership could be influenced. The cult of athleticism developed in the English public schools, probably reaching its peak at Eton under the headmastership of Edmund

Warre who ruled there from 1884 to 1905, and who glorified sport to the detriment of intellectual and other cultural activities.

The middle classes adopted games and sports unreservedly, refining and codifying them, and blending activities from the lower classes and the aristocracy. Rural sports became track and field athletics, pedestrianism became cross country running. The novel Tom Brown's Schooldays by Thomas Hughes, published in 1857 added impetus to the spread of athleticism. Based on Arnold and Rugby, this book had tremendous impact and was reprinted many times. Epitomising the spirit of the age were the remarks of Old Brooke, one of the characters in the novel: "I know I'd sooner win two school-house matches running than get the Balliol Scholarship any day."

Many Englishmen believed that games and sports were the panacea to solve all problems, even the homosexuality rife in the public schools.

Further impetus was given to the cult of athleticism by ministers of religion such as Charles Kingsley, the Reverend Leslie Stephen at Cambridge University, and by Thomas Hughes himself. They saw in games and sport the opportunity to develop a Christian morality closely associated with "manliness"; the ability to bear pain or to inflict pain on others if it was for the good of mankind. They became known as the "Muscular Christians". They sought to develop courage, steadfastness and 'the stiff upper-lip' which considered crying to be effeminate. Intellectual ability was thought to be of less importance than producing energetic, hard-headed and manly young men who would display loyalty to Queen and Country and administer the Empire fairly and in a disciplined manner. The concept of 'fair play' was developed and eulogised. Stephen had remarkable influence on Cambridge undergraduates and "founded the Cambridge University sports, winning the mile and two-mile race himself, and supported the



Oxford and Cambridge sports in 1864." (Smith, 1974, pp. 37-38).

The "Muscular Christian" influence coincided with a general concern for militarism. Britain was acquiring an Empire, albeit often reluctantly and without deliberate intent, and the Empire had to be kept under control. The English saw themselves as a people chosen to convert the world to a way of life in which 'fair play' was a central feature. The qualities required by the soldiers of the Queen were precisely those encouraged by the public school system and the "Muscular Christians". Courage, dash and daring developed on the playing fields were thought to be crucial factors in a skirmish on the Indian frontier or a battle against the Zulus. This association of playing field and battlefield was succinctly expressed by Sir Henry Newbolt in his poem "Vitai Lampada" (Bebbington, 1969, p. 142):

There's a breathless hush in the Close tonight  
 Ten to make and the match to win -  
 A bumping pitch and a blinding light,  
 An hour to play and the last man in.  
 And it's not for the sake of a ribboned coat,  
 Or the selfish hope of a season's fame  
 But his captain's hand on his shoulder smote -  
 Play up! Play up! and play the game.

The sand of the desert is sodden red -  
 Red with the wreck of a square that broke;  
 The Gattling's jammed and the Colonel dead,  
 And the regiment blind with dust and smoke.  
 The river of death has brimmed his banks  
 And England's far and Honour a name,  
 But the voice of a schoolboy rallies the ranks;  
 Play up! Play up! and play the game.

Similarly, the poem "If" by Rudyard Kipling (Anon., undated, pp. 645-646) epitomises the

qualities revered by the English. For further details on athleticism in England in the nineteenth century, read Dobbs (1973), McIntosh (1952, 1963, 1981), and Smith (1974).

Class divisions in English sport were marked in the nineteenth century. Matthew Arnold, son of the Rugby headmaster, classified the classes as Barbarians (aristocracy), Philistines (middle class), and Populace (working class). Where they were able to, the working classes continued with their traditional rural sports and games, but as urban sprawl pushed the countryside further and further away, those living in the cities and towns were forced to find other activities. The parochial schools available for the workers had no games and sports, and physical education was only introduced in the twentieth century. The urban masses turned to football, boxing and pedestrianism.

The upper and middle classes encouraged the working class to participate in games and sport, as it was thought to be the panacea which would solve many problems, and the "Muscular Christians" spread the gospel of sport through Sunday Schools and school missions. Many of the English professional soccer teams began in this way. The original English public schools played soccer, and this was the game adopted by the masses. The later public schools copied Rugby and adapted to the handling code, and rugby football became the game of the upper and middle classes.

Another development, which had parallels in South Africa, was the campaign for shorter working hours which eventually resulted in a weekly half-holiday. For many this was on a Saturday afternoon, and led to a tremendous proliferation in sport. This was the basis of sport as an institution. The growth of a national railway network, the introduction of a 'Penny Post', and the availability of mass circulation newspapers to an increasingly literate populace all added to the momentum of sport. The working classes adopted middle class sports, clubs were formed, and soon

regional and national associations appeared. This table illustrates the progress made in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

Table 1 : The organization of sport (McIntosh, 1963)

Sport	Earliest National Association	Date
Horse-racing	Jockey Club	c1750
Golf	Royal and Ancient Golf Club	1754
Cricket	Marylebone Cricket Club	1788
Association Football	Football Association	1863
Athletics	Amateur Athletic Club	1866
	Amateur Athletic Association	1880
Swimming	Amateur Metropolitan Swimming Association	1869
Rugby Football	Rugby Football Union	1871
Cycling	Bicyclists' Union	1878
Boxing	Amateur Boxing Association	1884
Hockey	Hockey Association	1886
Lawn Tennis	Lawn Tennis Association	1888

The movement towards universal sport for all created fresh problems. The middle and upper classes saw sport as the means to civilise the working class and overcome the physical and moral ills in society:

Sport then, in some magical way, was going to solve the growing problems of society where the rich were getting richer and the poor were getting poorer. Slum housing, urban poverty, unemployment, nutritional inadequacies and their results could be obliterated if only the working classes, like the upper and middle, could be taught to 'play the game'. (Dobbs, 1973, p. 29)

The scheme backfired. Nobody had envisaged that soccer and pedestrianism would be turned into professional entertainment with concomitant abuses and corruption. The upper and middle classes resisted desperately, because they could afford to play sport for the love of the game. They regarded professionalism with horror. Thus was born the distinction between amateur and professionals that has plagued modern sport to the present day. In 1866 the Amateur Athletic Club adopted the Henley Regatta Committee rule that excluded anyone "who is a mechanic, artisan or labourer, or engaged in menial activity." (Mandell, 1984, p. 153).

Sport in England in the nineteenth century was a rapidly developing phenomenon of such an involved complexity that it is difficult to trace and isolate all the influences, variables and diversities. It was this dynamic complexity that Englishmen spread through the world. Such was the impact of English sport that English terms were adopted and are used universally in much the same way that Italian terms are used in music and French in the culinary art.

#### Athletics in Nineteenth Century England

So great was the impact and influence of English sport on South Africa that a more detailed study of the development of athletics in England is necessary. Athletics refers to running, jumping, hurdling, throwing and walking.

Before the standardisation of athletic events in the Public Schools and Universities and the establishment of clubs, athletics in England was confined to rural sports and pedestrianism.

According to Lovesey and McNab (1969, pp. 3-7) there is "a consistent pattern of references to athletics in Britain from the twelfth century onwards...", and the Rural Games of England are well chronicled. The Cotswold Games have ancient origins and were well described by Strutt (1801, p. xxix). Many English villages held rural sports on seasonal festival days, and these sports survived despite the efforts of the Puritans to eliminate them because of their pagan origins. Activities at such sports included leaping, dancing, leap-frog, wrestling, pitching the bar, throwing the hammer and foot races (Brailsford, 1969, p. 133). Races for women were also included, the usual prize being a smock, hence the term 'smock race' (Brailsford, 1969, p. 113).

Pedestrianism developed as a result of the nobility, after the Restoration, supporting the revival of the old festivals and rural sports, and taking a direct interest in athletics. Running races were convenient for gambling and it became common for the aristocracy to arrange matches between rival runners or workers, and to employ athletes as footmen. They were useful in carrying messages and guiding coaches, and could compete in professional races (Brailsford, 1969, p. 211; Mandell, 1984, pp. 141-142). Pedestrianism began in the seventeenth century and reached its peak in the nineteenth century. It was, like rural sports, also a feature of the social scene in South Africa.

In the eighteenth century reports of races began to appear in English newspapers and journals with increasing frequency, and the feats of the pedestrians captured the imagination of the English nation. The athletes performed almost unbelievable exploits. Many of them were from the working class, attempting to earn a livelihood, others were gentlemen, often army officers, who considered athletic prowess a desirable attribute. One such was Robert Barclay Allardice, popularly known as Captain Barclay, who was arguably the most famous pedestrian of all time. In 1809 he achieved unprecedented fame and fortune on Newmarket Heaty by

winning a bet to walk 1 000 miles in 1 000 hours. Thousands of spectators flocked to watch this forty-two day event. Barclay endured dust, rain, pain, toothache, fatigue and an attempted mugging to earn sixteen thousand pounds, an enormous amount of money at that time. For a full account of this feat see Radford (1984); Lovesey (1979) and The Sport of Race Walking by the Race Walking Association. Barclay performed many similar feats, but this was the best known and the one often attempted by later pedestrians, including "Professor" Diamond who toured South Africa in the mid-nineteenth century.

Six-day contests were also popular. These were usually 'Go-as-you-please' events in which competitors could walk or run, and they usually took place in large halls. In South Africa circus tents were often used. These contests of attrition brought out the best and the worst in men and they eventually declined as the public tired of the cheating and the poor spectating conditions. An authentic and accurate insight into one of these nineteenth century contests provided the back-drop to Peter Lovesey's award-winning novel Wobble to Death (1970).

Spring races were also common, usually between two runners, and betting and heavy wagers were widespread. Professional sports meetings involving sprinters were held at centres throughout Britain. The best-known was at Powderhall, which has continued to the present day. Professional sprinters were active throughout the English-speaking world and immediately prior to World War One were particularly prominent in England, Australia and South Africa.

Walking became an extremely popular activity, although it was sometimes difficult to determine where walking stopped and running began, as the rules were not always well formulated and controversy was common. In 1903 the Stock Exchange Walk from London to Brighton stimulated and inspired a whole series of



walks throughout South Africa in the same way that the 1908 and 1912 Olympic marathons started the 'Marathon Craze'.

The ghost of pedestrianism lived on in the 1931 coast-to-coast 'Go-as-you-please' in America, which caught the imagination of the public and forms the centre-piece of Tom McNab's best-selling novel Flanagan's Run (1982). More recently, a six-day contest was held in New York in 1984, and the Greek athlete, Yiannis Kouros, broke the record set by George Littlewood in 1888. Kouros covered 635 miles 1023 yards "to throw off at last the shadow of the nineteenth century peds." (Milroy, 1984, pp. 16-17).

Rural sports and pedestrianism became popular activities in South Africa, and immediately prior to World War One professional athletics also became extremely popular.

Amateur athletics as we know it today had its origin in the English public schools and universities. A few 'gentlemen' ventured into the world of pedestrianism and rural sports, often calling themselves 'amateurs' to avoid being classed with the professional pedestrians, regardless of the fact that they themselves also ran or walked for wagers. At the public schools and universities, rural sports events were formalised into a 'sports day' that was held between the end of the football season and the start of cricket. Cross country running was also favoured, and the famous "Crick Run" at Rugby appears to have started in 1837. In the same year Eton introduced hurdle races (Webster, 1929, p. 7). A properly organised sports meeting was held at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, in 1849, and in 1850 Exeter College, Oxford, held sports that were the forerunners of every athletic meeting that followed. Cambridge University held sports in 1857, organised by the Reverend Leslie Stephen, and Oxford followed in 1860. Most of the public schools introduced annual sports days about that time, and in 1864 the annual Oxford vs Cambridge Sports began. Throughout the nineteenth century

athletics made rapid progress at English public schools and universities.

Outside the schools and universities there was equally spectacular progress. Races were arranged between 'gentlemen-amateurs' and trophies awarded. The threat of invasion by the French in the mid-nineteenth century resulted in the resurrection of the Volunteer Movement in 1859, and the inclusion of sport in the training programme further boosted the progress of athletics. In 1862 the newly formed Liverpool Athletic Club held an 'Olympic Festival' on the parade ground, and the athletic programme of throwing and jumping events was interspersed with boxing, wrestling, fencing and gymnastics. Almost 10 000 people "of a highly respectable class" attended (Lovesey, 1979, pp. 17-18). These festivals were repeated for several years and led to matches between London and Liverpool. According to Lovesey (1979), London in the mid-sixties boasted a group of runners who competed regularly at various venues. They were solid middle-class citizens and classed themselves as amateurs because they did not compete for a living. In order to maintain interest they introduced a system of handicapping, a feature of athletics that lasted until well after World War Two in both England and South Africa.

In 1863 the Mincing Lane Athletic Club was formed in London, and in 1865 Liverpool went a step further and called a meeting to form a National Olympian Society. This spurred the London athletes into action, and they founded the Amateur Athletic Club, announcing that "Championships" would be held in London in 1866, on the day preceding the Oxford vs Cambridge Boat Race. The prime-mover was the ex-Etonian and Cambridge athlete and rower, John Chambers. The amateur question was immediately a problem, and although artisans, mechanics and labourers were excluded from membership of the club, the championships were made open to all but professionals and pedestrians. In 1869 the Amateur Athletic



Club opened Lillie Bridge which became the venue for the annual championships.

The Mincing Lane Athletic Club reformed itself into the London Athletic Club under the direction of two brothers, James and William Waddell. This club realised that elitism could not be sustained, and it grew in strength. The Waddells unsuccessfully attempted to form a national athletic association in 1871 which foundered on the amateur issue. In 1877 they built and opened Stamford Bridge in close proximity to Lillie Bridge and what Lovesey (1979, pp. 24-28) calls the "Battle of the Bridges" was joined in deadly earnest. Matters came to a head in 1879 when both organisations held 'championships', the Lillie Bridge version held, according to tradition, in the spring to cater for Oxford and Cambridge athletes, while the Stamford Bridge version was held in summer and catered for non-university athletes. The year 1880 opened with the possibility that four national championships would be held, following developments in the Midlands and the North where athletics had been firmly established amongst the working-classes. The timely intervention of three far-sighted and persuasive Oxford graduates, Clement Jackson, Bernard Wise and Montague Shearman, eventually led to the formation of the Amateur Athletic Association (AAA) and the first truly national championships were held at Lillie Bridge in the summer of 1880 (Lovesey, 1979, p. 31). These developments in England had a marked influence on the progress of athletics in South Africa.

The AAA was accepted as the world authority on athletics for many years, and the AAA championships were regarded as world championships up until the 1908 Olympic Games in London, which were organised by the AAA. Countries sent their athletes to compete in England and at the AAA championships. Athletes from New Zealand competed there in 1892, and South Africa sent a small team in 1895 and 1898. The first list of AAA records published in 1887 was virtually a world list, the only one superior being that

of Lon Myers (USA) in the 880 yards. These records were the standards by which men judged their performances around the world, and as such are worth reproducing.

Table 2: AAA Records

	min.	sec.		
100 yd		10.0	A Wharton	1886
220 yd		22.0	W Phillips	1878
440 yd		48.8	L Myers (USA)	1885
880 yd	1	: 56.0*	L Myers (USA)	1881
Mile	4	: 18.4	W George	1884
3 Miles	14	: 39.0	W George	1884
6 Miles	30	: 21.5	W George	1884
120 yd hurdles		16.0	C Jackson	1885
		16.0	S Palmer	1878
		16.0	C Daft	1886
2 Miles Walk	14	: 21.4	H Meek (USA)	1884
6 Miles Walk	45	: 04.0	H Webster	1879
High Jump	6'2.3/4"	/1,90m	P Davin	1880
Long Jump	23'2"	/7,06m	P Davin	1883
Pole Jump	11'5.1/4"	/3,48m	T Ray	1886
Shot	43'9"	/13,33m	J O'Brien	1886
Hammer	119'5"	/36,40m	J Mitchell	1886

\* L Myers ran 1 min. 55,6 sec. in America.

On 15 September 1883 The Mercury (Durban) published all the "English Amateur Records".

The AAA was often called upon to settle disputes in foreign countries. When the South African AAA (SAAAA) was formed in 1894 it became an affiliated member of the AAA until 1910 and referred all disputes to them for arbitration in the early years. The AAA rules, formulated for the first championships in 1880, were applied throughout the world, and it was under these rules that

athletes usually competed in South Africa until local rules were produced. The original AAA rules were reproduced by Lovesey (1979, p. 33), and appear in Appendix B.

Other developments in England which influenced athletics in South Africa can be briefly mentioned. In 1890 the London Athletic Club began a Schools Challenge Meeting which inspired similar meetings in South Africa. The Thames Rowing Club began organising cross country steeplechases in 1867, to keep themselves fit in the winter, which led to the formation of the Thames Hare and Hounds Club. The first English Cross Country Championships was held in 1876 and the 'harrier' movement showed signs of developing in South Africa in the nineteenth century, but was delayed by the Anglo-Boer War. The prejudices against women participating in athletics were very strong, and it appears that they only began to compete from about 1907 onwards. It was only pressure from the women's suffrage movement and the liberating influence of World War One that eventually enabled them to break into the sport. There was thus very little athletics for women in South Africa before World War One. Changes in the armed forces were also influential. In the nineteenth century the majority of army athletes were professional pedestrians, and cash prizes were commonly presented at regimental sports days. This became a source of friction and dispute in South Africa. After the Anglo-Boer War the British Army realised the need to improve the fitness of its troops and athletic sports were encouraged. Captain W Weatherall was sent from Britain to South Africa and began the development of amateur athletics in the army at Pretoria.

As the number of English settlers in South Africa increased after the final occupation of the Cape in 1814, and the arrival of the four thousand settlers in the Eastern Cape in 1820, so English sports and pastimes began to appear and flourish. English settlers continued to arrive in South Africa throughout the

nineteenth century, and the Frontier Wars and the Anglo-Boer War ensured that there were many troops in the country. There was thus a steady inflow of people with an interest in and knowledge of athletics, and they brought with them the ideas, attitudes, values, techniques, expertise and prejudices existing in Britain. In the next chapter, early developments in South Africa will be considered, and further evidence will be given of the influence of the British.

## CHAPTER TWO

ATHLETICS IN SOUTH AFRICA IN THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY AND  
THE INFLUENCE OF THE BRITISH ARMY**GENERAL ACTIVITIES**

Most of the English immigrants to South Africa settled in urban areas. Cape Town, Grahamstown, Port Elizabeth, King William's Town, Queenstown and East London soon had settled populations practising the games and sports they had been familiar with in England. Later on, Durban and Pietermaritzburg followed suit. As schools were established, the cult of athleticism developed in much the same way as it existed in Britain. Pedestrian events were fairly common amongst civilians and military personnel. Where British Army garrisons were quartered, at Cape Town, Grahamstown, King William's Town and Pietermaritzburg, athletic sports were held regularly, sometimes with events open to the public, and soldiers often took part in local meetings. The British Army was particularly influential in establishing athletics in South Africa in the early years of development.

There can be no doubt that it was the British who had the major influence on the development of sport and athletics in South Africa, and as the nineteenth century progressed, this influence increased. The Emigration Association formed in 1842, and the annexation of Natal in 1843, accelerated immigration. The discovery of diamonds in Griqualand West (1870) and gold on the Witwatersrand (1886) brought thousands of young men into the country. The favourable immigration law adopted by the Cape parliament in 1857 encouraged immigration to such an extent that more than six thousand British arrived between 1858 and 1859.

In the early years of the nineteenth century there was little organised sporting activity in South Africa. Physical exercise as

a leisure time activity was mainly spontaneous and recreational, but by the end of the century sport had been institutionalised and become an integral part of the white South African society and culture. South Africans established themselves as sportsmen of repute, and sport flourished to such an extent that in 1906 the South African rugby team - the 'Springbokken' - was able to visit England and beat the lion in his den.

Early South African newspapers reported cricket matches and horse-racing events, and the Grahamstown Journal (1/10/40) remarked that the Albany Steeplechase of 1840 "relieved the unvarying monotony of existence." One of the earliest references to an athletic event was a report of a foot-race at the first Albany and Somerset Union Fair on Mr Pollard's farm at the junction of the Kaga and Koba rivers in the Grahamstown Journal (9/5/44):

At the close of the fair a foot-race was projected between the two biggest men present, one Mr G Erasmus a 20 stone man, and also between the two smallest ones. In both cases the competitors were English and Dutch. In the first race the former came off victor, in the second, the latter. Both races afforded great amusement.

Amongst the Dutch-speaking settlers, boeresport was also popular, and has survived amongst Afrikaans speakers to the present day. van Rooyen (1965, p. 35) provides insight into the leisure pursuits of the Dutch prior to and during the time of the Voortrekkers:

Daar moet egter duidelik verstaan word dat die meeste van die vermaaklikhede nie gedurende die Voortrekkertydperk ontstaan het nie - dit was reeds 'n deel van die lewe van



die Trekboere en toe die Trek 'n aanvang geneem het, was dit diep ingewortel. Al die vermake en feestelikhede dra die spore van 'n landelike lewe en word geensins deur die dorpslewe van daardie dae beïnvloed nie. Omdat die landelike lewe oorheersend was het dit in alle opsigte die toon aangegee.

Rural or country sports amongst the Boers (Dutch farmers) often took place at Nagmaal gatherings when all the Boer families in a particular district gathered together for a religious celebration. These were usually held once a quarter. (Davenport, 1977, p. 32). van Rooyen (1965, p. 37) quotes manuscripts which indicate that "ander vermaaklikhede van die jonger manne was klip- of gewigstoot, naelloop, hoog- en verspring," and that these became important activities in the laagers of Uys, Maritz and Potgieter at Suikerbosrand (Heidelberg) in November 1837.

Although many English settled in towns, some became farmers, and the rural life style of early British settlers was recorded by Lieutenant J W D Moodie (1835):

Very few of the colonists are in such circumstances, or can find leisure from their more important avocations, to indulge in any amusements to an undue degree. Their farms require constant personal superintendence: and when they do indulge in the favourite sports of the country, it is at times when they have no more useful occupations.

Malay, Chinese and Indian immigrants had little or no influence on the development of sport in South Africa. There appear to be three reasons for this. Firstly, they were brought as slaves or labourers and as such were prevented from taking part in the



social activities of the Dutch and the English. Secondly, they were mainly of peasant stock, and their recreational activities were probably primitive and undeveloped. Thirdly, there is some evidence that few of the modern sports existed in Asia, and according to Shuy (1975, pp. 338-344) English sport had almost as much impact in Asia as it did in Africa. British, Americans and Canadians introduced sport to China through schools and Y.M.C.A.'s after the overthrow of the Ching Dynasty in 1911.

The indigenous black inhabitants of South Africa were often barred from participating in white sport and, as far as can be ascertained, had no organised athletic activities. This was borne out by the remarks of Cetewayo when he attended an athletic meeting in Cape Town in 1881. (Cape Argus 17/9/81: see page this chapter.)

Information about sport and athletics in South Africa before 1850 is difficult to obtain. The few newspapers available from that period carry only sketchy and occasional reports, but it appears that hunting, horse-racing, cricket, football and rural sports were practised. Cricket was played at Green Point, Cape Town in 1847, and the Grahamstown Cricket Club was formed in 1844. According to Hattersley (1969, p. 116) pedestrian feats were not popular at that time:

The warmth of the climate militated against such strenuous forms of activity as long-distance running and walking. No Cape sportsman was likely to emulate the example of a seventeenth century Sir Bulstrode Whitelock, who claimed to have exhibited in youth such fleetness of foot that he could chase and capture hares. Nevertheless, there were such occasional phenomena as 'England's original Little Wonder' who, in Pietermaritzburg, challenged 'all the world' to run fifty miles,

giving competitors one mile start. As an alternative, he professed his readiness to 'repeat the Herculean feat of walking seventy-two miles a day for sixteen successive days on the sands of Africa'.

Yet pedestrian feats did occur. The Grahamstown hairdresser, Samuel Loxton, inserted a notice in the Grahamstown Journal of 19 December 1844 informing the "Officers of the Army and the inhabitants of Fort Beaufort, that he intends walking from Graham's Town to Fort Beaufort (providing the rivers are not full) on Monday the 30th day of December, in the space of TEN hours. He will leave his shop at 5 o'clock a.m. and reach the Bridge at Fort Beaufort at 3 p.m." This was followed by a letter (16/1/45) in which he described his experiences under the heading "An Albany Pedestrian". The 46 mile journey took him eleven hours, one hour longer than he expected, but he was forced to rest by the heat, and he lost half an hour because "breakfast had not been prepared by Mr Jay." Loxton also claimed to have walked from Graham's Town to Port Elizabeth in 36 hours, and from Cradock to Graham's Town in 2.1/2 days. He also walked from Cape Town to Simonstown and from Cape Town to Stellenbosch.

#### Military influences

Englishmen generally considered it their birthright to play games and sports, and English soldiers were no exception, playing them in their free time all over the world. Officers used sport to relieve monotony, always a big problem for an army in the field, and the association of sport with the manly attributes required in battle reinforced the emphasis on it. Many British regiments had an annual sports day, and special occasions, such as Queen Victoria's birthday, were often celebrated by athletic sports.

Because schools were not well established in the first half of the nineteenth century, and the concept of athletic clubs had not yet appeared, even in England, it seems reasonably safe to assume that organised athletic meetings were first held by the British Army in South Africa.

The British Army was somewhat unique in that, whenever it was called to serve, it was well-behaved and exhibited the principle of fair play. According to Bryant (1954) the traditions, discipline and spirit instilled by Wellington, particularly pride in the regiment, "gave to the British soldier a moral strength which the student and administrator ought never to underestimate." (p. 19). The officers, drawn from the public schools, where courage, loyalty and dogged determination were eulogised, imposed the same values on the men they commanded. Bryant (1954) wrote of the British Army fighting the French in Europe:

They had another peculiarity. They did not apparently think of themselves as conquerors. Having suffered no depredations in their own country, the British behaved as they were used at home. (pp. 251-252)

Other European armies occupied their leisure time and allayed their boredom with looting, rape and pillage. The British, though certainly also guilty of those sins, were less destructive and often occupied themselves with games and sports. This was also true in South Africa, and the Witness reports (14/8/79) that after the defeat of Cetewayo at Ulundi, sports were organised near his 'kraal' by Captain M Churchill for the white and 'native' contingents of the army in that area, on 31 July. The Natal Carbineers also held sports at their last camp in Zululand the same month, and left next day for Pietermaritzburg. This was the "first relaxation since leaving 'Maritzburg on 29 November

the previous year." (Stalker, 1912, pp. 339-356).

The British soldiers' love of sport was described by Hargreaves (1941, p. 204):

The average Britisher refuses to permit other things, however serious, to interfere with sport's regular pursuit. Even with a war on his hands, for example, he still persists in following up those variegated sporting activities, mostly of an outdoor nature, which are as much a part of his make-up as his tough fighting quality, his faculty of endurance, and his peculiarly obstinate habit of starting last yet somehow or other contriving to finish first.

One of the earliest references to an army athletic event in South Africa appeared in a letter to the Grahamstown Journal from Fort Peddie (21/2/46). It noted that "one of the 7th Dragoon Guards set out 100 stones, 1 yard apart, ran to the farthest and back, placed the stone in a basket, and repeated with each." His time was 46.1/2 minutes, "which has not been equalled in the Cape of Good Hope." The writer claimed that 'Clever Pedestrians' in England could do it in 45 minutes. This simple event, the 'Potato Race' popular at primary school sports today, illustrates the points made by Mandel (1984, p. 133): the achievement motivation; the setting of a record; standardisation of the event; and the use of accurate timing.

Early foot-races were often combined with horse-racing, and another report from Fort Peddie in 1847 (Grahamstown Journal 18/9/47) illustrates this:

The sports were varied by several foot-races, the prizes for which were chiefly contested by the men of the 6th Regiment.

Similarly, at Keiskamma Hoek Races the same year (Grahamstown Journal 13/11/47):

The day's amusements were wound up by several foot-races, hurdle and flat, which were well-contested for by the Privates of the Rifle Brigade.

Actual performances were recorded and reported at the Light Company 6th Regiment Sports held at Chalumna Camp on 26 November 1847 (Grahamstown Journal 11/12/47). See Appendix C for details.

Athletic sports were held regularly in all garrison towns and were often gala occasions attracting many spectators, who were thus introduced to the concept. The Fort Beaufort garrison arranged sports in 1857 that lasted two days (Grahamstown Journal 9/6/57):

...races, cricket matches and other sports have received a share of public attention in your city, and most of the frontier towns, and wishing to show to the sporting community that we are still in the land of the living, I have to request, should space permit, you will kindly insert the programme of sports, &c, that took place here commencing on Tuesday 26 May.

The town was almost deserted, the inhabitants all flocked to see the sports.

With no television, cinema, radio, little theatre, few

newspapers, books and magazines and little other entertainment, a sports meeting was a social occasion, one of the highlights of the year. This was a feature of athletic sports until late in the nineteenth century, and most holidays, festivals, and special occasions were celebrated in this way.

In Grahamstown, the 10th Regiment celebrated the Queen's birthday with athletic sports in 1860 and they were fully reported in the regimental newspaper, The North Lincoln Sphinx (vol. 1, No. 1). While it was in South Africa before moving to India in 1862, the 10th Regiment was regularly active in athletic sports, and held their "usual Christmas games." An officer of the regiment, G H W Tremenheere Esq walked the 27 miles from Grahamstown to Koonap on a dark and rainy night within eight hours, "for a considerable wager." In 1866 the 5th Fusiliers held sports in Grahamstown on St George's Day at Fort England. These sports attracted a large number of spectators including Lady Douglas and were fully reported in the Grahamstown Journal (25/4/66). The sports were repeated in 1867.

The 10th Regiment returned to Cape Town in 1865 and held athletic sports on Green Point Race Course. Governor and Lady Wodehouse attended and a full report was carried by the Cape Argus (31/8/65). The regiment moved to King William's Town and organised a sports meeting which the Kaffrarian Watchman reported as "the best of the sort we have witnessed here" (12/7/66). Private W Clarke performed well in both meetings. At Military Sports the following year the Watchman reported that one of the events was a 250 yards sack race, which must have been a tiring and frustrating event. A 1000 yards event was open to all-comers, so civilians could compete, but 'Kafirs' were not allowed (Watchman 25/4/67).

The talented Private Clarke, star of the 10th Regiment, met Matthias of the Cape Mounted Rifles in a pedestrian event in



1867, and was heavily backed to win with odds at 5 to 4, and a stake of three pounds per side, but the colonial runner took the honours (Watchman 4/11/67).

The Queenstown Free Press reported similar events in 1868. Two officers, one riding and one running with a two hours start, raced from Queenstown to Keiskamma Hoek (Free Press 14/7/68), and another gentleman walked from King William's Town to Keiskamma Hoek for a considerable wager (Free Press 13/11/68).

In the Transkei, Captain Cobbe, the British resident commissioner for the Fingo tribes, organised Christmas Sports for them in 1868 (Watchman 4/1/69).

The Cape Argus (18/7/71) reported a mile race for five pounds a side between two soldiers of the 32nd Regiment at King William's Town, won by Private Goodwin in 5:40. The following year Private McMahon of the 32nd Regiment, who had twice won the Garrison Sports Mile, open to all regiments, beat Private Phelan of the 75th Regiment in a challenge race (Cape Argus 25/4/72). In the Garrison Sports Mile which McMahon won in 1871 (in 5:20), blacks competed.

Three Kafirs were allowed to run, and this probably spoilt the race, owing to the fact that two of the natives went off from the starting post at a quick pace and took the lead, which one of them kept 'till over three quarters of a mile had passed. (Grahamstown Journal 6/10/71)

All the blacks dropped out, one twenty yards from the finish, but far from spoiling the race, were probably responsible for the fast time, "which was exceedingly good considering that half the distance was heavy uphill work." (Journal 6/10/71).



The 32nd Regiment promoted athletics in King William's Town by holding children's sports in 1873, which were referred to as an "annual school treat", and in 1874 Private Gilman beat H W Brown over 200 yards for ten pounds a side. Brown belonged to a family of brothers who farmed near Cathcart, and who made a great contribution to South African athletics (Cape Argus 28/4/74).

In Port Elizabeth the men of the 85th Regiment held athletic sports on the 'Hill' in 1867 (Free Press 13/9/67), and Prince Alfred's Guard Rifle Volunteers held a meeting in 1875 in the Baakens River Valley before a large concourse of spectators. The E P Herald noted (23/3/75):

The bugle will sound 'fall in' before each sport, and competitors who are not in the rank when 'attention' is called will be disqualified.

Military sports were also held in Cape Town, but rural sports and pedestrian events had been popular there from the early years of British occupation. After the 10th Regiment left for the frontier, the 99th Regiment, back from Natal, held sports organised by Captain Ffolliott in front of the military hospital in 1868 (Cape Argus 14/7/68). Later the same year the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers organised sports at the same venue (Cape Argus 3/9/68). Volunteer Groups were formed in Cape Town from 1870 onwards and with the regular regiments held regular athletic meetings through the 70s and 80s. The 86th Regiment held sports at Fort Knokke in 1874 (Cape Argus 13/8/74) and Garrison Sports were reported at Rondebosch in 1880 (Cape Argus 9/9/80). Two thousand spectators watched sports arranged by the Sutherland and Argyll Highlanders at the same venue in 1881, a gala occasion attended by the Governor, Sir Hercules Robinson, and Cetewayo, the recently defeated Zulu chief. He sat in the middle of the

arena and commented that the men in his country did not play like children (Cape Argus 17/9/81).

Other units holding athletic sports meetings were the Duke of Edinburgh's Own Volunteer Rifles at Mowbray in 1873; Garrison Sports open to all personnel at Wynberg in 1884; and the 1st Battalion Royal Scots Regiment in 1887, who arranged a meeting with events open to sailors of the visiting German Fleet (Cape Times 23/4/87).

The British Army was also active in Natal, particularly at Pietermaritzburg where a garrison was quartered at Fort Napier. The 99th Regiment combined with volunteer units to organise sports in front of the Governor's House in 1865, and the following year Garrison Sports took place at Fort Napier. The Volunteer Rifles held regular camps, and sports were often organised, as at Easter 1870 (Witness 20/4/70). The 32nd Light Infantry Regiment were also prominent in arranging meetings in Natal (Mercury 23/8/70). Soldiers regularly featured in the challenge matches which were popular in Pietermaritzburg in 1866 and 1867, and the first 'Natal Handicap' over 400 yards, held on 14 February 1867 was won by Sergeant Cameron of the 99th Regiment. Soldiers also competed in the annual Pietermaritzburg Sports, and at the inaugural meeting in 1871 complained about the starting (Mercury 17/8/71).

In Durban in 1867, W Doig, a local runner who had won a 100 yards challenge race in 'Maritzburg in 1866, beat Private J Phelan of the 20th Regiment on the Berea Road (Witness 18/6/67), and in 1873 military sports were reported (Witness 7/10/73). The Durban Volunteers held sports on Whit Monday 1876 at the race course which attracted much attention, as military sports were much less common than in 'Maritzburg. Trains were stopped nearby for the benefit of spectators, and "conveyances of every description were brought on to the ground" (Mercury 6/6/76). The mayor, B W

Greenacre, who played an important role in athletic development in Durban, was one of the organisers.

The 75th Regiment, stationed in 'Maritzburg in the 1870s held regular annual meetings, by that time in Alexandra Park where a track had been marked out at the Oval. In 1874 Private Hickling received acclaim when he won the throwing the cricket ball for the ninth time, some of his previous wins having been achieved at such widespread venues as Shorncliffe and Hong-Kong (Witness 6/10/74). The 1-13th Regimental Sports, held in 1875 were graced by the presence of the Governor, Sir Garnet Wolseley. These sports were called "The Jellebad and Azinghur Athletics" in honour of the regiment's service in India, and had been founded by Lord Mark Kerr (Witness 9/4/75). Later the same month the Natal Carbineers held sports at the race-course attended by Wolseley and "the whole town." The Volunteers had to compete in uniform (Witness 27/4/75).

Reference has already been made to the sports held by the Natal Carbineers after the defeat of Cetewayo in 1879. The Witness also reported (2/1/79) that the "Buffs" held sports on Boxing Day 1878 during the campaign, and Colonel Wood's column held sports at Kumbulu Camp near Utrecht on 19 and 20 February (Witness 8/3/79). The report on the "Buff's" Sports at Thring's Point noted:

To rob a 'Buff' of his Christmas sports would by him be considered an infringement upon his birthright.

Cecil M Yonge of the Natal Hussars, later an advocate, ran 50 miles on an 80 yard lap track at Greytown during the Zulu wars to settle an argument. He completed the distance in 15 minutes under the allowed 12 hours to win the wager (Latest 30/10/10).

From this account of athletics in the British Army in the Western

Cape, Eastern Cape and Natal it can be assumed that it had a marked influence on popularising the sport. Regimental sports days were important social occasions attracting many spectators and attended by local dignitaries. Although it cannot be positively stated that military sports were the first to be held, although this may have been true in some of the smaller towns, it is clear that they provided examples of good organisation, with a range of standardised events, and that most regiments had one or two soldiers who were competent performers who raised the local standards of performance.

There can be little doubt that the British regiments played an important role in stimulating the growth of athletics in the three regions discussed.

The influence of the military in other centres was less important, and athletics was often already established and flourishing before the British Army arrived. Troops were sent to Kimberley to prevent sedition in 1875 (Cape Argus 10/7/75) and soon made their presence felt by organising athletic sports (Diamond News 4/9/75), and competing in local events, such as the Queen's Birthday Sports (Diamond News 26/5/77).

The annexation of Transvaal in 1877, followed by the Pretoria Convention, led to a British presence in the country (Davenport, 1978, p. 130) and the Mercury reports (12/5/80) that the King's Dragoon Guards stationed at Heidelberg held sports on 22 April 1880 that made such an impression on the town's people that they collected fifteen pounds for the detachment's athletic club. Carrington Horse held sports in Pretoria in 1878 (De Volkstem 9/4/78) and Murrow of the 13th Regiment won a mile open to the garrison in 5:01. Sports were arranged at Standerton in 1880 involving military and civilians, and a tug-of-war contest between Boers and soldiers. The reporter was unhappy that the soldiers attempted to cheat in the events they contested and suggested

that civilians should arrange their own sports (De Volkstem 4/9/80). These events were some of the first organised athletic sports meetings held in the Transvaal.

The British Army entered Bloemfontein on 13 March 1900 (Davenport, 1978, p. 140), and the 6th Division held sports on 28 March (Bloemfontein Post 30/3/1900). English residents in the city had formed an athletic club well before this and had held regular sports meetings. The 12th Brigade held sports in April 1900 (Bloemfontein Post 23/4/1900) and large crowds attended army sports at Thaba 'Nchu on Boxing Day (Bloemfontein Post 3/1/01). On Christmas Day soldiers and refugees competed together at the Bloemfontein Refugee Camp (Bloemfontein Post 3/1/01).

The large number of troops that arrived during the Anglo-Boer War stimulated athletics in South Africa, particularly in the Orange Free State and Transvaal, and provided South Africa with one of its first Olympic heroes, Charles Hefferon. Army athletics however, also introduced problems, since soldiers competed for cash prizes and betting was rife two aspects which the promoters of amateur athletics were trying to eliminate.

## CHAPTER THREE

## PEDESTRIANISM AND ATHLETICISM

Although the British Army played a decisive role in the stimulation and encouragement of athletics in South Africa in the nineteenth century, it was not the only influence at work, and before the establishment of regular sports days on public holidays and the development of clubs, pedestrianism was an important activity. Later in the century the cult of athleticism, based upon the model of the English Public Schools, took firm root in South African schools and ensured a steady supply of young athletes.

## Pedestrianism

Early pedestrian events were usually of the type accomplished by Samuel Loxton and Tremenheere of the 10th Regiment (see Chapter two), where one person accepted a challenge for a wager. Interest in these activities was evidenced by the fairly detailed reports they received in local newspapers (Grahamstown Journal 14/8/58; Cape Argus 31/3/64; 12/4/64). Archbishop Merriman received acclaim for his long walking expeditions in Cape Province, and is reputed to have covered 800 miles in six weeks. In 1863 a notice in the Grahamstown Journal (8/12/63) announced that W H Thompson would attempt to walk from Cape Town to Simonstown in less than 3 hours 35 minutes for one hundred pounds. The Kaffrarian Watchman (18/4/67) reported that in 1867 Charles Wilm t de Serres passed through Queenstown on his way to Grahamstown. He was 63 years old, and had walked from Natal. At one stage "losing his road, he was compelled to subsist on Kaffir plums and oysters."

Interest in pedestrianism was increased by the arrival of 'Professor' Frank Diamond, a professional performer whose



exploits received publicity all over South Africa. For almost twenty years he moved around between towns, attracting large crowds. He appears to have arrived in 1864, and in October that year gave exhibitions on the Parade, Cape Town. Hundreds of people watched, often interfering with his performance. He won a 7 miles race against a Mr Gill for twenty pounds a side by some five minutes in 1 hour 6 minutes (Cape Argus 11/10/64). In 1865 he performed walking feats on the 'Hill' at Port Elizabeth near the Grey Institute before a fair crowd (E P Herald 6/7/65). He walked a mile backwards in 8.1/2 minutes and forwards in 6.1/2 minutes. A box collection was made.

The Grahamstown Journal carried fairly detailed reports of 'Professor' Diamond's exploits (22/8/64; 3/4/65), and when he actually arrived in Grahamstown in January 1866, the Journal featured a long editorial on the value of physical exercise and the need for a gymnasium in the city (29/1/66). Diamond performed before several hundred people on the Market Square on Saturday 27 January, first walking a half mile forwards and backwards in 7 minutes, and then racing "one of Sir Walter Currie's navvys" over 3 miles. The navy had 100 yards start, and the stake was one pound, but he gave up after 2 miles. Diamond then defeated him at throwing a 50 pounds weight (Journal 29/1/66).

Diamond responded to the editorial in the Journal by offering his services in the establishment of a gymnasium in Grahamstown in order to secure "mens sana in corpore sano" (Journal 2/2/66), and in 1867 a gymnastic club was formed under Captain O Mehlis in a vacant store, but Diamond was not involved, although he did stay for a while in Grahamstown. On Friday 16 February he attempted to walk 100 miles in 24 hours for twenty pounds, but at 11.30 a m on Saturday 17 February, having completed 80 miles, he was stopped by Sir Percy Douglas "because of the hot sun." Sir Percy contributed to and raised a liberal subscription for Diamond.



Diamond appeared in Natal in 1868, where he gained fame by emulating Captain Barclay's feat of walking 1 000 miles in 1 000 hours. The event lasted six weeks, and he walked the 998th mile in 10 minutes (Queenstown Free Press 2/6/68). Diamond performed in the Park and on the Market Square in 'Maritzburg (Witness 30/8/67), and then moved on to Kimberley (Colesberg Kopje). In 1874 De Volkstem reported (11/7/74) that Diamond was walking from Kimberley to the 'Goldfields' and hoped to do it in 22 days, but his arrival was not reported. In 1880 he was still active and performed in Pretoria (Friend 5/8/80). The last reference to Diamond sadly noted that the intrepid pedestrian, then working on a silver lead mine in the Transvaal, suffered from delirium tremens and wandered off, dying of cold on the High Veldt on 15 May 1882 (Grahamstown Journal 8/7/82).

Other pedestrian feats were also reported, and challenges appeared in local newspapers (Grahamstown Journal 17/1/64). Newspapers in different centres also carried reports on pedestrian feats in Britain. In 1873 Mr W A H Holland walked from Grahamstown to Port Alfred and back in two days (Grahamstown Journal 11/11/73), and in 1874 a mile challenge race took place on St Andrew's College field between Messrs Hutton and Hayton before a large crowd, Hutton reportedly winning in 4:54 (Journal 23/10/74). This was either a fast run for the period, or timing and measurements were faulty.

Much of the early pedestrian activity occurred in the Eastern Cape, at Queenstown, King William's Town and East London, perhaps because of the military influence. The editor of the Queenstown Free Press, David S Barrable, was a supporter of athletics, and frequently wrote at length on the value of walking, exercise, and athletic sports. He played a role in establishing the reputation Queenstown gained as an athletic centre. In 1865 Barrable wrote an editorial entitled "A Plea for Recreation" (Queenstown Free Press 21/11/65) and in 1868 (Queenstown Free Press 16/6/68) he

attacked the local settlers for allowing their physical fitness to decline and appealed for greater participation in games and sports. Barrable concluded:

That the first European settlers in this land have gone backwards, not only in mind, but also in body, there can be little doubt. (See Appendix D for the full text.)

Barrable's remarks may have persuaded the two officers who raced from Queenstown to Keiskamma Hoek in 1808, previously reported (Chapter Two). In 1871 the following notice appeared in the Queenstown Free Press (31/10/71):

#### A CHALLENGE!

The undersigned hereby challenges all comers to walk the greatest distance in the shortest time; without food or drink, or any sort of sustenance whatever, medicinal, or smoking, or chewing tobacco, after starting. Distance not to be less than FIFTY MILES.

Terms: FIFTY POUNDS or more a side.

Samuel Loxton

Samuel Loxton was a Member of the Legislative Assembly, so he was not without influence, and fifty pounds was a considerable sum of money, so this challenge was important. This was the same Loxton, the hairdresser, that completed the walks in 1845 described in Chapter two, so he was not a young man in 1871. There was a response but Loxton, a champion of physical fitness, became upset by the reaction of the Colonial Press, saying they "commented on it in a wrong spirit" (Queenstown Free Press 28/11/71) and the event did not take place.

There were several challenge races in Queenstown in 1875 and the Free Press reported (13/9/75):

At an early hour this morning when the majority of the citizens of this town were enjoying slumber's sweet repose, our main-street was graced by the appearance of two of our local pedestrians, who met to decide their respective merits in a sprint race. The start was from Grammie's Hotel, the goal being opposite Mr C T Palmer's store. A capital race was effected as far as the Free Press Office, when the younger of the two (Mr L-r) shot clean away from his competitor (Mr C-r) leaving him literally 'nowhere'.

Mr L-r was almost certainly Larter, of a famous Queenstown athletic family. The event sparked off a series of races and in October it was reported (Free Press 24/10/75) that a race over 200 yards took place in Cathcart Road between Mr L-r and "a youthful aspirant from the Stormberg" for a wager of six pounds, and L-r won again. In 1877 Mr C A Larter, then named, agreed to meet H W Brown who had raced against British soldiers in 1874 at King William's Town (see Chapter two), but there is no report of the result (Free Press 29/5/77). Frontier unrest may have prevented the holding of the event. The attempt to match these two followed Brown's defeat by Larter over 200 yards at the Queen's Birthday Sports in Queenstown on 24 May 1877, and in the report (Free Press 25/5/77) Brown was referred to as a person "who is to a certain extent a trained athlete." But H W Brown was no sprinter, unlike his brother Stephen. The third brother, Jim, later excelled at 440 and 800 yards, and much more will be written about the Browns and their impact on South African athletics. H W Brown offered to back Stephen for one hundred pounds a

side against Larter in 1880, or against Long of Grahamstown or T S Brown of Bontebok Flats. Horatio P Long had also been challenged by Larter and had accepted provided the race was in Grahamstown (Grahamstown Journal 23/6/80). Protracted negotiations ensued since each jockeyed for the best terms, and for a suitable time and place. H W Brown denied he was willing to back Larter against anyone in the Colony (Grahamstown Journal 23/7/80; 25/8/80), but issued a challenge on behalf of brother Stephen over any distance from 200 yards to a mile in any town in Eastern Province (Grahamstown Journal 25/8/80). Such negotiations were typical of pedestrian events, which were on-going all-the-year-round affairs, as opposed to public sports, military sports, or school sports, which were 'one-off' affairs usually held annually. Pedestrian events were reported in detail and all sections of the population, from the Governor-General downwards, took an interest in them. They filled a need for exciting, unusual, entertaining events, and there was always the chance of making some money by betting on the result.

S Brown and Larter eventually met at King William's Town on 26 November 1881 in an event that became a farce. A 440 yards course was measured out at 'Star Fort' above Grey Hospital, on a narrow down-hill path marked with flags. Brown won in 45 seconds, a time which was, justifiably, received with disbelief. The course was 'chained-off' and found to be twenty-one yards short. A long argument ensued about the validity of the contest, as much money was at stake. A re-run was ordered, but Brown had already left. The referee departed to find him, but failed, and returned alone to announce "no race, all bets off." Larter, however, was still present, and urged on by his backers, walked over the course and claimed the silver trophy, his backers claiming the bets. Brown arrived later and also walked over the course. The referee stuck by his original decision and declared no contest. This amusing incident gains significance when later it was agreed to refer a decision "to the sporting authorities at Home." England was

'Home', and even the colonials were happy to accept arbitration from London. Such events were important occasions and were taken seriously.

In East London there were also numerous pedestrian events at about the same time, usually involving men from King William's Town, Cathcart and Queenstown. In March 1881 a running race was arranged between Mr Cronin of the Buffalo Hotel and Mr Burger of the Crown Hotel, starting from the Phoenix Hotel, Panmure, in Oxford Street, to Hasenjager's Hotel, Cambridge, a distance of about 4.1/2 miles (7,2 kms). Cronin was the favourite and heavily backed. He gave Burger three hundred yards start, but lost by two hundred and fifty yards (Daily Dispatch 12/3/81). Supporters of Larter in Queenstown saw their chance to make some money and backed him to beat Burger over the same course for twenty-five pounds a side. The railway link between East London and Queenstown, which was completed in 1880, made such a contest possible.

Arrangements were completed through the Free Press, and a huge crowd of spectators turned out to see the event on 30 April. Starter T W Heywood set the runners off and although Burger held his man as far as the fig tree at Chiselhurst, he was no match for Larter and "after running another 200 yards, caved in" (Daily Dispatch (4/5/81)). Larter completed the distance in 26 minutes, no mean achievement. A later report however (Daily Dispatch 19/5/82) gave his time as 27:05 which seems more likely. This event sparked off a whole spate of races over the same course with large crowds in attendance, following the events on horseback and in traps. This was something new and exciting. A rematch from scratch between Cronin and Burger took place on 18 February 1882, Cronin winning. They met again for an increased stake of fifty pounds a side on 4 March, and Cronin won again. On 15 April a diamond ring was the prize, and Cronin still emerged the victor, but only by 22 yards, his time a fast 26:10 (Daily



Dispatch 19/4/82). Burger was not convinced, however, and after a three month lull, raced Cronin again on 5 July, but lost yet again. After this interest waned, and at this time normal athletics was gaining in popularity and the East London Athletic Club was formed (July 1883), a body supporting amateur athletics and opposing pedestrianism.

Burger also raced a mile against a Mr Elton on East London racecourse for twenty-five pounds a side, winning in 6.3/4 minutes (Daily Dispatch 1/6/81). This was a slow time. Sergeant Beaton of Landrey's Horse won the mile in 4:45 at the Queen's Birthday Celebrations, Thlotsi Heights, although the validity of the time cannot be verified (Daily Dispatch 25/6/81).

There was little pedestrian activity in Port Elizabeth. It appears that this was because amateur athletics gained an early foothold. The Grey Institute held sports in 1867, and the Prince Alfred's Guard Rifle Volunteers in 1875. As in Cape Town and Durban, regattas were popular events, and these probably absorbed the time and energy of the men who would otherwise have been involved in pedestrianism. In both Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, amateur athletic clubs were established fairly early, in 1875 and 1880, and pedestrianism was frowned upon. There was also no British Army garrison in Port Elizabeth, so there were no military pedestrians.

The influx of large numbers of rigorous, sport-loving adventurers to the newly-discovered diamond fields in Griqualand West made it inevitable that much of the early athletic activity there was of a professional nature. 'Professor' Diamond performed in 1871 (Diamond News 13/5/71), and at the Boxing Day Sports the same year, money prizes were awarded (Diamond News 23/2/71). Athletic events for money were arranged at hotels and farms and sometimes combined with horse-racing, as at Wessell's Farm, 1877 (Diamond News 29/12/77). Henry Nourse, later president of the South

African AAA took part in these early events (Diamond News 25/12/73; 29/12/74).

Disputes were common before rules and governing bodies operated in South Africa, particularly when money was at stake. A challenge match between two hammer throwers at Kimberley in 1881 was a good example. A C Mather met Chas Simpson on Tuesday 10 May for fifty pounds a side, using a 14 lb hammer. Each had five throws between two flags twenty-eight feet apart. The referees said Simpson's throw "looked further", but Mather demanded a measurement and refused to continue throwing unless one was taken. It was then dark and Mr George McKay was appointed to hold the one hundred pounds until next day, when the throws were measured and Mather's was eight feet further. Mather demanded his money back, and Simpson claimed it had already been awarded to him. The dispute came before a local magistrate who ruled in favour of Simpson (Grahamstown Journal 6/7/81). Events of this nature were popular in Kimberley, where the vigorous, bawdy, gambling-mad miners were willing to bet on anything and gambling was a major leisure-time pursuit.

Hammer throwing was particularly popular in Kimberley, and a typical event took place at Wessell's Farm on Boxing Day 1876:

Two well-known athletes stood forth to contest for a good sum of money. Bets were made in all directions...

The elder of the two athletes, a gentleman well known on the Fields, and having the reputation of being about the strongest man in South Africa, gave a younger gentleman 2 ft 6 ins and was backed to do this for a somewhat considerable sum.

The younger man won by 1 ft 10 ins. (Diamond News (28/12/76)



The amateurs were soon active in Kimberley and Griqualand West Athletic Sports for amateurs only were organised by C J Wiley in 1873 (Diamond News 6/11/73). A club was formed in 1881, but challenge events continued. W Ling won the 100 yards championship in 1881 and two years later was involved in a series of challenge races, beating T R Thomson on 24 February 1883 for the large sum of one hundred pounds (Diamond Field News 26/2/83). Heavy betting occurred at the Griqualand West Sports in 1883 and 1884, but these were supposed to be amateur meetings, and were not pedestrian events (Diamond Field News 18/10/83; 15/4/84). The Diamond Field News (24/10/84) published an article on pedestrianism in 1884 extolling the feats of Bishop Merriman, the Reverend C R Lange (the chaplain at Port Alfred who regularly walked to Grahamstown), and Samuel Loxton, but nobody came forward to emulate those stalwarts.

Challenge matches between individuals, referred to as pedestrian events, were reported in Natal, but heavy betting was not a feature and the persons involved were more concerned with the development of amateur athletics than pedestrianism. These early challenge races, which seem likely to have been inspired by athletics at the Pietermaritzburg Garrison, attracted public attention in the Natal capital in 1866 and 1867. W Doig won the first race over 100 yards on 15 September in the Park, and on 15 November was beaten by Theo Shepstone Junior in an event described as "light entertainment after the Legislative Council Meeting" (Natal Witness 20/11/66). The race was 200 yards hurdles, with eight obstacles, 3 ft 6 ins high, still the standard height for men's high hurdles today. The report commented: "Sport not cash was the object."

These races inspired the holding of a Natal Handicap over 400

yards on 15 February 1867 (see the advertisement, Appendix E). Preliminary heats were held the day before, and Shepstone and a Corporal Holgate, two favourites, were so heavily handicapped, they did not make the final. The winner was Sergeant Cameron of the 99th Regiment off 57 yards, from A Moodie, a local runner off 49 yards (Natal Witness 15/2/67; 19/2/67).

The idea of handicapping athletes was a uniquely British idea which, according to Mandell (1984, pp. 143-144), originated in the eighteenth century in horse-racing as organisers sought to make the outcome of races uncertain and exciting. Handicap events became common place at most athletic sports meetings in England and South Africa in the nineteenth century, both for amateurs and professionals, and in fact were popular until well after World War Two. Scratch races (no handicaps) were reserved for championships and international competitions. For many years a handicap meeting was held in conjunction with the South African championships.

Further races took place in the Park at 'Maritzburg, and at Camperdown Races, Michaelmas Day 1868, Doig won a 200 yards foot-race (Natal Witness 2/10/68). Earlier that year the Natal Mercury claimed (12/3/68) that "The champion runner is to be found in the village of Victoria, Victoria County, and nowhere else", and the Witness suggested he should challenge the City Champion. "The City Champion Runner" wrote to the Witness (16/4/69) saying he was willing to run any distance on hard ground in Durban or Pietermaritzburg for twenty-five pounds, no doubt using the interim to prepare himself. But there was no report of the event. In 1869 athletes in Durban, Victoria and Pietermaritzburg were all claiming to be the best, and eventually a handicap race over 150 yards for five pounds a side was arranged in Alexandra Park, Pietermaritzburg, on 24 April. A large crowd saw I S Ferreira beat A Moodie and A McDonald over 150 yards and 250 yards. He was off 5 yards in the latter race (Witness 27/4/69). A large crowd

also turned out to see a return match on 29 May and the Witness carried a special report (1/6/69). Ferreira won again. Interest was stimulated and a meeting was arranged at Tattersall's, Pietermaritzburg, where it was decided to hold 'Pedestrian Sports'. Stewards were appointed, and the events took place on Saturday 24 July on a straight piece of the lower road in Alexandra Park, roped off along the trees at each side. Ferreira, Moodie and McDonald were heavily handicapped and failed in the 250 yards event. J Berning off scratch, won the 200 yards "mutual consent start". (Witness 27/7/69). This is the only reference to this type of start in South Africa that the writer has noticed. Details about mutual consent starts are given by Doherty (1953, p. 48). Two features of the events should be noticed: there was a close relationship to the arrangements for horse-racing, and events for juniors were included, although no results were given.

At a similar meeting organised at the Old Race Course on 7 August 1869, the occasion took on the appearance of an orthodox athletic sports meeting, with the inclusion of jumping events. Moodie moved up to and won the mile (Witness 10/8/69). Pedestrian type events were not held after this, and athletic sports meetings became popular with the old pedestrians, Moodie, Berning, Ferreira and McDonald often appearing in the results (Witness 31/8/69; 20/4/70).

There can be little doubt that the influence of the Garrison in Pietermaritzburg coupled with the activities of the early pedestrians, gave the capital city an early lead in athletics in Natal, and led to the establishment of regular athletic meetings and the formation of a club. The interest shown by prominent members of the community, such as the Shepstones, ensured that athletics became a popular activity well integrated into the social life of the city.

As organised athletic sports meetings became popular in South

Africa and attracted all sections of the population, pedestrian events declined. They did not, however, die out entirely and, as in England, lingered on well into the latter half of the nineteenth century. Soldiers still contested pedestrian type events, such as the mile challenge race at Rondebosch Camp Ground on 4 June 1881 between bandsman T Robertson of the 91st Highlanders, who won, and a drummer of the 99th Regiment (Cape Argus 4/6/81).

The Goede Hoop Gardens were also used for pedestrian events, not on the scale of the Agricultural Hall, Islington, London, but similar in nature. A roller-skating rink had been built in the Gardens, to cater for the craze sweeping the English-speaking world, and athletic events were occasionally held there. The first reference was in June 1881 when four or five events were held with cycling and roller-skating (Cape Argus 7/6/81). A "Six Day Walking Match" with prizes of fifty pounds was advertised (Argus 10/6/81) but no results were reported. Six day events were reported as 'dead' in the USA. As late as 1890, a 120 yards race for twenty pounds was held with the Hamiltons vs Villagers football match at Newlands (Cape Times 7/7/90).

Walking suddenly became popular in Natal, and a race over three miles was reported from Pietermaritzburg in 1876 (Natal Mercury 4/3/76). J B Martin, an Englishman, won five pounds by beating a Major Grantham in 33:06. That same year the idea of a walking race from Pietermaritzburg to Durban emerged, and the first attempt was by Lieutenant Bradshaw of the 1-13th Regiment who completed a course from Fort Napier to the Berea Toll Bar in 13 hours 37 minutes to win a wager that he would not beat 14 hours. It was reported that a 'Kafir' started out with him but gave up exhausted at Padley's, where another was obtained to accompany him (Natal Witness 22/6/76).

A series of sprint challenge races were arranged in Natal in 1889

with the Pietermaritzburg athlete Tom McCrystal, the star attraction. He defeated Private Moore of the Royal Scots on 6 April. Moore attacked his trainer but came off second best in that contest also (Natal Witness 8/4/89). Ted Smith and 'Watty' Brunton of Durban challenged McCrystal and they met at the Oval, Pietermaritzburg on 3 July, a Wednesday, running from one set of goal-posts to the other. Such was the interest and the amount of money at stake that "all business was entirely suspended" in 'Maritzburg and the result was cabled through to Durban (Natal Witness 4/7/89). Over a thousand people bedecked with rosettes and flags indicating the colours of their favourite, were entertained by a troop from Fillis' Circus, before seeing McCrystal, reportedly with a 'flier' (false start), win in 10.3/4 seconds. Excitement increased when it was learned that McCrystal and Brunton would meet again on Saturday 6 July. McCrystal started the favourite at 2 and 3 to 1. Over two thousand people watched the 100 yards race, a tie in 10.1/2 seconds, and forty five minutes later Brunton won a second race in 10.1/4 seconds. The result was announced at a football match in Durban and the crowd burst into cheering (Witness 8/7/89; Mercury 8/7/89). McCrystal went back into training, avoided the great sprinter Rolland at the Pietermaritzburg Sports, then well established, and in October issued a challenge to meet any Natalian over 100 yards and anyone in South Africa over 220 yards. This sparked off much comment in the newspapers, particularly 'Meteor' in the Witness (2/11/89) who wrote:

The grievances which have cropped up in connection with McCrystal's challenge might have been obviated if the sports of the colony were governed by an athletic association, of which so much has been said, but very little done.

There is no report of anyone accepting McCrystal's challenge, but



he competed at Barberton in 1891 (Witness 18/2/81), and against Private Chesher of the 84th Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiment in Pietermaritzburg in August 1891 over 100, 130 and 200 yards. Chesher spent a week in Durban as part of his preparation and appeared at the Oval "clad in a heavy Inverness cloak" (Witness 31/8/91). Chesher won the 100 and 130 yards, so the 200 yards was not contested. The starter was Lieutenant T T Pitman, 11th Hussars, the English 880 yards champion, who had just arrived in Pietermaritzburg, and who was to feature in the historic race against Jim Brown of Cathcart later that year. Chesher was an experienced sprinter and had competed successfully all over the world.

The last of the true pedestrians was probably John Mellet, the Free State walker, who competed throughout South Africa and in England. His exploits are discussed in Chapter Fifteen.

These challenge events focused attention on the need for rules and a local governing body. They also stimulated interest in athletics in Natal and contributed to the rapid developments that occurred there.

#### Athleticism in South African schools

In the countries of the British Empire where the British established educational systems, such as Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa, athleticism in the schools also became a feature. The public school model was adopted in South Africa because those who were concerned about and entrusted with the establishment of schools had usually attended schools and universities in England where athleticism flourished, and they assumed it to be the best system.

When the British arrived in South Africa there was no systematic educational system, so there was no competition to the public

school model. Even the Dutch, who resented the imposition of English as the medium of instruction, wholeheartedly adopted the model, and it became the blueprint for the whole South African state system. Athleticism took deep root and flourished in South African schools, not only in the influential private institutions such as St Andrew's College, the Diocesan College (Bishops), St John's College, Michaelhouse and Hilton but also in English and Afrikaans-medium state high schools (Honey, 1972, p. 8). Honey argued that it is in South Africa that the 'Tom Brown' concept, long since faded in England, is still a major factor.

Indeed, I would go further, and say that in some notable respects, South African high schools are stuck fast in the 19th century model of the English public school, and have in fact, stronger links with Tom Brown than have some of their modern British counterparts. (Honey, 1972, pp. 8-9)

South African boys were exposed to athleticism and revelled in it. Other South Africans were sent to English public schools, and a steady stream attended English universities, and at both institutions absorbed athleticism. Masters were sent out from Britain to teach in South African schools, and further promoted athleticism; some became involved in athletics outside of schools, in clubs and universities. Many of the products of the system obtained influential positions in society and have been able to perpetuate the concept.

St Andrew's College, Grahamstown, founded in 1854, appears to have had an annual athletic sports day since 1863, as a report on the Fourth Annual Sports appeared in the Grahamstown Journal in 1866 (29/6/66). The starter was the Reverend J Mullins, and the mile was won by R MacLean in 6 minutes. The sports inspired the Journal to present a lengthy article on the benefits of walking



and running, and the comments on walking seem strange today:

Walking... is useful and ornamental. There is the double step, the triple step, the oblique step, the cross step, the French step, the walking on heels, the broken step, the tick-tack, the balancing on one leg, the pace of three times, the cross touch, the touch of the heel, the changing of the guard, etc.  
(Grahamstown Journal 2/7/66)

There were similar comments about running, and it is interesting to conjecture if there was any link between these remarks and 'Professor' Diamond, who was in Grahamstown at the time.

The Lieutenant-Governor, the Lord Bishop and the Solicitor-General attended the seventh annual St Andrew's Sports, and significantly, some events open to the public were included. D R C Greathead won the 100 yards in 11.0 seconds, and Dr E Atherstone won the 'Putting the Stone' with 23 feet 10.1/2 inches (Journal 28/6/69). The sports had become an important social event in Grahamstown, attracting middle and upper class citizens as spectators and participants. At this time Grahamstown was second only to Cape Town in importance.

The ninth meeting took place on the town cricket ground (Journal 24/6/72), and in 1874 a mile challenge race was held on the College field between Hutton and Hayton, the former winning in the fast time of 4:54. A large crowd was present (Journal 23/10/74).

Like St Andrew's, the early schools usually held their athletic sports at mid-year before the winter holidays. The Grahamstown Udenominational School, which later became Graeme College, held sports on their 'break-up day' in the grounds of the Drostdy on

Friday 18 June 1875. A large crowd attended, there were valuable prizes and many local dignitaries were present (Journal 18/6/75). In June 1876 the Journal noted that all the city schools were breaking up for the mid-year vacation, and were holding sports days. These were the Public School, St Andrew's College, and St Aidan's College. The Journal commented (21/6/76):

Instead of these separate and limited field-days, why cannot the promoters arrange a grand united programme.

The 'pole jump' was one of thirteen events at the 1877 St Andrew's Sports, held before a large crowd, and Greathead, "an extra student", cleared 10 feet (3,05 m). The names of the athletes make interesting reading, and are well known in Grahamstown and South African history: e.g. Leach, Currie, Lovemore, Ayliff, White and Hayton.

The Leach family was prominent in athletics. A G Leach won the St Andrew's mile in 5:18 in 1885, beating T Parker, who later became prominent in sports at the Wanderers. Two of his descendants were prominent between the two world wars.

The Grahamstown Journal praised the schools for promoting athletics in the city (15/6/85):

The practice of having events open to All Comers is a very commendable one...it lies in the hands of those who manage these sports to cultivate an athletic spirit in the town, so long at least as there are no public athletic sports, and they are the sole representatives of a most important branch of education.

Public athletics in Grahamstown was slow to start, and never

really became successful despite the efforts of the Journal.

The Grey Institute, Port Elizabeth, was close behind St Andrew's, and their first annual sports day was probably in 1867, initiated by the rector, the Reverend H I Johnson, and held on the playground (E P Herald 20/12/67). In 1868 there were two age groups, under 13 and over 13, and the best race was a 440 yards hurdles won by A Preiss (E P Herald 20/12/68). Unlike Grahamstown, these sports were held in conjunction with break-up and prize giving at the end of the year. In 1875 winter sports were inaugurated, and held on the Donkin Reserve (E P Herald 22/6/75).

The Grey Institute probably continued to hold annual sports and it would appear that progress in other Port Elizabeth schools was slow, as the following comments appeared in a series of articles on athletics written by 'Rundo-Fundo' in the E P Herald 12/11/83).

I am fully persuaded that the time is not far distant when athletics will be more fully recognised in our government schools...

'Rundo-Fundo' said that the one meeting a year organised by the Grey Institute was insufficient and it should be brought to the notice of the Inspector of Education that "...it is the introduction of more frequent athletic exercises..." that was required.

The Grey Institute moved its sports to the Port Elizabeth Athletic Club ground in St George's Park in 1881 (E P Herald 21/6/81). The Grey Institute became Grey High School, and played an important role in the development of athletics in Port Elizabeth and the Eastern Cape.

Athletics in Cape Town schools was slow in starting, and progress

lagged behind the development of athletic clubs and public athletic meetings. Although the South African College School (SACS) and the Diocesan College (Bishops) were two of the first schools to be established in South Africa (1829 and 1849), the first report of either holding athletic sports was at Bishops on 20 June 1882 (Cape Argus 20/6/82). By this time athletics in Cape Town was well established. Regular military meetings were held, pedestrian events had been reported, and an athletic club had been formed. Football and cricket at both Bishops and SACS developed much more rapidly than athletics.

Bishops held their first few athletic meetings at the Camp Ground, Rondebosch, but moved to Wynberg in 1885. SACS held sports on 28 October 1885, also at Wynberg, before a large crowd. P Cilliers was the outstanding performer, winning five events (Cape Argus 29/10/85). Arrangements at these early meetings were unsophisticated, and at Bishops the races were started "at the fall of the flag" (Cape Times 4/12/85).

Although slow starters in holding annual sports meetings, SACS and Bishops were later pioneers in developing inter-school sports. The Cape Times (9/9/86), disappointed at the lack of athletic progress in Cape Town, suggested that an annual inter-school meeting was needed, on the lines of the Oxford vs Cambridge sports, but unfortunately nothing came of this suggestion.

The Cape Times continued to encourage school athletics, and commenting on the approaching SACS sports in 1887, when the Queen's Jubilee had been celebrated by athletic sports all over South Africa, it remarked (14/9/87):

The approaching athletics meeting is keeping up the interest in sporting affairs generally, and we are thankful to it, for the fire of enthusiasm in this particular branch requires much coaxing at all times...

On the programme of this meeting was an inter-college 880 yards, won by F Guthrie of Bishops in 2:14.4/5. These inter-college events were commendable attempts to pave the way for inter-school sports, but were doomed to failure because the home school athletes were fully involved in their own events (Cape Times 26/9/87). Victoria College, Stellenbosch, held sports the same day, in the Avenue in front of the Theology Seminary (Cape Times 26/9/87). The first sports at Stellenbosch College, which became Victoria College in 1887, were held in March 1885 (Stellenbosch College A C minutes: March 1885).

Victoria College attempted to arrange inter-college sports in 1888, and the President agreed to approach sister-colleges on this topic. A meeting was arranged in 1889 and it was agreed to hold such sports, but no suitable field could be found, so they were postponed (Stellenbosch College A C minutes: 21/8/89; 10/9/89).

There is no doubt that Victoria College, later Stellenbosch University, was the birthplace of modern athletics for Dutch-speaking South Africans. It is interesting to note that the early minutes were kept in English, and the first report in Afrikaans, on the annual sports day, was in the Stellenbosch Students Quarterly, (Vol XVI, No 4, Nov. 1915, pp 26-27). The debt owed to the influence of the British was acknowledged by Ds Maeder in the Gedenkboek van Het Victoria-Kollege (1918, p. 164):

Na die komst van die Britten werd kriet ingevoerd. Zo vinden wij in 't jaar 1853 de oude heer A van der Bijl, Mont Clair, Wynberg, als 'n jongeling van zegge tien of twaalf jaren 'n balslaner ('batsman') onder die

leerlingen van die knappe Schotse onderwijzer, Humphrey McLachlan. Men deed toen ook flink aan 'high and long jumps'; en de man die 't hardst kon lopen en 't verst kon springen, was niemand minder dan die zwaarlijvige emeritus predikant en ex-moderator, Ds A I Steytler, van Zeepunt.

Humphrey McLachlan was one of the first teachers brought out to South Africa in 1839 by J Rose-Innes, Superintendent of Education. Many teachers came from Britain, and further promoted the cult of athleticism.

In Natal, as in the Western Cape, it appears that school athletics lagged behind military and pedestrian events. St Mary's School, Pietermaritzburg, awarded prizes for running and jumping at Speech Day in 1873 (Natal Witness 30/9/73), and Durban High School held annual sports the same year (Natal Mercury 6/11/73). In the report on the Pietermaritzburg Sports in 1877, the "Age of Muscular Christianity" was referred to, (Witness 31/7/77), and later that year, at Bishops College prize giving, a Mr Green was reported as urging upon the boys the necessity of becoming proficient in athletic sports (Witness 12/10/77). A full report on Hilton College sports appeared in 1884 (Mercury 20/5/84). By this time athletics had been well established in Natal and clubs were operating successfully.

Maritzburg College held inaugural sports on 12 December 1891 (Witness 14/12/91). The venue was the Agricultural Show Grounds and they were attended by the Governor and Lady Mitchell. F C Blamey was the outstanding performer, and one of the events on the programme was throwing the hammer (16 lb) which has completely disappeared from South African schools athletics.



Howick School held sports in 1894 in which events for girls were included (Witness 25/12/94).

The Undenominational School, East London, held sports in June 1881 (Dispatch 29/6/81), and the report suggests that school sports were held in the town before that, and preceded the formation of an athletic club. Panmure Public School held sports in 1885 on the recreation ground, and according to the report the "most exciting race of the day" was a 120 yards skipping race for girls won by Miss Puzey in 18 seconds (Dispatch 27/6/85).

In Queenstown the Lesseyton Collegiate School organised sports in 1872 as part of the festivities marking the break-up for the Christmas holidays. It was a Methodist school for about sixty boys just north of the town. The Reverend H H Dugmore seems to have been a 'muscular christian' because sports were reported regularly at the half-yearly prize-giving (Queenstown Free Press 24/12/72; 24/6/73; 26/6/74). In 1881, Lesseyton Collegiate united with the First Class Public School for sports (Free Press 16/6/81).

The pattern in Kimberley was different. Sports were arranged for juveniles before schools held sports. The Juvenile Sports, with events for under 9, under 11, under 13, etc., were held in 1885, attracting a large crowd (Diamond Fields Advertiser 30/6/85), and the first annual sports of the Public Undenominational School took place in 1887 (Daily Independent 29/9/88).

Schools were slow off the mark in Pretoria. The Boys Brigade held sports regularly from 1893 onwards (Transvaal Advertiser 4/5/94), but there is no mention of school sports until 1904 when inter-school sports began (Pretoria News 27/6/04). It would seem logical to assume that schools had held annual sports long before that. As in Kimberley, sports for juveniles seem to have preceded school sports in Johannesburg. A meeting for boys was held at the Wanderers in

1890, which attracted a large crowd (Star 3/2/90). St Michael's College was reported as holding sports in 1891 (Star 30/9/91).

The beginning of athletic sports at Stellenbosch University has already been mentioned. In Cape Town, according to the S A College Athletic Club minutes, the university club was formed in 1913 (minutes 7/4/13), but the school itself held athletic events from 1885 onwards. Rhodes University College was established in 1904, and the first Rhodes' athlete to gain success was C Y van Hees who was 3rd in the Inter-Collegiate 440 yards flat race at the Grahamstown Carnival in 1905 (Grocott's Mail 31/3/05). The first sports were held in 1908 (Grocott's Mail 8/10/09). None of the universities made a significant contribution to the development of athletics before World War One. They developed in the British tradition however, and made a significant impact after World War One.

From the somewhat sketchy and incomplete information available it is apparent that schools were not a major factor in the early development of athletics in South Africa. In most centres in the nineteenth century athletics in schools and colleges was confined to an annual sports day, a social occasion often held in conjunction with 'break-up' before the holidays, or with prize-giving. The cult of athleticism was only beginning to influence South African schools in the nineteenth century, and its full impact would only be felt in the twentieth century. In most centres the development of athletics was faster in the military and public sectors. Garrison and Volunteer sports, the Boys Brigade, pedestrianism and professionals, and amateur meetings usually preceded school athletics. Schools were often handicapped because they had been established in make-shift and converted buildings, without playing fields. The relatively slow start by the schools in South African athletics was a constant source of irritation to many journalists, who were usually supporters of athleticism, and they continually badgered the schools to foster

athletics and begin inter-school contests.

#### Summary of early developments

During the first three quarters of the nineteenth century, athletics remained an underdeveloped sport in South Africa. British regiments held sports days and there were the occasional pedestrian events. Rural sports were enjoyed by the Dutch and the English, and individuals often attempted feats of strength, speed and endurance that attracted public attention. Most events were 'one-off' affairs and often more of a social occasion than a sporting contest. The rapid changes in the developments of British sport were percolating through to South Africa, but had as yet not had the opportunity to take root and grow. Communities were still small, schools were few in number and lacking facilities, communication between centres was slow and difficult, and a succession of military actions kept the young men busy.

There was no distinction between amateur and professional athletes at that time, and betting and cash prizes were common. Competitors moved freely between pedestrian events and supposedly 'amateur' meetings. It seemed to be accepted that you could remain an amateur as long as you did not actually try to earn a living through athletics, and all classes were accepted as amateurs, regardless of the type of work in which they were engaged. The distinction arose with blacks, who only competed on rare occasions. Athletic sports meetings were often held on public holidays, such as Whitsun, Boxing Day, New Year, or to celebrate special occasions, such as the Queen's Birthday, the President's Birthday, or the visit of royalty.

As social occasions, athletic sports meetings provided an opportunity for people to meet together, to dress up, and as few other forms of entertainment were available, a sports day provided relief in what were hard and difficult times. Local

dignitaries attended sports meetings, mingling with the crowd, and often taking a leading role in organisation.

In the next chapters the further development of athletics amongst the general public will be considered, and attention focused on events that led to the formation of athletic clubs and controlling bodies in the different centres. These developments took place at the same time as, and were influenced by, some of the military, pedestrian and school events already described. There was much interaction, and developments did not take place in isolation.

Athletic clubs and controlling bodies operated in England from 1862 onwards, and as the number of British settlers in South Africa continued to grow, so there was a steady inflow of men who had been involved in the sport, as athletes, organisers, administrators and journalists. It is not surprising that about a decade after institutionalised athletics appeared in England, there were similar developments in South Africa. In 1851 a Monthly Mail Steamer Service between South Africa and England began, which made communication with and passage to and from England much easier, and further increased English influence.

South Africa is a large country, and even today it is only the elite sportsmen who are privileged to compete at centres throughout the land. In the period under discussion, even after the establishment of the railways, centres operated in isolation. It is, therefore, convenient to study the development of athletics in each centre separately, beginning in the Cape Colony and Natal, where progress preceded developments in the Orange Free State and Transvaal.

## CHAPTER FOUR

## DEVELOPMENTS IN WESTERN PROVINCE

Cape Town has always been the social and political centre of South Africa and it is logical to consider athletic developments in that centre first. From the evidence available, it appears that the first athletic club in South Africa was established in Cape Town. There is some argument today about which club is the oldest in South Africa. This depends upon several factors: what is the definition of a 'club'; does the club have to show an unbroken period of existence; has the name changed? The argument is really pointless and will not be entered into in this thesis.

In earlier chapters it has been shown that early athletic activity in Cape Town included military sports, the visit of 'Professor' Diamond, and some pedestrian events. The first attempt to involve the general public appears to have been made in 1873 when a public meeting was called "to take into consideration the desirability of obtaining a town ground for the purposes of cricket and other athletic sports." Seventy people attended under the chairmanship of the Dean of Cape Town, the Very Reverend Charles William Barnett-Clarke (Cape Argus 12/7/73). Several representatives of the church were present, an indication perhaps of the influence of 'muscular christianity'. A committee was formed and began negotiations for a piece of land at Green Point, 220 yards x 230 yards, that would be fenced off and accommodation erected.

Aquatic activities, however, appeared to be more popular in Cape Town than athletic sports, and the Queen's Birthday was celebrated annually by the holding of a Regatta. The marriage of the Duke of Edinburgh in 1874 was, however, celebrated by



athletic sports, at the Fox and Hounds hotel, Eersterivier, and a special train left Cape Town at 6 a.m. to convey revellers and contestants, many of the latter members of Cape Volunteer movements (Cape Argus 17 and 19/3/74).

In 1875 newspapers carried articles and comments on 75 years of British influence in the Cape and mentioned the English newspapers, soldiers, settlers, teachers, traders and merchants. It seemed that there were no Cape students in Holland, they were all in England. It was without doubt the influence of the English that led to the formation of an athletic club in Cape Town that year. A notice was printed in the Cape Argus (18/11/75) announcing that the objects of the Cape Town Athletic Club were:

1. To Build a gymnasium.
2. To Establish a recreation ground for cricket, football, and athletic sports.
3. To Establishing a fund for prizes.

Barnett-Clarke was secretary, and sports were arranged for Saturday 27 November at Wynberg Cricket Ground. According to the report in the Cape Argus (30/11/75) there were few competitors and a small crowd, but "it supplies a long felt need." Members of St George's Agathos Club competed, maintaining the religious connection. The results appear in Appendix F. O H Ellis, with four firsts and two seconds was declared "athlete of the day."

The influence of 'Muscular Christianity' on athletics at this time was further illustrated by a paragraph in an article on "Physical Training" in the supplement to the Cape Argus (2/8/76):

'Mens sana in corpore sano' is the motto of the day, and 'Muscular Christianity' is the best translation we know of that old saw.



The article envisaged that athletic clubs would spring up in all the major centres.

The formation of the Cape Town Athletic Club was, however, only the beginning of the struggle to establish athletics as a popular sport in Cape Town. There were no reports of any athletic activity from 1876 to 1878 as far as that club was concerned, and it appears that the newly-formed club collapsed. The next mention of athletic sports was in 1879 when the Villagers and Hamiltons Football Clubs held a meeting at Wynberg cricket ground (Cape Argus 30/9/79). A large crowd attended and a 220 yards race for College Boys was included.

Cricket, football and horse-racing were reported regularly in the newspaper and, in a column on English Sport in the Cape Argus, there was regular news about athletic events in England. In an article on 21 August 1880 doubt was expressed about the ability of colonial athletes to run the 100 yards in 10 seconds, and the accuracy of colonial timekeeping was questioned. The English found it hard to believe that athletes in other countries could perform better, and doubts about the validity of sprint times in South Africa were often expressed, and were only partly quashed by Walker winning the 100 metres at the London Olympics, 1908. In another article, later that year (Cape Argus 15/12/80) it was reported that six day races were "all the rage" and this, no doubt, had some influence in persuading Mr Bernhard Kromm to present a similar event at the Goede Hoop Gardens Skating Rink in June 1881, by which time, however, 'English Sport' was reporting six day events as 'dead' in the United States of America (Cape Argus 10/6/81).

Another attempt was made to establish a Cape Town Athletic Club in 1881 (Cape Argus 25/4/81), and 80 or so members were reported to be practising at the Goede Hoop Gardens, including "veterans

from the old country and young colonial athletes." The club was sponsored by gentlemen of the Cape Town Club, but its activities were ineffective, as this editorial comment in the Argus illustrates (4/7/81):

It is time the colony did something to show that it is not dead to sports and manly pastimes.

The Argus was either unaware of or ignored the fact that athletics in the Eastern Cape was making rapid progress. This second attempt to form a club also collapsed. A third attempt was made the following year and the Argus commented (16/11/82): "We are glad to hear of the establishment of this club." Its objects were "to preserve the purity of athletic contests here free from the professional element", and to lay down a cinder path and hold athletic meetings twice a year.

Progress was successful, and in 1883 there were 75 members practising on the Western Province Cricket Ground. Sports were planned for June, and then regularly every March and September, but the first sports were eventually held in October. These were at Wynberg and attracted a large crowd (Cape Argus 27/2/83; 22/10/83). Successful sports were also arranged over Easter at various hotels and by the Volunteer Rifles (Cape Argus 3/4/83). In 1884 the Cape Town AC decided to hold what was referred to as "its annual meeting" in conjunction with the visit of the Kimberley Football team. This sports meeting was noteworthy for the outstanding performances of the Kimberley athlete, Henry Nourse, later to become president of the South African AAA. These were:

High Jump    5ft. 3ins.  
 Long Jump    19ft. 10ins.  
 Shot (18lbs.)    36ft. 3ins.  
 120 yards hurdles    17.0 seconds.

Athletes from Kimberley also won the 100 yards, 220 yards and throwing the cricket ball. This did not impress the Cape Argus (25/8/84):

...the young men of Cape Town have not yet thrown themselves into athletic sports with the zest they should have exhibited.

Deploing the attitude and performances of the Cape Town athletes, the report said: "Now is the time for Cape Town to move forward in athletic circles."

But once again there was no further progress, much to the disgust of 'Veldschoen' who wrote to the Cape Times (27/2/85) deploring the temporary and short-lived existence of Colonial Clubs:

The Amateur Athletic Club was established in 1882, having as its object 'the cultivation of athletic sports', with which aim and object it superseded the annual gatherings held in connection with Hamilton and Villager Football Clubs, - gatherings upon which one now almost looks back with envious desire for their re-institution. I should like to ascertain with permission, through the medium of your journal, whether the A.A.C. is now entirely a thing of the imagination; or whether - moribund though it may be - there is any intention of its re-vivification and of bringing it to that high eminence which the rapid advance of sport in the Colony within the last few years would justify one in expecting.

The Argus picked up this opportunity to comment, and the following remarks appeared in 'Sporting Intelligence' (7/4/85):

.. .the Cape Town Athletic Club is in a bad way...the chances of a continued existence of the Club with any success are but slight.

In anticipation of its possible demise, an heir has been suggested to succeed it in the shape of annual athletic gatherings to be held under the auspices of the Western Province Rugby Football Union for all members of clubs thereto affiliated.

In April 1885 the third attempt to form an athletic club ended, as it was agreed to approach the W P Rugby Football Union with a view to a merger (Cape Times 22/4/85), and this was accepted the next day (Times 23/4/85).

So rugby kept athletics alive in Cape Town, in much the same way as soccer did in Durban (see Chapter Eight). Secretary of both the athletic club and the W P R F U was Douglas de-Fenzi, and he saw the opportunity not only to keep athletics going through rugby, but also to use athletics as a means of making money for rugby, and in June 1885 sports were organised to collect funds to send a team to the Grahamstown Football Tournament. They were scheduled for the Queen's Birthday, but postponed twice because of bad weather. They were held on 13 June and attracted a large crowd, including the Governor, Sir Leicester-Smythe. A successful performer was C H Vintcent, later to become an outstanding athlete and sportsman. The Cape Times said the sports were an improvement in that "unpunctuality and the over-running of the course by spectators which have marred previous meetings was avoided." (15/6/85).

Villagers and Hamiltons Rugby Clubs had held athletic meetings in 1879, 1880, 1881 and 1882. In 1882 the sports were so popular that special trains were arranged and they went ahead with the meeting despite a smallpox epidemic (Argus 16/10/82). The W P R F U sports in 1886 were contested by Villagers, Hamiltons, Gardens, Diocesan College and Stellenbosch (Cape Times 4/10/86). At the Annual General Meeting of the W P R F C a few days later, Douglas-de-Fenzi proposed that two athletic meetings a year should be held, then athletes could be sent to compete in other centres. He noted that Kimberley was building a track and offering good prizes (Times 11/10/86).

Other organisations were also active in athletics. Naval Sports were held at Simon's Bay (Cape Times 29/6/85), and sports for junior members of sporting clubs were held at Sea Point (Cape Argus 3/7/85). In 1886 there was a move to start a cross country running club at Rondebosch, called Norham Harriers (Cape Times 17/6/86).

1887 was the year of massive and wide-spread Jubilee Celebrations in honour of Queen Victoria, and many athletic sports meetings were arranged. The W P R F U decided to hold "an athletic sports gathering on a grand scale" and the event arranged for 18 June, with seventy-five pounds worth of prizes, was the biggest so far held in Cape Town. The weather was perfect, music was supplied by the band of the Royal Scots Guards and L Vintcent was outstanding. The Brokers Jubilee Challenge Cup, valued at thirty pounds, was presented to the winner of the mile, E Andersson, who improved his time from 5:08 in 1886 to 4:51 (Cape Times 9/3/87; 20/6/87).

Earlier in the year the Cape Times had commented (8/2/87):

In the way of athletic sports meetings Port Elizabeth can give the metropolis lumps of weight and then walk in an easy winner.

The fillip given to athletics by the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations could not be sustained in Cape Town due to lack of facilities and in September the Cape Times said (29/9/87):

So often has the want of a properly laid-out ground been referred to in these columns that the topic has at last assumed a sickening aspect; yet we cannot pass by the present occasion without another longing sigh for a condition of things which are as remote from attainment as it was when first touched upon.

These remarks were written with reference to the S A College Sports, which were held at Wynberg, and the conditions there were criticised again in 1888, after the WPRFU sports: "The running track, such as it is, was never in worse condition, which is saying a deal..." (Cape Times 27/8/88). Apart from those sports, college sports and some military sports, there was little activity in 1888 and even less in 1889. The visit of Major Warton's cricket team from England and the S A Rugby Football Convention seemed to occupy everybody's time. Newlands was opened as the official headquarters of the WPRFU and athletic meetings were held there instead of Wynberg. Another cross country club was formed in 1890, Wynberg Harriers (Cape Times 18/4/90), but it had little success.

In 1893 yet another attempt was made to form a Cape Town Athletic Club. By this time clubs had been formed in all the major centres in South Africa and athletics was making progress in Kimberley, Port Elizabeth, Johannesburg and Durban. Many of these centres had proper athletic tracks, and letters were published in Cape Town deploring the lack of facilities there (Cape Times 3/1/91;



25/2/91). The Cape Times reported that in 1892 the only athletic meetings held were organised by the military and volunteer units, although successful sports were being held each week at Somerset West Strand (Cape Times 22/3/92). Even the Brokers Jubilee Trophy was missing (Cape Times 19/10/92).

The first move to resuscitate athletics in Cape Town in 1893 was the calling of a public meeting at which a committee was appointed to establish a sports ground at Green Point (Cape Times 12/1/93). In July it was announced that a road run had been held to inaugurate the Cape Town Athletic Club. The race was from the Albion Hotel to the Waverley Hotel and back via Three Anchor Bay and the hospital. Thirteen athletes ran. After the race a meeting was held to form the club. Fifty people attended (Cape Times 15/7/93). A few days later a committee met at the headquarters, the Albion Hotel, to draft rules based on those of the English AAA. The secretaries were H G Cadwallader and R Furminger. The annual subscription was set at ten shillings (Cape Times 19/7/93).

Practice runs were held from the Albion Hotel and it was planned to hold races each Thursday with silver medals for the winners. The man who scored most points in six races would receive a silver watch (Cape Times 27/7/93). Huge sports were arranged for Wiener's Day in October. Wiener was a Cape Town merchant who fought for, and eventually obtained, an annual public holiday for shop workers in Cape Province. The first one was in 1889. The Wiener's Day Sports in 1893 were the biggest ever held in Cape Town. A huge crowd filled the Newlands ground and "the stand was gay with summer toilettes,..." (Cape Times 3/10/93).

It seemed that the Cape Town Athletic Club had at last established itself, and with upwards of a hundred members the future looked rosy. The club decided to obtain its own ground, but rejected the City Council's offer of an enclosed area at

Green Point, and opted to negotiate with the WPRFU who were considering laying down a track (Cape Times 12/10/93; 27/10/93). This proved to be an incorrect decision since the newly-formed Cycling Club met in November and resolved to negotiate with the Council for the Green Point ground (Cape Times 7/11/93). A meeting was called of bodies interested in building a cycling and athletic track, but Cape Town Athletic Club was not present. At the meeting it was agreed to form a City and Suburban Athletic Association to take over the arrangements for the ground, and this eventually led to conflict.

Meanwhile, developments elsewhere in South Africa were proceeding rapidly, and whereas Cape Town had yet to form a successful athletic club and build tracks for cycling and athletics, other centres not only had those but were involved with the formation of provincial and national associations. In December 1893 Capetonians realised the full extent of their backwardness when the Cape Times published the letter from C L Andersson, secretary of Wanderers, Johannesburg, in which he announced the proposed formation of the South African AAA (Cape Times 29/12/93). Cadwallader had left for England with the South African cricket team and the Cape Town Athletic Club was in disarray.

The City and Suburban AAA (C& SAAA) reported that shares in the company to establish the athletic ground were selling steadily (Cape Times 27/9/94) and a circular from Port Elizabeth announced a meeting to form a Cape Colony Athletic and Cycling Union (Cape Times 27/9/94). Wiener's Day passed, with sports reported at Port Elizabeth and Malmesbury, but there was nothing in Cape Town. Once again concerned individuals became agitated and a letter from 'A Member' was published in the Cape Times (30/10/94) asking what had happened to the Cape Town Amateur Athletic Club. The writer claimed the secretary had vanished, the committee needed revitalising and wanted to know where the trophies were. A general meeting was suggested. Cadwallader replied (Cape Times 31/10/94)

that he had been in England and was surprised that nothing had been done. He called a meeting, chaired by W V Simkins, manager of the cricket team to England that year and very active in cricket and rugby circles in Cape Town. Cadwallader agreed to resuscitate the club and recover the records. He was not successful and, on 31 December in its review of the year, the Cape Times remarked that the Cape Town Amateur Athletic Club was "like a flash in the pan", and had "gone the way of many similar institutions." (Cape Times 31/12/95).

In 'Sporting Notes and News' on 12 January 1895, the Cape Times returned to the situation at length:

Among other branches of sport at present in a comatose condition, if not stone dead, is one that in other centres has a strong hold upon a large section of their respective sporting communities - athletics to wit.

Time was when the Diocesan College held annual sports, the South African College meritoriously followed suit. Then the Bishops dropped the sports, and the Sacs did not revoke. Surely these two colleges might easily resuscitate these gatherings, and, aided by representative sportsmen in Cape Town, form a Western Province Athletic Association, to embrace existing institutions. Then by affiliating with the South African Amateur Athletic Association, we might take our legitimate part in the progress of athletic prowess in South Africa.

This report appeared to have the desired result, as a meeting was called for 17 January at the Thatched Tavern with Simkins in the

chair. It was agreed to change the name from Cape Town Amateur Athletic Club to the Western Province Amateur Athletic Club, and Cadwallader wired the SAAAA about the changes (Cape Times 18/1/95). Rules were adopted and a sports meeting planned for Easter (Cape Times 24/1/95). But the Cape Times was pessimistic, and felt that the club would not succeed until a track was available (Cape Times 30/1/95).

In the meantime the City and Suburban AAA were still negotiating with the Council for the ground at Green Point but learned in March that the Council had decided to establish the ground themselves and not hire it out to clubs (Cape Times 29/3/85). Construction on the track was finally begun under the supervision of Councillor Attwell in July 1895 (Cape Times 16/8/95).

So Cape Town athletes did not participate in the first S A Athletic Championships, and the first athletic team to England in 1895 sailed on the R M S Scott without any function in Cape Town. The athletes competed in Port Elizabeth, where the Cape Colony AA and CU had been established in opposition to the SAAAA. When an agreement was negotiated between these two bodies in 1895 no Cape Town representatives were present (Cape Times 11/11/95). Thus, although Cape Town was one of the first centres in South Africa where athletic sports took place, where the first athletic club was established and where athletic meetings attracted large crowds (Cape Times 27/8/88; 16/11/89; 27/9/90; 27/12/90; 31/3/91; 4/10/92; 3/10/93; 29/10/94), (The Cape Town Highlanders Sports were particularly popular), Cape Town apparently lacked a man, or a body of men, sufficiently dedicated and devoted to the task of establishing a club and making it successful.

In addition to military sports, college sports and the occasional pedestrian event (Cape Times 7/7/90), the Caledonian Society played a role in keeping athletics alive in Cape Town. The Cape Town branch was formed in 1881 and held its first

Highland Games in 1882 on an estate at Green Point. The Governor and his wife were present, and so many people attended that the tramway hardly coped and many extra trams had to be provided (Cape Times 11/4/82).

Real 'rural sports' were organised on Woodstock Beach in 1884 as part of the regatta (Cape Argus 29/11/84; 1/12/84) and Garrison Sports, open to all army and navy personnel, were regular events (Cape Argus 22/12/84). These were held at Fort Knokke. Athletic meetings were often held at the Crown Hotel and the owner was praised by the Cape Times (27/12/90): "Mr Oate's efforts to popularise athletics locally are most commendable." Although advertised as being for amateurs, betting was common. Athletic meetings were also reported at the Salt River works, probably for the railway workers (Cape Times 23/10/93), and there was even a report of sports at Robben Island. The report provides some insight into societal attitudes of the period (Cape Times 1/1/85):

The attendance was large and included the male and female lunatics, who took part in several events specially arranged for them; the male lepers also were amused spectators of the same.

Outside Cape Town, athletic meetings were held at Stellenbosch, Paarl, Malmesbury, and Somerset West Strand. Malmesbury Football Club began annual sports in September 1893. These were great social occasions with both Dutch and English involved. "The stores, banks and public offices were closed at twelve o'clock" The reporter hoped that the sports would lead to a weekly half-holiday (Cape Times 22/9/93). According to Human (1984, p. 7) the Paarl District Cycling Club was formed in 1895 and opened a cycling track in December that year. The first meeting was held in January 1896 and was so successful that another was arranged



for Easter Monday. A large crowd, many from Cape Town, attended despite clouds of dust from the wind. The Cape Times reported (7/4/96):

.. .the resources of the hostelries in the village were taxed to their utmost and the railway arrangements which at least should have been efficient, proved sadly incomplete.

People travelled to Paarl First Class and returned in what were "apparently transformed cattle trucks."

Cycling was extremely popular and Cape Town cyclists must have been extremely envious of their Paarl colleagues. The Cape Times (17/3/96) reported that three thousand cycles valued at four thousand pounds had been imported into Cape Colony in 1895 and, as yet there was no track in Cape Town. According to the Cape Times, the Paarl meeting was held on 2 January in 1897, and then moved to Boxing Day, 1897, because of the first big meeting at Green Point track on 2 January 1898 (Cape Times 29/12/97; 4/1/98).

The Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria was celebrated in 1897, and athletics sports meetings were reported from all over South Africa (Cape Times 22/6/97), but not in Cape Town, since the track was not yet finished. Progress was slow and drew the comment from the Cape Times in March 1896 that work had not been entirely abandoned and two or three men and a boy were still working when they could be spared (Cape Times 17/3/96). A year later it was reported that the grounds were nearly finished (Cape Times 23/2/97) and the WPRFU, the WPF, and the WPCU met with a new body, the City Cycling and Amateur Athletic Club (CC & AC), to discuss leasing the track from the Municipality. Simkins, Scott and Professor Lewis were deputed to meet the Council (Cape Times 17/2/97). The Council agreed to their proposal (Cape Times



26/8/97).

In mid-year, however, there was a last-minute delay in completing the construction when it was learned that eleven thousand, nine hundred and ninety-two pounds had been spent, and one thousand pounds was still needed, and work was suspended until the Council agreed to exceed the original twelve thousand pounds limit (Cape Times 1/7/97). The track was completed in August and the official opening by the Governor, Sir Alfred Milner, took place on Wiener's Day, 4 October 1897, before 5 000 spectators (Cape Times 5/10/97). It was under the control of the CC and AC and the Cape Town AFC.

Although there were no athletic sports held to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, there were other meetings held during the year. The Caledonian Society revived Scottish Sports at Newlands on Easter Monday, and reduced the crowd at the Paarl District CC sports held the same day (Cape Times 20/4/97). Paarl also held sports on Wiener's Day, when the new track at Green Point was opened (Cape Times 6/10/97) and these clashes probably influenced them to move their sports back from New Year to Boxing Day to avoid a further clash with the big meeting planned for Green Point (Cape Times 29/12/97).

The prospect of a permanent athletic ground sparked off much activity in Cape Town, particularly amongst the cyclists. A group of ladies formed the Suburban Cycling and Athletic Club (Cape Times 25/5/97), which seemed to collapse almost immediately (Cape Times 30/8/97), and the City Cycling and Athletic Club (CC and AC) became a strong force under the leadership of Professor C E Lewis. Lewis was a hard worker who assisted at many local sports meetings, and he was prominent in the negotiations with the Council on the leasing of Green Point track. The CC and AC was primarily concerned with cycling (Cape Times 10/7/97; 8/11/97) and athletics was fortunate to have Lewis looking after

its interests.

Cycling had become extremely popular at this time and it is interesting to note that many of the cyclists were riding a bicycle built by Menzies and Company in South Africa, called 'Springbuck' This was the only colonial-built machine, and all others were imported (Cape Times 26/5/97).

Lewis chaired a meeting of representatives of rugby, cricket, football and cycling in October which, although without athletes called itself the Western Province AAA. The meeting agreed to a hire charge of six hundred and seventy-five pounds for Green Point track which was 5% of the outlay (Cape Times 14/10/97), and a contract between the WPAAA and the Council was signed in December (Cape Times 9/12/97). At this stage there was a cycling track, but no athletic track.

The WPAAA held a series of cycling events leading up to their first sports on New Years Day 1898, and the Cape Times (4/1/98) was finally able to report, happily:

Last Saturday marked an epoch in the history of athletics in the Cape Colony, when the newly constituted Western Province Amateur Athletic Association held their first big meeting at Green Point track under the auspices of the City Cycling and Athletic Club.

A huge crowd attended. Professor Lewis was referee and W E Tyler the secretary. They were also president and secretary of the CC and AC and the WPAAA and it was these two men who finally established athletics as a regular sport in Cape Town. The CC and AC boasted two hundred and ninety-three members, mainly cyclists, of whom thirty-three were women, and as there was a tendency for

people to belong to more than one club, adopted a first-claim rule in January 1898 (Cape Times 7/1/98).

There were no further reports of the Cape Town Amateur Athletic Club and the name has never been revived. Lewis, Tyler and Simkins continued to organise successful meetings for the CC and AC and they represented the interests of the athletes on the grounds committee. In February 1898 the CC and AC invited Wanderers to compete in Cape Town (Cape Times 9/2/98) but this visit did not take place and athletes from outside Cape Province were not seen in the city until after the Anglo-Boer War. The CC and AC was a progressive organisation, and in 1899 issued a newsletter, probably the first club in South Africa to do so (Cape Argus 13/1/99).

Athletic events at Green Point in the first few meetings were held on the grass. A cinder path was provided for the sprinters at the Easter Sports (Cape Times 12/4/98), and in April the Council agreed to construct an athletic track (Cape Times 28/4/98), which was finished in time for the Cape Colony Championships (Cape Argus 8/9/98). Throughout 1898 and 1899 athletics blossomed in Cape Town and sports meetings were held at Green Point and many other venues by many different clubs. A crowd of five thousand attended the Queen's Birthday Sports in 1898, and in October that year the Good Hope Cycling and Athletic Club held sports for "Coloureds", assisted by Lewis and Tyler (Cape Argus 22/5/98; 25/10/98). In April the Cape Argus (22/4/98) was pleased to comment:

The monthly sports meeting of the CC and AC at Green Point is becoming quite an institution in local sport.

But two months later the Argus warned (2/6/98): "There is a danger of things being overdone."

The Argus suggested the WPAAA should exercise restraint, and warned, "the chief danger is an unreasonable multiplication of athletic and cycling sports." It was felt that the public would tire of them. Altogether eighteen sports meetings were reported in 1898, the majority at Green Point, and there were probably others that were not reported. The number of meetings arranged in 1899 was still high but some of the events were poorly supported by the athletes and the standard began to deteriorate. The Argus suggested the holding of Inter-City and Inter-College Sports to revive interest (27/2/99). Fourteen meetings were reported in 1899, including the first championships of the Western Province Centre of the Cape Colony Amateur Athletic and Cycling Union (CCAA and CU) on 30 October. This frenzy of activity, with Simkins, Lewis and Tyler fully involved, was brought to an end by the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War and the take-over of Green Point by the military for use as a prisoner-of-war camp for Dutch prisoners. The cinder track was almost completely destroyed (Cape Times 27/6/1900).

Athletics, however, played a secondary role to cycling up to that time and Professor Lewis himself was a cycling man. Some of the athletic meetings were not well organised and the Cape Colony Championships in October 1898 were at times farcical. There were too many officials; there was difficulty in finding a level area for high jump; the head of the hammer repeatedly came off; and the track measurements were wrong, so all times were abandoned (Cape Argus 3/10/98; 4/10/98).

During the decade before the Anglo-Boer War certain features were present which need comment. A study of the fixtures and reported activity reveals that seasons were beginning to develop in athletics in Cape Town. Track meetings were confined mainly to the summer months, whilst cross country running - the harrier movement - was becoming popular in the winter. The Cape Town

Football Club held a cross country race in June 1898 (Cape Argus 2/6/98), and the Pioneer Harriers was formed soon after (Argus 8/7/98). Green Point C and AC held a paper chase in July 1899 (Cape Argus 13/7/99). In this respect the Cape was ahead of other centres which tended to hold track and field meetings on public holidays throughout the year.

Athletics became involved in the half-holiday movement, and Tyler wrote to the press (Cape Times 26/2/97) asking sportsmen and athletes to support the employees' campaign. This topic is dealt with in Chapter Seventeen. The amateur problem was soon encountered, particularly concerning soldiers but, as the Cape was conducting its affairs almost in isolation, little was done to resolve the issue.

Between 1890 and 1899 effective clubs and other controlling bodies had been established in all the centres apart from Cape Town, and the Cape found itself isolated from the South African AAA in Johannesburg and the CCAA and CU in Port Elizabeth. Speaking at the S A Championships at Kimberley in 1896, C L Andersson, secretary of the SAAAA, deplored the fact that no Western Province athletes were present... "a fact he much regretted, being himself a Western Province man." He said that "Western Province athletes should be ashamed of themselves" (Cape Times 7/10/96). As athletics began to find its feet in Cape Town interest was taken in developments elsewhere in the country and in June 1898 the Cape Argus (7/6/98) criticised the SAAAA concerning the composition of the team to England and the structure and function of the national association itself (8/6/98). The SAAAA responded with a letter pointing out that Western Province was affiliated to the SAAAA through the CCAA and CU, and that no replies had been received to letters sent to the Western Province secretary, Mr Cadwallader (Cape Argus 21/6/98). The Argus had to admit that these facts were correct and that progress in athletics in Cape Town was lagging behind other



centres, but then touched upon the two key points of dissatisfaction. Cape Town was not happy in being affiliated through the Port Elizabeth dominated CCAA and CU, but like that body, wanted cycling and athletics united in the national association (Cape Argus 25/6/98). The CCAA and CU was described as "unworkable and unrequired" Fuel was added to the fire when Mr Irving, the Western Province secretary of the CCAA and CU returned from Port Elizabeth and reported that cycling was dead in that town, and the cyclists wanted the headquarters moved to Cape Town (Cape Argus 13/7/98). Recognising the upsurge in interest in Cape Town following the opening of Green Point track, the CCAA and CU agreed to hold the championships there in 1899. Although there were many problems, described previously, the championships attracted competitors from all over Cape Colony, a sign that athletic isolation was being overcome by the railway network spreading through South Africa.

The history of sport in South Africa is being written very rapidly...

The network of railways which has made South Africa kin, has done much to bring this about. (Cape Argus 8/9/99).

Symptomatic of the upsurge of interest in athletic sports in Cape Town during the decade, was the number of different clubs and organisations arranging meetings: WPAAA; CC and AC; Suburban Cycling Club; the Caledonian Society; CCAA and CU; St George's Grammar School; Good Hope C and AC; Green Point C and AC; Peninsular C and AC; Muizenberg; SACS; Bishops; and British regiments.

Despite this activity and improved communications, no Cape Town athletes competed at the S A Championships in Durban, 1899, and the SAAA obviously realised that Western Province had to be



brought into the national picture, as the next South African Championships were offered to Cape Town. The Cape Argus (26/5/99) reacted thus:

The meeting, if held in Cape Town, will do more for athletics generally than anything since the construction of the magnificent track at Green Point. What Natal has done Western Province can accomplish.

Championships had already been held at Johannesburg 1894, 1895, 1898; Kimberley 1896; Grahamstown 1897; and Durban 1899, so a meeting at Cape Town or Port Elizabeth was overdue. The Anglo-Boer War prevented the holding of S A Championships until 1904, in Johannesburg, and they eventually came to Cape Town in 1905.

The loss of Green Point to the military was a setback for athletics in Cape Town, and it came at a time when the Westbourne Oval was opened in Port Elizabeth, allowing the Eastern Cape to regain the initiative. The CCAA and CU became active again and it was some two years before the Western Cape was able to re-establish itself. Progress in Cape Town once more surged ahead when Green Point was re-opened in January 1902 with a meeting attended by the Governor and five thousand spectators (Cape Times 3/2/02). In May that year the CCAA and CU headquarters was transferred to Cape Town with the approval of Eastern Province, and athletics in the Western Province was at last well and truly established (Cape Times 26/6/02).

Between the Anglo-Boer War and the First World War athletics in Cape Town and the Western Province made erratic progress. In the early years of the century interest was high and athletics boomed. Platnauer was in Cape Town and he wrote regularly on all aspects of athletics, particularly on the value of cross country running. He was responsible for the formation of Spartan Harriers

and assisted with the formation of Mountain Harriers. In 1906 Celtic Harriers was formed, and the first Western Province Cross Country Championships were held in September that year. The 'Walking Craze' in 1903 provided further impetus to athletics, and the Spartan Harriers 50 miles walk eventually became one of the important annual events in South Africa. The Paarl Cycling and Athletic Club was formed in October 1904 (Cape Times 14/10/04), and the Boxing Day Sports were revived. Many of the competitors in Cape Town for the S A Championships participated (Cape Times 22/12/04; 28/12/04). A cinder track for athletics was laid at Paarl in 1906 (Cape Times 31/1/06; 14/9/06), and the outlay was rewarded by a bumper meeting on Boxing Day (Cape Times 27/12/06). The Paarl Boxing Day Sports became immensely popular, attracting over five thousand spectators in 1913 and rivalling the De Beers Sports, Kimberley (Cape Times 25/12/13; 26/12/13). Country athletic meetings maintained their popularity even when interest was low in Cape Town in 1909 and 1910, and the ability of Paarl and other country towns to draw the crowds was envied by the Cape Times (15/12/10; 28/12/10).

The re-opening of the Green Point track in 1902 with the Patriotic Sports (Cape Times 3/1/02) followed by the success of Spartan Harriers first sports (Cape Times 10/3/02) and the Caledonian Sports (Cape Times 1/3/02) gave the impression that all was well with the track. This was not so, and in 1906 the Council was informed that the track was losing money and so they cancelled the arrangement whereby booking was done through the CCAA and CU (Cape Times 28/2/02) and increased the hire charges (Cape Times 9/2/06). Sports meetings were mainly athletically orientated again since cycling had completely lost its popularity (Cape Times 21/7/05), and the main concern was with the condition of the running track, which was continually blown away by the 'South Easter' and only had a good surface when it was specially prepared (Cape Times 21/12/05). A meeting of sporting bodies was called in February 1906 after the Council's decisions noted above

(Cape Times 27/2/06), as it was felt that the track situation was responsible for the loss of public interest. The track was described as (Cape Times 15/2/06):

wind-swept and sun-scorched in summer, rain-swept, cold, cheerless and shelterless in winter.

A deputation met the Council, and in May it was announced that the Green Point Cricket Club had taken over the lease of the ground and so improvements were expected (Cape Times 24/5/06). In 1907 the track was again bad - "like a beach" (Cape Times 23/10/07) - but the surface was relaid for the S A Championships (Cape Times 5/3/08). In December 1909 it was described as "worse than Muizenberg beach" (Cape Times 12/12/09), and there was apparently little improvement over the next sixteen months. In April 1911 a letter to the Cape Times (14/4/11) described the surface as "6ins. deep, or more; of loose rubble." When the S A Championships were held in Cape Town in 1912 the track was waterlogged on the first day and swept by a 'south-easter' on the second day (Cape Times 8/4/12). No improvements were made before the First World War and, in 1915, the Green Point Cricket Club had to approach the City Council Finance Committee because they could not keep up payments, as the war had deprived them of revenue (Cape Times 14/1/15). Further negotiations ensued with the Council, but in 1919 there had still been no progress and the track was described as "a wilderness of weeds and dust" (Cape Times 16/12/19).

In spite of the difficulties with the Green Point track, meetings were held and progress was made. L A Cox conducted a long campaign in the Cape Times for the introduction of inter-club, inter-college and inter-school athletics. The first inter-club event was held in February 1908 (Cape Times 3/2/08), and just before the First World War he successfully introduced the inter-

club points series which became the well-known Collison Cup competition ( Cape Times 10/10/13; 14/10/13; 22/10/13; 28/10/13). The first meeting of the series was held on 17 November 1913 ( Cape Times 18/11/13) and John McDonald persuaded his firm, H C Collison Ltd., to donate the trophy. McDonald worked closely with Cox and in 1917 they were successful in starting the Western Province Schools Championships for the McDonald Cup ( Cape Times 29/3/20). Inter-school meetings had, however, been held before this at Paarl in August 1911 ( Cape Times 8/8/11), and March 1912 ( Cape Times 23/3/12). In spite of continual urging, Cox was not able to initiate inter-college sports.

There was increased interest in athletics at the time of the 1908 and 1912 Olympic Games. Three thousand spectators turned up for the Spartan Sports on Wiener's Day ( Cape Times 8/10/08), another huge crowd on the King's Birthday, despite other meetings at Muizenberg, Paarl and Beaufort West ( Cape Times 10/11/08), and over four thousand at the Gala Meeting on 19 December ( Cape Times 21/12/08). The first Muizenberg Sports, part of the first Cape Town Gala Season, were held in December 1907 ( Cape Times 23/12/07). In 1912, Paarl had successful sports on the King's Birthday ( Cape Times 6/8/12), the Western Province Championships were well attended ( Cape Times 8/10/12) and the Dingaans' Day Sports were also a success ( Cape Times 17/12/12). Both of the latter were at Green Point.

Marathon running was also promoted in Cape Town. Spartan Harriers and Celtic Harriers both held a race in 1907 ( Cape Times 15/8/07; 1/10/07), and in 1910 the Camps Bay Marathon ( Cape Times 7/2/10), and the Cape Argus Marathon ( Cape Times 7/11/10) produced significant results.

When the professional athletes had to leave Johannesburg because of the Betting Laws, they competed at other centres. In January 1910 they performed in Cape Town ( Cape Times 11/1/10; 17/1/10).

Thus, there was considerable activity in athletics in Cape Town and the Western Cape between 1902 and the First World War, and this quote from the Cape Times (16/11/09) reflects the situation well:

...it is doubtful whether there is any centre in South Africa which caters so extensively for the amateur athlete...and yet we have to admit that few stars are unearthed.

One of the 'stars' of the period was A R B Palmer, who won the 440 (52.3/5) and 880 (2:03.1/5) at the Cape Colony Championships in May 1907 (Cape Times 23/5/07) and a day later won the two famous Queenstown trophies for 440 and 880 at the Victoria Day Sports (Cape Times 25/5/07). In July he went on to win the 880 yards at the S A Championships in Durban, but was suffering from the after-effects of blood poisoning in 1908 and was just beaten by Duffy in the 440 yards (Cape Times 20/4/08).

Many of the aspects mentioned in this overview will be discussed in more detail in the chapters relating to that particular topic, such as cross country running, marathon running, professionalism, school athletics and walking.

## CHAPTER FIVE

## DEVELOPMENTS IN EASTERN PROVINCE

Although the Cape Town Athletic Club was formed in 1875 it was of short duration and was soon superseded by the City Cycling and Athletic Club. The honour of being the oldest existing athletic club in South Africa is generally thought to belong to the Port Elizabeth Athletic Club, formed in 1880, although it, too, was moribund at times.

In the last quarter of the nineteenth century there was an active group of men involved in fostering athletics in Port Elizabeth and, not only did they form a successful club that for a while was considered the leading athletic organisation in the country, but they also established the Cape Colony Amateur Athletic and Cycling Union, which in their view was a national body. They argued that the Transvaal was a foreign country and the SAAAA with its headquarters in Johannesburg therefore had no jurisdiction over the Cape Colony. This was a debatable issue that caused conflict, but it must be admitted that the CCAA and CU was the first controlling body to combine cycling and athletics, a policy adopted by the SAAAA in 1904.

In Chapters Two and Three the early manifestations of athletic activity in Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown were discussed and it was noted that military sports were prominent and several pedestrian events were held. There was also activity at St Andrew's College, Grahamstown, and at the Grey Institute, Port Elizabeth. Athletic sports meetings were also held to celebrate public holidays and important events.



### Grahamstown

In the middle years of the nineteenth century, Grahamstown became the second most important city in the Cape Colony, and, because the Eastern Cape felt neglected and ill-used by the Western Cape, "A powerful Separation League grew up in Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown in 1860..." (Davenport, 1977, p. 79). Grahamstown had its sights set on becoming the capital of the Eastern Province and parliament was held there in 1864. Grahamstown was, therefore, an important city and, as such, developments there, including those in athletics, had an influence on the rest of South Africa. It is, therefore, disappointing to note that, despite the activity of the military, the schools, and the pedestrians, and the allocation of the South African athletic championships in 1897, a successful athletic club was never established in the city.

Cricket, shooting, horse-racing and football were popular in the first half of the century but the first civilian athletic sports were not held until 1863, when the wedding of the Prince of Wales was celebrated in the Drostdy grounds. Sports for natives were held concurrently at the cricket ground (Grahamstown Journal 16/5/63). The cricketers had first obtained this ground, below Sugar Loaf Hill, for "amusement and recreation" (Journal October 1861), and, known as City Lords. It was opened on 24 May 1862.

In December 1868 the mayor, C H Caldecott, arranged sports to mark the departure from the city of Sir R P Douglas (Journal 18/12/68), by which time St Andrew's had held sports, 'Professor' Diamond had performed and military sports were frequent. The Journal was enthusiastic about physical activity and for this reason supported the half holiday movement (8/10/66). A gymnastic club was started in 1867 (Journal 5/8/67) and prompted an editorial in the Journal (4/9/67) in support of athletics: "...athletic sports undoubtedly beneficial..."

The Jubilee of the arrival of the 1820 British Settlers was celebrated by three days of sports at City Lords in May 1870. As was the custom at most sports at that time, money prizes were awarded. A bicycle race was held, which must have been one of the first in South Africa. A huge crowd was attracted and the surrounding hillsides were crowded. A race for natives was included on the programme (Journal 25/5/70).

There was no development of athletics in the city, however, and in 1874 the Journal carried an article in which the declining interest in sport was deplored (21/8/74). The schools, the military, the Volunteers and the Good Templars held sports, but there was no move to begin an athletic club. The 1st City Regiment celebrated the Queen's Birthday in 1880 with athletic sports against the St Andrew's College cadets but came off second best since the cadets had trained for two weeks (Journal 25/4/80). This was the year that an athletic club was formed in Port Elizabeth and athletics flourished there, yet still there was no move amongst the Grahamstown public. It would seem that the right man was lacking.

The Journal again deplored the lack of interest in Grahamstown in 1881 and, commenting on the success of the club in Port Elizabeth, said (30/6/81):

The P.E. club holds sports twice a year, in which great public interest is taken. There is splendid material in Grahamstown for turning out some of the best athletes in the country, if only an opportunity for proper training were given.

An athletic club was formed in July 1881, and although its activities were more concerned with gymnastics, it announced that

athletic sports would be held annually (Journal 14/7/81). This attempt was unsuccessful and the next report of a move to form a club was made in 1885. This followed the successful sports held in conjunction with the Grahamstown Football Tournament at which such well-known athletes from the visiting teams as S Brown, C Vintcent and J Gadd competed. "An old athlete" wrote to the Journal (25/8/85) and said that Grahamstown should have an athletic club called Albany A.C. and sports should be held twice a year. But still nobody came forward to take the initiative and sports continued on an ad hoc basis.

North of Grahamstown the Fish River Rand Sporting Club was active, and attracted as members several of the local successful athletes. At a meeting on the farm of Mrs Henry Currie in July 1890, a young farmer, H D Gradwell, won the 440 yards and shot put (Journal 15/7/90). Gradwell was later the S A champion and a member of the team to England in 1895. Grahamstown athletes were often successful at the Fish River Rand meetings, and also at Cookhouse, Port Alfred, and Port Elizabeth, despite the fact that there was no club. Brookes and Company, a local emporium, displayed the prizes won by Grahamstown athletes in Port Elizabeth (Journal 21/4/92), and an advertisement in the Journal (1/12/87) drew attention to athletic clothing for sale: "assorted colours in running trousers." (Journal 1/12/87).

The City Lords Custodians responded to this interest by announcing that they intended levelling City Lords to make it more suitable for sports (Journal 10/9/92):

The want of a ground suitable for athletics has been a great drawback to the cultivation of the talents many of our boys undoubtedly possess, and the scheme now on foot includes the formation of an athletic and bicycle track.

J S Mellet, the great walker from the Orange Free State, was invited to walk at City Lords by the Custodians in September 1892 to help bring in funds. Meanwhile the local cyclists had formed a club, with M W Stirk captain, and were agitating for a track at the Market Square. The mayor said the track should be at City Lords but, in 1894, the cyclists organised a meeting on the Market Square attracting visiting cyclists and athletes and 1500 spectators (Journal 5/6/94). In that year the South African AAA was formed; Grahamstown athletes were prominent at meetings throughout the Eastern Cape; Knight's shoe shop advertised running shoes at 7/6d a pair; the Fish River Rand was already including events for girls in their sports; the CCAA and CU had been formed in Port Elizabeth; and the first ever inter-schools event had been held between St Andrew's, St Aidan's, and Dale Colleges. But there was still no club in Grahamstown. The Journal (23/6/94):

It may seem strange that in the latter end of the nineteenth century there should still be an English city, priding itself on its English founders, on its English appearance, and on the English blood of its people, where until a few weeks ago, an athletic sports meeting was merely a memory, and a cycling race had never yet been seen. Yet Grahamstown was such a case, and the athletic and cycling sports on 2 June were the very first of its kind the City of Saints had ever attempted.

The Town Council built a track for the meeting in the Agricultural Societies Show Yard but the Journal said it was unsuitable and recommended using City Lords. The Custodians continued with their scheme and announced that two hundred and seventy-five pounds had been obtained for levelling and

negotiations were underway to lease City Lords from the Council for 21 years. In October the Cycling Club, which earlier in the year had changed its name to the Grahamstown AA and CC, held another meeting at the Market Square, at which G B Atherstone won the 100 yards and 440 yards in the good times of 10.1/5 and 53 seconds, and C D B White the mile in 4:48.2/5 (Journal 30/10/94). Another promising athlete was A Norton, St Andrew's College, who excelled at an inter-college meeting by winning the 100 (10.1/5), 220 (24.0), 440 (57.1/5), long jump (17ft.11.1/2ins), and cricket ball (112 yds. 2ft. 3ins.) (Grocott's Mail, October 1894). In 1895 he did even better at the St Andrew's Sports (Journal 27/4/95).

Gradwell travelled to Johannesburg in 1895, and won the shot put at the S A Championships, but this feat was overlooked by the Journal, as were the championships. Comment, however, was made on the clash between the SAAAA and the CCAA and CU when the former banned athletes who competed at Port Elizabeth on 6 June (4/7/95):

We do not know much of this matter, but we never heard that the S.A. towns had united to erect that Association into a governing body for the whole of South Africa. Did they appoint themselves? If so, they cannot expect other communities to acknowledge their sway.

This clearly shows that Grahamstown, including the press, was completely out of touch with developments in the rest of South Africa, and reveals the complacency into which Grahamstown had fallen. The success of Gradwell helped to stir interest in the city, and the Journal reported his performances in England and referred to him brazenly as "Grahamstown's Shot Putter" (9/7/95; 3/9/95).



1895 was the year that athletics and cycling finally became important sports in Grahamstown. Two factors account for this. C G Miles moved to the city from Port Elizabeth, where he had been prominent with the Athletic and Cycling Club, and the track at City Lords was completed. Miles took over as president of the Grahamstown AA and CC, introduced the rules of the Port Elizabeth AA and CC and affiliated Grahamstown to the CCAA and CU. At last there was a man to lead, administer and organise (Journal 17/9/95). The City Lords ground was the envy of every other town in South Africa. A properly banked cycling track, the first in the Cape Colony, and an athletic track inside it, suddenly put Grahamstown in the forefront of athletic development (Journal 19/9/95; E P Herald 9/11/95).

The first meeting at City Lords on 26 October, organised by the secretary Stanley J Dold, under CCAA and CU and SAAAA rules, was a great success. Cheap rail tickets were announced by the railways, who also agreed to extend the Port Elizabeth show tickets to include the meeting. A huge crowd attended, realising a profit of eighty pounds, and the Journal proudly announced (1/10/95): "...a new era for Grahamstown."

Grahamstown athletes such as Norton, Atherstone and Gradwell responded with fine performances and H Trollip won the mile in 4:46.2/5 (Journal 29/10/95).

Athletics and cycling bloomed in Grahamstown and, at the meeting the SAAAA held in conjunction with the S A Championships at Kimberley in 1896, Miles succeeded in persuading the SAAAA to allocate the 1897 championships to Grahamstown, which was a bitter pill for Cape Town and Port Elizabeth to swallow. Twice the championships almost foundered. Firstly, there was a communication breakdown and the Star accused Grahamstown of not replying to the formal invitation (2/1/97). However, as the Journal explained (5/1/97), the cable arrived on Christmas Day



and all the City Lords Custodians were away on holiday. (Almost a century later, the situation has hardly changed.) A reply was sent on 31 December. The second problem was the new track. The E P Herald took some pleasure in reporting (15/1/97) that Fletcher (Port Elizabeth) and Orsmond (Johannesburg) had inspected the track and found the surface to be too bad for the championships. Dold and Rae, the groundsmen, were given time to restore the surface, and the championships went ahead. They were held on 7/8 May, the championship events on Friday and the handicap events on Saturday. Henry Nourse was there as referee, E J L Platnauer dealt with the standards and the handicapping and several local officials were used. The rain which had threatened the championships cleared, and a large crowd watched such well-known athletes as Philip and Pieter Blignaut in the sprints and Trollip (Cradock) in the mile. Local athletes fared well. H A Barber of Fish River Rand won the 880 yards and Gradwell won the shot. Norton surprised by beating the Blignaut brothers in the long jump. On the Sunday the athletes went on a railway trip to Port Alfred and several visiting athletes (including the Blignaut brothers) stayed with the Gradwells and Atherstones on their farms for a shooting holiday (Journal 8/5/97; 11/5/97; 22/5/97).

The Cape Colony Championships were also awarded to Grahamstown and took place later that year in October. Norton, Atherstone, Gradwell and Trollip were again prominent, but interest could not be sustained, and by the end of the year the Journal reported (13/11/97) that weeds were growing on the track and it was going to "rack and ruin." There was no report of athletic activity until the Exhibition Sports held on 31 December 1898 (Journal 2/1/99), and interest flagged until after the Anglo-Boer War when the Albany C and AC was formed in 1902. Dr J B Greathead, supported by the Dolds and Stirks, rekindled interest and meetings were held regularly for some years. The Fish River Rand club also continued its successful meetings and, just before

the war, two South African records were reportedly achieved. Gradwell put the shot 44 ft. 8 ins., a distance beaten only by Harry Hart in 1929, but he was second in a handicap event, and the record was never claimed. The other record was in the cricket ball, H T Nel throwing 133 yards and 2 inches (Journal 20/7/99).

After the Anglo-Boer War the Fish River Rand sports continued regularly, and were always well supported. In 1913 events for ladies were included on the programme (Grocott's Mail 29/9/13). In Grahamstown itself, the Albany C and AC was formed in 1902 (Grocott's Mail 5/2/02) and sports were held in March (Grocott's Mail 10/3/02). This club was successful for a while, holding two or three meetings a year regularly until 1905, when financial problems became acute because of lack of public support at meetings (Grocott's Mail 4/9/05). The E P Championships were offered to the club but they were declined because the club could not take the financial risk. This annoyed the Grocott's Mail, which used the terms "regrettable; humiliating; severe blow." (15/9/05). The City Lords Custodians offered to underwrite the championships but it was too late and the meeting went to Graaff-Reinet, which further annoyed Grocott's Mail (22/9/05). An effort was made to revive Albany C and AC in 1906 but it failed, and after three unsuccessful attempts to achieve a quorum at the AGM in 1907 no more was heard of the club (Grocott's Mail 20/3/07). Cycling lost popularity after the war, and in 1907 the track at City Lords was derelict (Grocott's Mail 27/2/07).

The 'Walking Craze' eventually reached Grahamstown later in 1903 and a 20 miles event was organised in October (Grocott's Mail 2/11/03). There was no report of cross country running becoming popular. At the Albany C and AC Annual General Meeting in 1904 it was reported that runs had been held but were not supported (Grocott's Mail 17/2/04).

Rhodes University College opened in 1904 and its students, many

still in residence at St Andrew's and St Aidan's Colleges, began to participate in local meetings (Grocott's Mail 31/3/05). An athletic club was formed in 1907 (Grocott's Mail 15/2/09) and the first sports were held in October 1909 at City Lords (Grocott's Mail 8/10/09).

A new club, Albany Harriers, emerged in 1908 but appears to have been short-lived (Grocott's Mail 4/5/08). In 1909 the Custodians, who had also taken control of Fiddler's Green Sports Ground, arranged a Gala Week to coincide with the Agricultural Show and the sports at Fiddler's Green were successful, giving Grocott's Mail the vision that Fiddler's Green could become a Ramblers' or Wanderers' (22/3/09). Public support however was not forthcoming (Grocott's Mail 27/11/11) and in 1913 City Lords was taken over by the Municipality. It was by then in a deplorable condition (Grocott's Mail 3/6/13). The tracks at City Lords were eventually broken up.

Throughout the period discussed, Dr J B Greathead was a faithful worker for athletics (Grocott's Mail 17/2/11) while the schoolboy Bevil Rudd was the outstanding athlete. His exploits at St Andrew's College Sports from 1909 to 1913 were news in many South African newspapers and his performances at his final meeting were: 100 - 11.1/4; 220 - 23.4/5; 440 - 50.4/5; 880 - 1:58.3/5; Long Jump - 19ft. 3ins. (Grocott's Mail 19/3/13).

#### Port Elizabeth and country towns

Although the initial advantage lay with Grahamstown, athletic development in Port Elizabeth soon surpassed that of its rival. Up to 1880, only a few athletic meetings had been held by the Grey Institute and the Volunteers, and the Regatta was the main form of entertainment on special occasions. Without any apparent preliminary activity a report appeared in the E P Herald in 1880 (6/8/80) that the Port Elizabeth Athletic Club had been formed

with sixty members. It was, it seemed, fortuitous that a group of men, such as C Harvey, Loton Tipper, W Anderson, George Farrar and others came together and decided to do something. The inaugural meeting took place on 26 July and the club badge, a Maltese Cross, and the colours, were approved. Sports were arranged for the spring, and it was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Town Council asking for a grant of land in St George's Park, 160 yards by 50 yards (PEAC minutes, 26/7/80).

Regular committee meetings were held to discuss rules, event specifications and arrangements for the sports, which were held on 11 September, the Council having granted the land. The track was 259 yards per lap and no man was allowed to win more than two events (PEAC minutes, 30/8/80); E P Herald 14/9/80). George Farrar, later knighted, beat Loton Tipper in the 440 and the mile (5:19). Knowledge of the rules was still sketchy, and Farrar was censured by letter and a Mr R W Hodges was struck off the members list for throwing open his arms and impeding other athletes in the 100 yards, and fighting in the dressing tent (PEAC minutes, 15/9/80).

The Port Elizabeth Athletic Club held regular winter, spring and autumn sports, prompting the E P Herald to remark in 1882 (18/4/82): "These sports, which have now become so popular in Port Elizabeth..."

In October 1881, the PEAC and the Union Cricket Club considered amalgamating to obtain a ground with a quarter mile track around a cricket pitch (PEAC minutes, 5/10/81), and later it was agreed to include football. Towards the middle of 1882 there was friction with the cricketers about the new stand and the PEAC was in debt (PEAC minutes, 28/8/82). In 1883 the cricketers complained about a fence around the track but the sharing of facilities continued. Two thousand spectators watched the third PEAC sports in May 1881 and two athletes came from King

William's Town to compete. Following the sports a letter appeared in the Herald about the attire of the athletes, which was answered by the secretary, H A Cook. He said that athletes were "still using costumes they used at home," (probably meaning England), and that "University Costume" had to be worn, that is, a singlet with loose drawers down to the knee (E P Herald 17/5/81).

After the PEAC Winter Sports in 1882, the E P Herald remarked (31/7/82):

St George's Park, where, through the liberality of the Town Council they have the best athletic course in South Africa.

Three thousand spectators watched the sports and Port Elizabeth was riding the crest of the wave. Some of the performances were excellent. In 1881 G H Farrar (East London Rowing Club) won the mile in 4:39 (E P Herald 24/7/81), and in 1882, D Amos won in 4:43 (E P Herald 18/4/82). The Brown family (from Cathcart) were frequent visitors and, on 15 April 1882, Stephen collected four prizes (E P Herald 18/4/82). In October he returned to win the 440 yards Challenge Cup in 53 seconds. A one mile steeplechase was included at the sports, and "a long water jump caused amusement." Those October sports were held in Race Week, to catch the crowds and cheap train tickets were available (E P Herald 16/10/82). The Burghersdorp sprinter G W Rolland also competed in Port Elizabeth. First of a long line of great South African sprinters, Rolland had a short but meteoric career. He competed in Port Elizabeth in July 1882 winning the 100 yards from scratch (10.3/5 secs), the 120 yards off scratch (12.2/5), and the 440 yards off 3 yards (51.4/5 secs.), performances the E P Herald justifiably referred to as (31/7/82): "Lillie Bridge time quite."

St George's Park remained as the venue for athletics in Port



Elizabeth until the opening of the Westbourne Oval in 1900, and many successful meetings were held there. The first Highland Games took place in September 1883 attracting, three thousand spectators (E P Herald 17/9/83), and after the PEAC Spring Meeting the Herald remarked (19/11/83):

In no other part of South Africa are athletic sports so popular as they are here; and although they come off so frequently, the public shows no signs of want of appreciation, and on each occasion some 3000 people assemble to witness the proceedings.

A survey of the newspapers at other centres confirms this remark. Only at Durban and Pietermaritzburg was athletics so active and popular. The PEAC Spring Meeting of 1883 also attracted athletes from a wide area, including Graaff-Reinet, Grahamstown, Somerset East, Steynsburg, Sandflats, Alicedale and Uitenhage. Uitenhage formed a club in 1881, thanks to the efforts of W Anderson, chairman of the PEAC and author of the booklet Hints in Training, and Rules for Athletic Sports (Grahamstown Journal 13/10/81). Sports were held in Uitenhage in April 1881 at the cricket ground, which was afterwards deemed to be unsatisfactory. A special train was arranged from Port Elizabeth (E P Herald 26/4/81). The key man in Uitenhage from 1881 to 1883 was Mr F S Tudhope and there was considerable activity, but then there was a lull until the great Uitenhage miler, G J Coetzee, emerged in 1894 (E P Herald 28/2/82).

In 1885, the PEAC introduced the S A Mile Challenge Cup. Prior to this there had been an E P Mile Challenge Cup and it was agreed that this should be opened to all South African athletes (PEAC Minutes, 27/10/85). The PEAC resolved to hold "a continuous series of sport meetings, at which the best amateurs of the Colony and South Africa generally, will meet to try their



mettle" (Saturday Advertiser 23/1/86). Jim Brown of Cathcart won the first S A Challenge Mile in December 1885 in 4:54, a comparatively slow time, but he had previously contested and won the 100, 120, 440 and standing long jump (E P Herald 12/12/85).

A South African One Mile Walk Championship was introduced in 1887 and H W Brown, brother to Jim, won in a quick 7:22. A Kimberley visitor said of the sports (E P Herald 2/5/87):

If we had such a ground as this at Kimberley,  
there would be 5000 people present.

Strangely enough, despite all the athletic activity, with meetings held regularly three times a year, there was no report of sports being organised to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887, apart from an obscure meeting in South End, which attracted little attention.

The Spring Sports 1888 were reported as the best ever held by PEAC (E P Herald 8/10/88). Loton Tipper and Sherman were among the organisers and the largest crowd ever was attracted (E P Herald 8/10/88). The series of successful meetings attended by large crowds enabled the club to overcome its financial difficulties. In 1885 the club had a deficit of ninety-four pounds, four shillings and eleven pence (PEAC minutes, 29/6/85), but at the Annual General Meeting in February 1888, there were no liabilities (PEAC minutes, 22/2/88).

The race for the S A Mile Challenge Cup was always held at the Spring Sports, while the Autumn Sports were held in conjunction with the Agricultural Show and, in 1894, attracted an enormous crowd of over 6000 people (E P Herald 16/4/94). Several centres began to hold "S A Championship" events, with the aim of attracting leading athletes and raising the status of their meetings, and this was one of the factors that made it obvious

that a national controlling body was required. The Diamond Field Advertiser, (10/10/91) commented on the number of centres holding championship events in October 1891 and pointed out the need for a national association. In 1889 the S A Mile Challenge Cup was won by W Watson of Somerset East in the remarkable time of 4:32.2/5, which was not approached in South Africa for many years (E P Herald 16/10/89). The following year H W Brown won the S A One Mile Walk Championship in 7:04.3/5 which was also a remarkably fast time and some have doubted the authenticity of those performances. Jim Brown met Watson at the Queen's Birthday sports in 1890 at Somerset East and defeated him in the 440 (51.1/2 secs.) and 880 (2.02) (E P Herald 5/5/90; 29/5/90). The Fish River Rand athlete, R B G Brole of Bedford, won the S A Mile Challenge Trophy in 4.37.1/5 in 1890, so Watson's time was not impossible (E P Herald 13/10/90). In 1891 George Randall of King William's Town defeated H W Brown in the one mile walk in 6:40, but the 'record' was disallowed (E P Herald 13/4/91). It does, however, give credibility to Brown's time in 1890.

Improvements to the track in 1891 led the E P Herald (12/10/91) to claim: "We may, without bombast claim for it first place in South Africa."

The PEAC had agreed that schools could use the track free in 1887 (PEAC minutes, 10/1/87) since the club's liabilities had been removed and the Diocesan Grammar School held its first annual sports there in 1891 (E P Herald 15/6/91).

The 1894 autumn meeting, organised by Loton Tipper, attracted athletes from Johannesburg. The Blignaut brothers gained 1st and 2nd places in the 100 yards, but H C de Meillon was beaten by H W Brown in the one mile walk. An 880 yards Native Championship was won by P Dalage in 2.14.1/5 (E P Herald 16/4/94). Events for black athletes were included at most of the PEAC meetings and, in 1884, Makwena won the mile in 4:53, which was one second faster

than Jim Brown's winning time in the first S A Mile Challenge Trophy race in 1885 (E P Herald 19/11/84; 14/12/85). A minor problem arose in connection with dress and, in 1883 the committee ruled that 'natives' must be properly attired (PEAC minutes, 17/11/83). The race for natives in 1888 was severely criticised because they were expected to run, stop and drink ginger-beer, then continue running. Objections were made (E P Herald 8/10/88) and native races became respectable again, with the competitors wearing proper athletic clothing and their names printed on the programme. Athletics for blacks is discussed in more detail in Chapter Sixteen.

The P E Cycle Club held separate sports until it joined forces with the athletic club to form the PEAA and CC in 1895 (E P Herald 8/5/95; 10/6/95). Cycling was very popular and cycle races attracted the public. The athletic club always included cycling events at its meetings and the E P Herald report of the PEAC Spring Meeting in 1893 is almost all about cycling (9/10/93). The PEAC Spring and Autumn Sports were their main meetings, but occasionally winter sports were held and the Caledonian Society held regular Highland Sports, usually on New Year's Day. In 1897 the Highland Sports attracted an enormous crowd, and there was some drunkenness, which elicited a letter of complaint (E P Herald 4/1/97; 11/1/97). The matter was discussed by the Town Council, who heard that tea and coffee served by the Women's Christian Temperance Union was insufficient to slake the thirst of the spectators who made full use of a bar just outside the ground. It was suggested that in future a booth with non-alcoholic drinks should be provided. Sport, including athletics, was becoming a factor in society that could not be ignored. Scottish Sports were held in 1897 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and included events for girls, and on Victoria Day, 1901, when extra double-decker trams were brought into use to cope with the crowds. This was the first Victoria Day after her death in January, and it replaced the Queen's Birthday (E P Herald 25/4/01).

Despite the improvements to the grounds and pavilion at St George's Park, which at first gave Port Elizabeth the initiative, the lack of a ground and tracks designed specifically for athletics and cycling became a block to progress. The opening of tracks at Cape Town and Grahamstown spurred Port Elizabeth to obtain a proper ground, separate from cricket, and at the PEAA and CC Annual General Meeting in 1895 it was suggested that a new track be investigated (E P Herald 13/2/95). Further improvements were made to St George's Park, and the Herald quoted an article by Mr Alex Blair of the Scottish Cyclists Union on track construction (21/6/95). It was hoped that these improvements would help Port Elizabeth regain her position in the athletic world since athletics in the town was losing momentum and the founding of the SAAAA in Johannesburg was resented by Port Elizabeth. At the Annual General Meeting of the PEAA and CC in January 1896, Loton Tipper proposed that a letter be sent to the Town Council asking for aid to construct a new track at the old municipal dam off Russell Road (E P Herald 22/1/96). The Town Council discussed the request and J Brister spoke in support, but there were problems with water flowing into the area from the surrounding roads (E P Herald 22/5/96).

At the Annual General Meeting of the SAAAA, held in conjunction with the S A Championships at Kimberley, it had been proposed that the next S A Championships be held at Port Elizabeth, but it was felt that the track was not good enough. C G Miles, lately moved from Port Elizabeth to Grahamstown, suggested that Grahamstown be the venue, and this was accepted (E P Herald 9/10/96). This must have really annoyed Port Elizabeth since Grahamstown was not an important athletic centre, and the necessity of obtaining a new track dominated proceedings at the next Annual General Meeting of the PEAA and CC (Herald 27/1/97). The Town Council offered the ground at fifty pounds a year, and

Loton Tipper said the club would have to increase its income by six hundred pounds a year. It was decided to go ahead, but a year later there had been no progress and the public was losing interest. St George's Park was dangerous for cycling, and it was felt that Port Elizabeth was falling behind even small centres (Herald 19/1/98).

In July 1896 the Town Council heard a full report from a committee and decided to grant four thousand pounds towards the cost of building the track. The PEAA and CC would have to contribute one thousand pounds and the rent would be two hundred and forty pounds per year. Various conditions, such as no betting at the ground, were also made (Herald 7/7/98). The new ground was named the Westbourne Oval and on 20 July the E P Herald carried a long article about it and the benefits it would bring to Port Elizabeth. The foundation stone was laid on 21 July 1900, when athletics and cycling had been badly disrupted by the Anglo-Boer War: "Hundreds of young athletes are now serving at the front..." (Herald 9/4/1900). The Oval was opened in conjunction with the CCAA and CU championships in November 1900 (Herald 5/11/1900).

Moves to form a controlling body in the Cape probably began in 1893 when cyclists from Johannesburg and Kimberley attended a sports meeting arranged by the Port Elizabeth Bicycle Club. At a dinner after the meeting it was suggested that a Cape Colony Cyclists Union be formed since there was a cycling union in Transvaal (E P Herald 3/7/93). Laurens Meintjes, the South African cyclist who had excelled in England and at the World Fair, Chicago, spoke about the formation of an Inter-Colonial Cycling Union in South Africa at a dinner in Cape Town (E P Herald 29/11/93), and when he moved to Port Elizabeth in January 1894, he said it was necessary to form an association to control and promote athletics and cycling (E P Herald 8/1/94).

Sports up to 1894 were often advertised as being held under the



English AAA and NCU rules and, in August 1894, Cradock added S A Cycling Union rules (Herald 13/8/94). There was no mention of the SAAAA at any of the Eastern Cape meetings, although it had been formed in the first quarter of 1894. In Port Elizabeth in September 1894 the following report appeared in the Herald (3/9/94): "There is a movement afoot to start an athletic and cycling union for Cape Colony."

The PEAA and CC and the PEBC were cooperating in establishing the new body. Circulars were sent to all clubs and a sports meeting was arranged. The delegates met at the Grand Hotel on Monday 8 October under the chairmanship of M Loubser and a committee was appointed. It was agreed that four towns would form centres which would control their own districts, with Port Elizabeth as the headquarters. The Union would be guided by the laws and regulations of the English AAA and the NCU (Uitenhage Chronicle 11/10/94). A second meeting was held on 30 November attended by delegates from Grahamstown, Cradock, Colesberg, Uitenhage, PEBC and PEAAC (Herald 3/12/94). Cape Town, Kimberley and the Border area were not represented and Cape Town had already sent two delegates to the SAAAA inaugural meeting in Johannesburg (Cape Times 2/4/94). H W Brown of Cathcart, who had long advocated a national association, attended the SAAAA meetings and supported that body. Kimberley also supported the SAAAA and so did the Fish River Rand Athletic Club.

The City and Suburban Athletic Club, Cape Town, received the circular from Port Elizabeth in September 1894 (Cape Times 27/9/94) informing them about the meeting in October to form the CCAA and CU, but the Cape Times said Cape Town should be hesitant since the CCAA and CU seemed to be in opposition to the SAAAA, and that only one association was desirable. Cape Town remained indifferent to the CCAA and CU until the headquarters was moved there in 1902.



It seems likely that the CCAA and CU was formed in opposition to the SAAAA, but not deliberately. The idea of a national association had been discussed by the cyclists, by H W Brown at after-dinner speeches in Kimberley and Pietermaritzburg, and Natal had even considered forming such a body. C G Miles "raised the question of an AAA for South Africa on the lines of the English AAA" at the PEACC Annual General Meeting in 1893 (E P Herald 24/3/93). Two points can be made in defence of the Port Elizabeth decision to go ahead with the CCAA and CU. The SAAAA did not include cycling, and cycling was an integral part of sports meetings, attracting the public, particularly in Port Elizabeth, and it was true that the country, South Africa, did not exist. Johannesburg was situated in Transvaal, a foreign country.

The formation of the two associations in the same year caused problems. Some clubs did not know which organisation to support, and conflict was inevitable. Colesberg affiliated to the CAAA and CU because of the heavy betting at Wanderers (E P Herald 16/11/94), and it was a meeting organised by them in May 1895 that brought the conflict between the CCAA and CU and the SAAAA to a head (E P Herald 22/5/95). The CCAA and CU produced its rules early in 1895 and the first meeting under them was held at Port Elizabeth on 6 April 1895 (E P Herald 8/4/95). When Colesberg announced sports under CCAA and CU rules, the SAAAA threatened to ban athletes who competed (see Chapter twelve).

Country towns in the Eastern Cape seemed to have been more active than those in the Western Cape. This was probably because of the many British Settlers in the Eastern Cape and the military garrisons stationed there. Sports were held at Graaff-Reinet in 1863 to celebrate the visit of the Prince of Wales (Henning, 1975, pp. 210-212) and the opening of the railway from Port Elizabeth in 1879. Henning (1975, pp. 210-212) also said that sports were held on the Queen's

Birthday in 1875 on the Market Square with fourteen races for 'Europeans' and six for 'natives'. The Graaff-Reinet AAA and Bicycle Club was operating in 1883, and in August arranged a meeting on Prince Alfred's Day that attracted two thousand spectators. These meetings were even reported in the Natal Mercury (24/4/83). The CCAA and CU championships were held at Graaff-Reinet in 1899 but were ruined by a dust-storm. Visiting athletes were also perturbed because they had to run "right hand in" (i.e. clockwise), and the E P Herald (11/10/99) received a letter objecting to this. There were several prominent athletes present, including A Chiappini from Johannesburg, who won the 440 and 880 yards, and P Hunter, member of the SAAAA team to England. Eastern Province championships were held at Graaff-Reinet in 1905 and 1911. The train from Port Elizabeth was late in 1905 and the sports had to be delayed (E P Herald 16/11/05).

The opening of the railway to Cradock in 1881 was also celebrated by a sports meeting, held over two days (Grahamstown Journal 3/6/81). In 1894 the Cape Volunteer Regiments were on manoeuvres at Cradock over Easter and the ten units present organised a big sports day. The famous Uitenhage miler, G J Coetzee, S A champion in 1895, was present and won the 440 yards flat and the 440 yards in marching order (uniform and kit). This meeting was reported in Kimberley (Diamond Fields Advertiser 29/3/94). Sports were held regularly in Cradock as this comment in the E P Herald (13/8/94) shows: "These sports, which have now become quite a leading feature of social life in the Midlands."

The organising body was Cradock Institute. In 1895 Cradock boasted a 440 yard track and a pavilion (E P Herald 6/8/95) and sports were held annually usually in August. Cradock and Graaff-Reinet often arranged sports in August close together, to attract visiting athletes. Star of the meeting in 1900 was B S 'Dad' Wilmot of Highlands, who won the 100, 440, 120 hurdles and was 2nd in the 220 (Grocott's Mail 10/8/1900). Wilmot later became a

well-known Eastern Province athlete, and attributed his success to Sandow's System of Physical Culture. He was caretaker of the Westbourne Oval for many years.

Athletes from Somerset East were reported to be competing in Port Elizabeth in 1883 (E P Herald 19/11/83), but the first reference to sports in the town itself was in 1890 in honour of the Queen's Birthday (E P Herald 29/5/90). Brown of Cathcart beat the local star Watson in the 440 (51.1/2) and 880 (2:02). The previous year Watson had won the S A Challenge Mile in Port Elizabeth in 4:32.2/5) (Herald 16/10/89). In 1902 Wiener's Day Sports were held, with athletes from Grahamstown competing, and the 1905 Eastern Province Championships should have been held there but the secretary moved to Aberdeen and there was a breakdown in communications (Herald 16/11/05). A well-known Somerset East sprinter at that time was John J Fick, who reportedly ran the 100 yards in 9.4/5 seconds (Grahamstown Journal 22/10/02).

Port Alfred held regular sports meetings, often on the Queen's Birthday, and these received a boost whenever the 1st City Volunteers from Grahamstown were in camp there at the same time (Grahamstown Journal 30/5/90). The 1883 sports drew a large crowd (Grahamstown Journal 25/5/83). In 1891 special trains were arranged for the sports organised by the postmaster, H W Shackleton (Journal 25/5/91). Athletics were usually only part of the festivities, which also included sailing and swimming. The Port Alfred Gala eventually moved to the Christmas holiday period and in 1910 lasted three days. One of the athletic events was a 10 miles race from Hayes Siding, and there were also events for girls (Grocott's Mail 4/1/10). In 1912 both Port Alfred and Bushman's River held New Year Sports, but in 1913 Port Alfred dropped its sports because the public lacked interest (Grocott's Mail 17/11/13).

Cookhouse held Easter Sports in 1886, but also changed to New

Year in 1887, when medals were obtained from England. Athletes from Port Elizabeth and Kimberley competed (Grahamstown Journal 4/1/87). In 1893 the sports were moved to the Queen's Birthday, and the local hammer thrower, S Nolte, reached 105ft. 11.1/2ins. (Grahamstown Journal 27/5/93). Gradwell heaved the shot 40ft. 11ins. at the 1896 meeting, held on Whit Monday. The track, previously 5.1/4 laps to the mile, was made 440 yards (E P Herald 27/5/96). In 1904 the sports were referred to as "the great day of the year" (E P Herald 25/5/04). Two thousand people were present to see the Somerset East sprinter, John Fick, win the 100, 220 and 440. There were no further reports of meetings at Cookhouse.

Even Aberdeen held annual sports and, as was so often the case, it was the social highlight of the year. In 1905 Grocott's Mail reported that there were some one hundred vehicles drawn up around the 440 yards track, and competitors came from Graaff-Reinet, Uitenhage and Murraysburg (21/6/05).

The pattern of development in athletics in Eastern Province differed from that in Western Province. In Port Elizabeth the army had little influence and there were few pedestrian events before a club was formed. Once the PEAAC was formed in 1880 progress was rapid and the club went from strength to strength, eventually spawning the CCAA and CU. Military and pedestrian activity was, however, marked in many Eastern Cape towns, such as Grahamstown, King William's Town and Fort Beaufort, and the large number of British Settlers in that area seemed to stimulate each little town to hold sports. Championships were held at Graaff-Reinet, Somerset East and Grahamstown before Cape Town was considered as a venue. The development of the railway, connecting well-established towns, and the large number of meetings held regularly on public holidays throughout the region enabled athletes to compete regularly all year round. Thus, although Cape Town formed the first athletic club, Port Elizabeth and the

Eastern Cape became a much more active region, and for a while was considered the leading centre in South Africa. Port Elizabeth retained the initiative over Cape Town with the formation of the CCAA and CU in 1894, and Cape Town dropped further behind when Green Point track was occupied by the military. But the formation of Spartan Harriers in Cape Town and the encouragement from Platnauer, combined with the re-opening of Green Point, enabled Cape Town to take the lead, and in June 1902 Port Elizabeth agreed to transfer the headquarters of the CCAA and CU to Cape Town (Cape Times 26/6/02).

The Anglo-Boer War appeared to have little effect on athletics in Port Elizabeth. The Oval was opened with the CCAA and CU Championships in November 1900 (E P Herald 5/11/1900), and Phil Hunter, then living there, won the high jump, long jump and hurdles. Scottish Sports were held at New Year 1901, and the PEACC Autumn Meeting and Victoria Day Sports were both successful. There were many army and navy entries, and the latter meeting drew a huge crowd of nearly four thousand people. In 1902 and 1903 athletics continued to flourish, and at most of the meetings J J Fick and Hunter were prominent. C H Jones, who later moved to Johannesburg and was S A champion over 100, 220, and 440 yards in 1904, came to the fore in youths' events (E P Herald 1/4/02). A long-serving Eastern Province athlete also emerged, B S ('Dad') Wilmot, who beat Hunter in the long jump and was second in the mile off scratch at the Victoria Day Sports, 1902 (E P Herald 25/5/02). The Scottish Sports on New Year's Day 1903 were enhanced by the presence of the Highland Light Infantry and the athletic prowess of Lieutenant W Halswelle, ex-Sandhurst and Charterhouse champion who went on to become the Scottish and English AAA champion over 440 yards in 1905 and 1906. He won the 100, 220 and 880 but was accidentally omitted from the 440 (E P Herald 3/1/03). A C St Norman, later a great South African walker and administrator, made his first appearance in October, winning a mile walk handicap and a 40 miles walk (E P Herald 24/10/03).



In 1904 it was reported that the PEAAC was in a precarious financial position (E P Herald 26/3/04) and matters did not improve in 1905 (E P Herald 31/5/06). The club went into a comatose period until 1911. In Uitenhage a new 'Athletic and Cycling Club' had been formed in 1904, with W E Brockett secretary, and successful sports were reported in June 1904, Wiener's Day 1906, and November 1906. The 1907 Wiener's Day Sports were particularly successful (E P Herald 22/10/07).

The temporary demise of the PEAAC coincided with a deterioration of the track at the Oval, (E P Herald 22/2/08) and the appearance of other athletic clubs which had short-lived existences. The Institute Harriers, with Loubser president, was formed in May 1906, and for a while held club runs, paper-chases and handicap events (E P Herald 19/5/06; 18/8/06; 28/10/06), but was not heard of again. Rovers AA and CC appeared in 1908 (E P Herald 22/2/08), and also organised some walks and races (E P Herald 24/8/08; 21/9/08; 5/10/08). Rovers was more successful and the E P Herald commented (26/10/08): "Saturday afternoon road racing is taking quite a popular hold on the public."

The E P track championships were organised by Rovers in November 1908 (E P Herald 9/11/08), but after that they too disappeared from the scene. The limited activities of these two clubs appear to be the only manifestation of the harrier movement that was making cross country running so popular in other centres. It is also significant that neither the 'walking craze' of 1903, nor the 'marathon mania' of 1908 were apparent in Port Elizabeth, apart from a 20 miles road race held with the 1908 E P Championships and won by J Lambrechts of Cape Town (E P Herald 10/11/08). Despite the collapse of the PEAAC, athletic meetings were still held at Port Elizabeth and, in 1906, an Inter-town Challenge Sports was held in conjunction with the Agricultural Show. This meeting was noteworthy for the performance of T



Scheepers, Oudtshoorn, who set a South African record of 5ft. 10.1/2ins. in the high jump (E P Herald 9/4/06). Another performance worthy of recording was that of M N McInnes who put the 16 lb. stone 43ft. 9ins. at the 1909 Scottish Sports (E P Herald 3/1/09).

Apart from the activities of the Rovers AA and CC noted above, the 1908 Olympic Games had little impact in Port Elizabeth. The professionals from Johannesburg appeared briefly in a series of races over the New Year period, 1910, which the Herald described as "absolutely unique in the history of the town." (E P Herald 3/1/10). Donaldson was credited with 9.3/5 in the 100 and 21.1/5 in the 220. A crowd of fifteen hundred watched on the Saturday, but bad weather kept the numbers down on the Monday. The visit could not have been very profitable.

Money was a problem, and the E P Herald had frequent references to the depression and its effects on Port Elizabeth (1/1/10).

The athletic recovery in 1911 was marked by the success of the YMCA sports in February and, according to the E P Herald 6/2/11): "The long period of apathy in regard to athletic sports was broken on Saturday afternoon..."

At the second YMCA sports in March, the young walker C McMaster was prominent and, like St Norman, he went on to a long and distinguished career (E P Herald 27/3/11). The PEAAC and CC held their first sports for many years in May 1911, and the E P Herald remarked (8/5/11): "PEAA and CC has come to the front with a big jump."

The men responsible were R R Britton and J J Storey, assisted by founder member Loton Tipper and long-serving president M M Loubser.

Progress was maintained and in 1911 Port Elizabeth athletes competed successfully at the S A Championships in Durban and telegrams with the results were pinned up at the YMCA rooms (E P Herald 1/6/12). Povey, Patching, St Norman and Butler did well. Povey, McMaster and Butler continued to excel, Povey running 9.4/5, 22.2/5 and 50.4/5, at sports to honour the visit of the Naval Squadron in June 1913 (E P Herald 12/6/13). The contribution of Port Elizabeth to the establishment and development of athletics in South Africa was finally acknowledged when the S A Championships were held there in 1914. Britton and Storey organised the meeting and Sherman shared the starting with Tom Widdowson. Povey won the 220 yards, and St Norman was disqualified in the 3 miles walk, an incident that led to a long dispute (E P Herald 3/6/14; 4/6/14).

The PEAAC and CC became defunct again in the First World War, and athletics was resuscitated by Unity Athletic Club. The E P and Border Inter-Schools meeting for the Hirsch Shield began in 1917.

## CHAPTER SIX

## DEVELOPMENTS IN BORDER

It has been noted in earlier chapters that the many British Army units stationed in the Border area held military sports and participated in pedestrian events. The public also became involved in challenge races, and the clashes between Larter of Queenstown and Cronin and Burger of East London created much interest. The exploits of the Brown brothers (Cathcart) at athletic events all over South Africa captured public attention and the Browns had a key role in the establishment of athletics in the country. Lesseyton Collegiate School, Queenstown, and Panmure Public School, East London, were athletically active before athletic clubs were formed, and promoted the development of the sport. These early developments, discussed in Chapters Two and Three, eventually led to regular sports meetings and the formation of athletic clubs.

## East London

Unlike Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth, athletics has not developed into an important facet of life in East London, and the centre of athletic activity has tended to be centred on Queenstown in the Border area. This is probably because East London has never had suitable facilities.

The first reference to athletics in East London was in 1874 when sports were held to celebrate the marriage of the Duke of Edinburgh. They were held on St Patrick's Day, which was declared a public holiday for the occasion (Daily Dispatch 10/3/74; 17/3/74). Similar meetings were occasionally arranged, but the next activity of significance was the series of foot-races between Larter, Cronin, Burger and Elton previously discussed. Queen's Birthday sports were held in 1881, with concessions on

railway tickets for stations forty miles and upwards apart (Dispatch 18/5/81). The athletic events were held from twelve noon to 2.15 p.m., followed by horse-races. Early meetings such as this one, including school events, took place at the race course.

Many of the young men of East London were away in 1881, serving with volunteer units in Basutoland and Transvaal, and athletic sports were held to entertain them, as at Thlotsi Heights on the Queen's Birthday 1881 (Dispatch 25/6/81). After the Volunteers returned home, the West Bank New Year Sports were revived, a combination of athletic and horse-racing events, and the prizes were displayed at J H Whipp's jewellery shop in Terminus Street (Dispatch 19/11/81; 7/12/81). In August 1882, W H Fuller led moves to obtain an athletic ground and the Town Council was persuaded to grant twelve and a half acres of land for public recreation (Dispatch 30/8/82). It would cost two hundred and fifty pounds and was under the control of the East London AA (Dispatch 16/9/82), later referred to as the Frontier AA (Dispatch 30/11/82). The ground would have a running track, cricket pitch, football ground and other facilities.

West Bank Sports were held again on New Year's Day 1883, but performances were poor compared with those in other centres. T Leach won the 100 yards and mile in 11 seconds and 5:55 (Dispatch 4/1/83). The prospect of a track, however, stimulated thoughts about forming an athletic club (Dispatch 4/7/83) and in July it was announced that a meeting would be held for this purpose (Dispatch 21/7/83). The new club arranged sports on the new track on 15 September including a tug of war between East London Rowers and visiting Cape Town Rowers. The Railway Brass Band performed (Dispatch 12/9/83). The press, as in all other centres, strongly supported the establishment of athletics, and the Dispatch (15/9/83) commented:

...there is no reason why our newly started athletic club should be behind those of Port Elizabeth and Queenstown, where these athletic meetings are so universally patronised.

Unfortunately George Farrar, the local star who had won the E P Challenge Mile at Port Elizabeth three times in succession and performed successfully in Queenstown, had a cold and was unable to compete. A large crowd of about 1200 people watched these enaugural sports, organised by D Amos (Dispatch 19/9/83).

In November 1883 an interesting incident was recorded. Dale College cricketers visited East London, one team playing the Buffalo Club on the East Bank and another team a club on the West Bank. After the cricket, a cricket ball throw and a 100 yards race were held, Dale boys winning both (Dispatch 28/11/83).

The athletic club arranged an Autumn Meeting in May 1884 which attracted a large crowd. As in Port Elizabeth, a mile race for natives was included on the programme, Tom Links winning in 5:30. The organising secretary, D Amos, won the mile off scratch in 4:50 (Dispatch 14/5/84).

Cross country running was introduced in 1884. The ELAC advertised "An open handicap cross country run" for 5 July over a distance of about six miles. The event aroused great interest and the Dispatch reported 9/7/84):

A great concourse of people assembled outside the Phoenix Hotel to witness the first cross country run of the East London Athletic Club.

There were thirteen runners, and every available horse was used by spectators to follow the race, which was won by D Amos. The public interest in distance running in preference to track and

field athletics seems to have been as evident then in East London as it is today.

The Annual General Meeting of the ELAC held on 30 July revealed that there were 100 paid-up members and fourteen pounds in the bank, a healthy position. Sports were arranged for September and the president, W H Fuller, commissioned to select prizes in England (Dispatch 2/8/84). But the success of the club brought it into conflict with the Frontier AA, who held their Annual General Meeting in September and ruled that gate money from the sports should go to them (Dispatch 6/9/84). The ELAC met and challenged the legality of the Frontier AA decision (Dispatch 10/9/84), and after much discussion agreed to the following proposal by C E Bassano: "Each member of the ELAC will pay the Association the five shillings subscription and the Association will get 10% of the gate money until the track is taken over the the Association."

Amos was congratulated on the success of the sports. Ally Sloper won the mile for natives in a respectable 5:04.1/5 (Dispatch 17/9/84). The upsurge in athletics was reflected by the Dispatch which carried reports and comments on sports meetings and performances at Queenstown and other centres, and East London athletes competed in other towns. The opening of the railway made this possible. It reached Aliwal North in September 1885, an event celebrated by a two-day sports meeting that attracted many Dutch-speaking spectators (Dispatch 9/9/85). Athletes were able to travel to compete at the meetings held in different towns and the Brown brothers and George Farrar were particularly prominent. Farrar went to England in 1885 and won five prizes in the six races he contested (Dispatch 11/11/85). The Brown brothers were mentioned so frequently that one wonders who actually ran their farm.

The East London Athletic Club held meetings twice a year,



organised by Amos, and with Bassano as starter. By May 1885 the native race had become a serious event with patrons and heavy betting, and it was won in 4:55 (Dispatch 27/5/85). The same year events for girls were included in the Panmure Public School Sports organised by E J Starkey. Twelve girls contested a 120 yards skipping race, won by Miss Puzey (18 seconds) and described as "the most exciting race of the day." (Dispatch 27/6/85).

In 1886 the Queen's Birthday Sports were very successful: "...almost all East London turned out to enjoy the sport" (Dispatch 26/5/86). But betting was still a feature, and the Dispatch was worried about the amateur status of East London athletes. It reprinted an item from the Kaffrarian Watchman about money prizes at the Cape Mounted Police Sports. An argument had been resolved by writing to the English magazine The Field, which had replied that money prizes made athletes professionals whether they were members of a regiment or not (Dispatch 3/7/86).

Gold fever affected the 1886 Spring Sports since several athletes had left for the Witwatersrand but the band of the Kaffrarian Rifles helped entertain a large crowd. In the native race, 'Kilmarnock' of Dunn and Company defeated a large field in 4:53. The steadily improving times in this event indicated the reservoir of talent that lay untapped for almost a century (Dispatch 3/11/86).

The East London Agricultural Society assisted the ELAC in 1887 when the sports were held in conjunction with the Agricultural Show, as at Port Elizabeth. The Society put up a thirty pounds guarantee for the sports, which was not needed since a large crowd attended. A letter was written to the Dispatch objecting to the use of Show money for this purpose (16/4/87). In 1888 a new organisation appeared. The Cambridge Athletic and Race Meeting was held at the race-course on 2 January but only a few foot-races were included (Dispatch 4/2/88). No other athletic events

were reported and, in 1889, it was announced that the ELAC was defunct (Dispatch 8/5/89). Athletics was saved from extinction by the Gymnastic Club, which formed an athletic section in 1890 (Dispatch 27/8/90). The sports were held in November in conjunction with the Wool and Produce Show and attracted a large crowd. W Roach of Kei Road won the new mile trophy in 4:51.3/5. One wonders how the black athletes would have fared in this race (Dispatch 22/11/90).

Encouraged by this success, another meeting was arranged for May 1891, which realised a gate of fifty-nine pounds, of which 25% had to be paid to the Town Council. But athletics in East London was not yet successful, as the report on the meeting reveals (Dispatch 27/5/91):

Apparently East London does not possess many athletes at present...as the bulk of the entries came from foreign towns.

A later report in the Dispatch 20/6/91) revealed that there were forty-five active athletes compared with the one hundred and ten in 1884. The Frontier Athletic Association also faded away and in November it was reported that the Town Council had taken over the Recreation Ground (Dispatch 21/11/91), which probably accounted for the reason why they received 25% of the gate money from the May meeting. The Councillor responsible for this take-over, Mr Willett, was criticised in a letter to the Dispatch, but in another praised because the move had brought about a revival in athletics. Willett was also responsible for the provision of sanitation facilities at the ground and the reduction of the Council's share of gate money from 25% to 20% (Dispatch 21/11/91). Willett's actions appeared to be justified as the East London Gymnastic and Athletic Club held successful sports on two consecutive weekends in December and the Dispatch (9/12/91) was able to report: "...East London looking up rather decidedly in

athletics..."

Amos and Bassano were still active and there was talk of building a grandstand for the ladies.

Progress continued in 1892 and 1893. Two successful meetings were held in 1892 and a newcomer, H Evatt, won the challenge mile in a fast 4:35. The Dispatch suggested he be sent to compete in Port Elizabeth (7/12/92). A grandstand came into use in 1893, and the groundsman was reported as cutting the grass "with a lawnmower worked by horse-power." (East London Standard and Border Gazette 10/3/93). A black athlete, Dennis Buckskin, received considerable publicity for a series of wins in the races for natives, including an 880 yards despite giving away starts of up to 100 yards to other runners (East London Standard and Border Gazette 26/5/93). But, although the meetings were successful, there was still concern about the lack of East London athletes, and the president of East London Gymnastics and Athletic Club, W H Fuller, threatened to discontinue the sports meetings unless East London athletes showed more interest (E L Standard and Border Gazette 26/5/93). Whether this was the reason cannot be determined, but there certainly was an upsurge in 1894 and the September meeting was the best ever, with many athletes participating (E L Standard and Border Gazette 3/10/94). The newly inaugurated S A Championships also appeared to stimulate interest and, unlike Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, East London sent athletes to the 1895 championships. They were, however, unsuccessful.

Once again, however, the upsurge in interest was short-lived and the club declined. A meeting was called to effect a revival in September 1896, and yet another new body, the East London Athletic Union, was formed (E L Standard and Border Gazette 4/9/96), which affiliated to the CCAA and CU in Port Elizabeth. Sports were arranged but there was immediate dissatisfaction

over the prizes:

Fifty pounds is a ridiculously small amount to supply prizes for an Athletic Meeting in a town such as East London is. (E L Standard and Border Gazette 11/9/96).

The Standard was contacted by many athletes wanting to know if the prize money would be increased but the committee said their funds were controlled by the trustees of the late Gymnasium (probably the Gymnastic Club). The sports appeared to be doomed to failure but Fuller maintained he was misquoted and it was reported that the prizes would be "of considerably greater value than the sum above quoted." (E L Standard and Border Gazette 25/9/96); 2/10/96). The crisis passed and the sports were successful (E L Standard and Border Gazette 23/10/96).

Nonetheless the almost inevitable slump in interest occurred yet again and there was little activity until the cyclists became active in 1898. The E L Cycling Club held cycling sports in May and sparked off cries for a proper track.

East London should long ere this have been the premier sporting town of the Border, but stands unfortunately as the lowest at present. (Dispatch 13/5/98).

The cycling club expanded to cater for the athletes and the sports in September 1898 were reported as being held by the ELAA and CC (Dispatch 23/9/98). At a meeting in March 1899, which featured cyclists from Durban, Grahamstown, Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth, it was announced a cycling track would be built the following year (Dispatch 27/3/99). This meeting included a few foot-races.

The cyclists continued to hold meetings during the Anglo-Boer War and at most of them there were a few foot-races with small fields. Proceeds from the meetings went to the fund for refugees (Dispatch 10/2/02). After the war the Town Council improved the cycling track and sports were held in February 1903 (Dispatch 17/2/03). The East London Athletic and Gymnastic Club became active again and claimed that they had about forty members and had held two successful athletic meetings (Dispatch 7/2/03). But cycling and the 'walking craze' were the popular activities and there were few track events at meetings and few competitors.

Further progress received a set-back when in 1905 the mayor, Mr P Walker, announced at the ELC and AC sports that the Council would not be able to improve the cycling track (Dispatch 22/5/05). It is not surprising that the first Border Athletic Championships were not held in East London, but in King William's Town (Dispatch 22/12/04), and that the Border AAA was formed there. It is also understandable that without, proper facilities, cross country running became popular, and the harrier movement flourished. East London Harriers was formed in 1905 (Dispatch 30/5/05), and became the body responsible for organising athletic meetings and promoting athletics (Dispatch 8/4/13).

Thus, despite many attempts, a successful athletic club was not formed in East London before World War One and athletics made slow progress. The lack of suitable facilities was a factor and nobody came forward to promote athletics. Attempts to cater for the track athletes were made by the gymnastic club, by the cycling club and later by East London Harriers.

#### Queenstown

Queenstown soon established itself as the athletic centre of the Border area, a position that it has maintained, with minor slumps, up to the present day. Two factors that gave Queenstown



early dominance were the tremendous support for athletic pursuits received from the editor of the Queenstown Free Press, David S Barrable, and the early acquisition of a track and pavilion at the Recreation Ground. The annual Hospital Sports became an occasion supported by the town and offering excellent prizes, attracted athletes such as Farrar, Larter, Rolland and the Browns, who caught the public imagination. The crowds flocked to see their local heroes and also the visiting athletes from other Eastern Cape towns, Kimberley and Johannesburg. Queenstown was easily accessible.

Barrable wrote about the value of and need for physical recreation as early as 1865 (Free Press 21/11/65) and in 1868 penned a long article on the topic. It included this paragraph (Free Press 16/6/68):

Let our young men be trained in athletic exercises. Let them be taught to take a delight in walking and climbing the rugged hill sides, and inspiring the life giving breezes which fan their lofty summits. Let cricketing and football become more general, and other field games such as quoits, running, leaping, and even golfing. At the same time this physical training ought to be made a part of the education given in our schools.

This was advanced thinking at a time when games and sports were only beginning to develop in English public schools, and there was no system of physical training in England. For fuller coverage see Appendix D.

In Chapters two and three it was noted that early athletic activity in Queenstown had its origins in military challenge races, in pedestrian events, and at the early schools, such as



Lesseyton College. The first public sports meeting appears to have been organised in celebration of the Queen's Birthday, 24 May, in 1876, on the cricket ground. Money prizes were offered, and there were eleven events, including some for juniors; a running backwards race; a walking race and three jumping events (Free Press 25/5/76). The events were confined to Europeans and there was some knowledge of the rules since it was stipulated that the walking had to be 'fair heel and toe' and three tries only were allowed in the long jump. Although there were only eleven events, these were held consecutively, so it took a long time.

H W Brown competed in the 1877 Queen's Birthday Sports, in the 200 yards. The Free Press (25/5/77) reported:

In this race to the surprise of the spectators Larter fairly and cleverly beat Mr Brown who is to a certain extent a trained athlete.

This was C A Larter, who had been involved in the challenge sprints in the main street in 1875 (see Chapter three), and who later competed in East London. It is interesting to note that 'he won cleverly' when referring to Larter. Remarks of this nature were common, and may have been appropriate when training was minimal and cunning and guile were required to conserve energy and make a move at the right time. The Brown brothers were active over a period of twenty years. A race for natives was also included over a course that would even tax the trained athletes of today:

Amongst other items was that of a prize for niggers. The Committee had a flag fixed on the top of Bowker's Kop and whilst the sports were going on they started some ten or a dozen

active young natives for this flag. The distance must have been considerable and the sides of the mountains steep and stoney, but within an hour one of the boys brought the flag down and received the reward of ten shillings. (Free Press 25/5/77).

The committee also considered the spectators:

The ground had been prettily flagged out, and a grand stand - kindly lent by the race committee - had been erected for the accommodation of the ladies.

The Queen's Birthday Sports in 1878 attracted a large crowd:

...as great a crowd as it ever was possible to get up in this part of the world. (Free Press 31/5/78).

In 1879 football matches replaced the sports and, in 1880, sports were held to celebrate the arrival of the railway. Dress regulations were enforced:

Competitors to wear Long Drawers, and Guernseys or University Costume. (Free Press 8/5/8).

It was, however, the Hospital Sports that made Queenstown famous for athletics. The foundation stone of the Frontier Hospital had been laid in 1876, and in a letter to the Free Press in 1888 (2/11/88) it was claimed that sports were held at the stone-laying ceremony and Larter won the 880 yards in 1:59. This seems a doubtful performance. The 'Hospital Holiday' was introduced in 1881, the only holiday between the Queen's Birthday and Christmas

(Free Press 13.10.81), and that is when the Hospital Sports really began. A committee headed by Barrable arranged a programme of eighteen events and the entries were described as "...the best of any meeting in the Colony" (Free Press 11/10/81), which, since it was written by Barrable, should not be taken as fact, but as enthusiastic pre-event advertising. Despite a strong wind over a thousand spectators turned up and were treated to the first appearance of Rolland in the 150 yards. Not only did he beat Brown and Larter, but his time of 14.4/5 was "...said to have been the quickest ever made anywhere in the world." (Free Press 13/10/81). Rolland was an outstanding sprinter, one of the finest athletes in South Africa in the nineteenth century (Parker, 1897, pp. 126-127).

A Caledonian Society was formed in Queenstown in 1882, and although they did not hold Scottish Sports, they did assist the Hospital Sports, agreeing to donate fifteen pounds provided that:

...four events of a Scottish character (to be named by the committee of the Caledonian Society) be placed on the programme, three events open to all-comers, one specially reserved for members of the Caledonian and Kindred Societies, the fifteen pounds to be divided as prizes for the four events and also that three members of the Caledonian Society act in conjunction with the judges of the Sports Committee in deciding the above events. (Free Press 22/8/82).

Barrable, as printer and newsagent of the Free Press, mayor and respected citizen, had great influence. Through the newspaper he was able to disseminate knowledge and shape attitudes. In December 1881 he announced that he had received a booklet Hints on training for Athletic Sports from W Anderson (Port Elizabeth),



Queenstown. Note the strings marking the lanes, and runners with same arm and leg forward.

which was available for two shillings and sixpence (Free Press 6/12/81). In September 1882 he included a special page in the Free Press advertising the Hospital Sports, of which he was still chairman (Free Press 19/9/82). The names of the committee were printed, sixty of the most respected citizens in town. The Cape Government Railways (Eastern Section) advertised excursion return tickets at single journey fares, and a Ladies Challenge Cup, valued at 25 guineas, was donated for a 250 yards flat race (Free Press 5/10/82). It was won for the first time by S T Brown in 26 seconds. The coveted trophy was the Queenstown Challenge Cup for the 880 yards, valued at 50 guineas, and won by George Farrar in 2:08.1/5. Larter ran in both races (Free Press 12/10/82).

Barrable wrote a long report on the sports, held on Wednesday 11 October, and used the opportunity to promote athletics. After commenting on the fact that people could not travel as quickly, cheaply and comfortably as they could "in the old country" (England) he went on (Free Press 12/10/82):

It thus follows that some source of recreation should be provided, which would make the day a pleasant one, and at the same time be appreciated by all.

What is more likely to serve this purpose than athletic sports?

He followed with some historical information about athletics, made some remarks about Scottish athletes, and continued:

In many places throughout this colony the holding of sports has been established for some years. Queenstown is not behind in this respect.

Describing the sports, he wrote:

For sometime before the sports commenced people began to assemble, those from a distance coming on horse-back and in carriages.

Many Kafirs and other natives were present.

The absence of a band of music was certainly to be regretted.

Sports were important social occasions, and the presence of a band was felt to be important well into the twentieth century. A good band also attracted the crowds, and British Army bands were in great demand. The lack of music may have contributed to the unpleasant behaviour Barrable reported:

Several quarrels occurred through drink in the vicinity of the place where the refreshment bar was kept. It would certainly be far better if intoxicating drink were not allowed to be sold on the ground at all.

The success of the sports motivated the formation of the Queenstown Athletic Club in June 1883. The notice announced that it would be in conjunction with the Gymnasium Club, which had been formed in July 1878 (Free Press 12/7/78). A meeting was arranged at Mr Wiper's schoolroom on 16 June, and Barrable presented his ideas: there was a good attendance at the meeting, indicating that there was interest; an enclosed training ground with a dressing house was needed; subscriptions should be ten shillings half-yearly; rules should be obtained from England (evidently Port Elizabeth had not yet established a position of authority); only amateurs would be permitted to join (Free Press



22/6/83). Amateurism was always an issue when a club was formed, especially when it was the first one in a centre, since many of the athletes had competed for cash prizes or at meetings where betting was prevalent, so allowances had to be made. Soldiers who wanted to compete were also a problem (see Chapter Fourteen for further discussion).

It was agreed that the new club would take over the organisation of the Hospital Sports and promote athletics by holding a paper-chase on Wednesday afternoons. A small handicap meeting was organised in July and, at a general meeting that month, it was announced that there were 85 members (Free Press 13/7/83). Sports were arranged in August which attracted such a large crowd that people overflowed on to the track. No liquor was sold and cyclists took part. The "first bicycle race witnessed in Queenstown" attracted three competitors. The popular George Farrar won the mile in 4:49 off scratch, and "...at every point he passed he was met with cheers and shouts to 'wire-in'." Larter won the 120 yards (Free Press 10/8/83).

Moves followed to obtain a ground and J W Morris, a committee member, addressed the Town Council on behalf of sports clubs on 4 September, accompanied by Messrs A W Sole and H S Waugh (Free Press 7/9/83). Sole had been secretary since the inaugural sports in 1881. The Council considered the proposal and Dr Berry, seconded by Barrable, who was also a councillor, proposed a scheme that was unanimously accepted. Seven years passed, however, before it was announced that the Council had agreed to lay down a cinder track, and in 1891 a pavilion was provided (Free Press 31/10/90; 27/3/91).

The athletic club continued to organise the Hospital Sports and in 1883 there was a large crowd, with many black spectators, and music was supplied by the band of the Queenstown Rifle Volunteers. Rollan beat Larter in the 250 yards and 880 yards

challenge races and also won the 100, 120 and 440 yards events. His time in the 100 was an extremely fast 9.3/4 seconds (Free Press 12/10/83). Rolland moved up to 1000 yards at the QAAC autumn meeting in 1884, but was probably beyond his racing distance and lost to Farrar (2:27). Farrar's stride was reported to be 8ft. 2ins. long (Free Press 21/3/84).

In his report on the 1883 Hospital Sports Barrable again emphasised the value of athletic sports (Free Press 12/10/83) and, despite the exodus to the Eastern Transvaal gold fields, the sports continued to flourish and in 1884 were referred to as "our modern Olympic Games," which is interesting in view of the fact that the modern Olympic Games were only revived in 1896. Before the pavilion was built wagons were used as viewing points but the crowd often spilled on to the track (Free Press 14/10/84). At the 1884 meeting Jim Brown won the two challenge cups, the 880 yards in 2:03.2/5, beating Farrar by inches (Free Press 14/10/84). Brown beat Farrar again in a specially arranged 880 yards in January 1885, clocking 2:02.1/2 (Grahamstown Journal 8/1/85).

Athletics in Queenstown lost momentum in 1885 and the QAAC seemed to be defunct, but Barrable got a committee together and the Hospital Sports went ahead as usual. Rolland and Farrar were not competing, so Jim Brown had a field day, but was the only competitor in the 880 yards challenge race (Free Press 16/10/85). The exodus to the Witwatersrand gold fields in 1886 also threatened to extinguish the Hospital Sports, but a letter from "A Lover of Sports" asking "what are our local athletes up to, are they asleep?" and suggesting that the secretary, W P Fisher, call the committee together, had the desired effect (Free Press 10/9/86). Fisher replied that he had been intending to do so for sometime:

...but owing to the general exodus which is taking place from our midst at present, added

to the feeling of apathy and indifference displayed in the matter by many who usually interest themselves in the movement, I had little hope that a meeting could be successfully arranged this year. (Free Press 14/9/86).

As a result of the letter to the newspaper, Fisher called a public meeting on 16 September, with Barrable in the chair (Free Press 21/9/86) and the sports came off successfully on 14 October, Larter beating Brown in the 880 yards challenge race (Free Press 15/10/86). After the meeting Barrable wrote an editorial suggesting that statistics should be kept and also discussed amateurism, quoting 'the modern definition of an amateur' (Free Press 22/10/86). Barrable said he took exception to the last portion, deeming it "to be particularly obnoxious", and quoted it as reading: "...nor is a mechanic, artisan, or labourer."

He could not see why they should be excluded as amateurs. Which definition Barrable quoted is uncertain. The English Amateur Athletic Club had the stipulation in its 1867 definition (Lovesey, 1979, p. 22), but this was removed when the AAA was formed in 1880 (Lovesey, 1979, p. 32).

Despite the loss of interest in athletics, a new club was formed in Queenstown in 1887, the Star Athletic Club (Free Press 5/8/87). It said it would pay particular attention to running training and organised sports in November (Free Press 25/11/87). Nothing more was heard of it. The Queen's Jubilee Sports in 1887 attracted a huge crowd (Free Press 24/6/85) and it was decided to delay the Hospital Sports by a month. There was also speculation that the Hospital Holiday would be discontinued. The sports came off in November and made a profit of twenty pounds despite an expenditure of thirty-three pounds on twenty-one silver cups from

England. The balance sheet makes interesting reading (Free Press 24/1/88). (See Appendix G.)

Athletics struggled during the next three years and was marked by controversy and dissatisfaction. Barrable wrote about the neglect of the Recreation Ground and complained that the committee appointed to improve things had done nothing (Free Press 17/8/88). The Hospital Sports in 1888 were combined with equestrian events to increase public interest, and probably featured one of the first mixed race events in South Africa, a black vs white tug of war, which was won by the whites (Free Press 16/10/88). The meeting produced a controversy over the mile walk, which had been the subject of an argument at the Jubilee Sports in 1887 when the Free Press had suggested the event be eliminated from future programmes (24/6/87). This time 'Walker' wrote to the Free Press (19/10/88) pointing out that the walking had been obviously unfair and that the times recorded were about a minute faster than the English record. 'Another Walker' replied (30/10/88) pointing out that the winner had a 250 yards start, so obviously the time was fast. English and American times were quoted. H W Brown also wrote in with his views on times and walking (26/10/88), and claimed that he could beat the 7:13 performance quoted by 'Walker' (Free Press 30/10/88). Brown had also been involved in controversy about legal walking in Kimberly in races between 1883 and 1885. This is discussed in Chapter Nine said the English AAA should be asked for a definition, the loser to pay the hospital ten pounds (Free Press 9/11/88). It was only natural that there was much interest in the mile walk in 1889 (Free Press 11/10/89) but there was no report of a dispute. Controversy broke out again in 1890, and according to the Free Press many competitors were trotting (17/10/90).

Timing was another controversial issue. This has already been mentioned in connection with Rolland. It became a particularly sensitive issue when colonial athletes ran close to or bettered

the times recorded 'at home' (in England). Criticism emanated not only from England but also from English immigrants. Rivalry between 'Home-born' and 'Colonials' was marked and in the nineteenth century cricket and football matches between the two groups were often contested. The annoyance of the colonials about the criticism of timing in South Africa was expressed by C A Larter in a letter to the Free Press (29/10/89). Larter felt that Jim Brown and others could hold their own with "any foot runner that these gentlemen might wish to put against them." Brown was without doubt the leading 440/880 athlete in South Africa at that time. In 1891 he travelled to Pietermaritzburg to meet the English champion Lieutenant Pitman, and one can imagine the pressure to prove himself as a colonial. This event is described in Chapter Seven.

1891 was a turning point for athletics in Queenstown. From that year onwards athletics flourished until just before the Anglo-Boer War when drought and the rinderpest caused another slump in activity. A large crowd attended the opening of the pavilion at the Recreation Ground on what the Free Press called a "Gala Day for Queenstown" (27/3/91). A publicity campaign promoting the Hospital Sports began in August and there were several factors stirring public interest, apart from the new pavilion. There was a feeling of well-being abroad because of the Witwatersrand gold; bicycles with pneumatic tyres were appearing, arousing curiosity; and there was a general interest in sport engendered by the visits of English football and cricket teams. The Free Press reported athletic achievements from all over South Africa and from England, and the clash in the 880 yards challenge race between Jim Brown and W Roach of King William's Town, who had won the previous year in 1:59, was eagerly awaited (Free Press 17/10/90). On the day, Brown beat Roach (2:03.3/5). That evening the Queenstown Gymnastic Club presented an Assault-at-Arms (Free Press 9/10/91).



Cycling became important in Queenstown in 1892 and the formation of a Bicycle Club added to the increased interest in sports meetings. The new club organised sports in May, with seven athletic events and three cycle races, including the usual 1 mile Kafir Race. The crowds flocked in:

The pavilion was crammed, the fair sex being in the majority up there and their pretty costumes added to the enchantment of the scene. (Free Press 13/5/92).

C H (Kit) Tiffin, who had organised the Gala Day for the opening of the pavilion, took over the organisation of the Hospital Sports, which were moved to Wiener's Day. The Free Press referred to Tiffin as "a model secretary" (14/7/93). As the Hospital Holiday had fallen away, the term 'Hospital' was dropped and the meeting became the Annual Athletic Sports (Free Press 14/9/94). Tiffin played a prominent role in the laying-down of a cinder track in 1894 and, in 1895, another attempt was made to form an athletic club. (Free Press 12/10/94; 3/9/95). Tiffin became secretary.

The railway line to Bloemfontein had been opened in 1891 and Queenstown affiliated to the SAAAA, not the CCAA and CU (Free Press 25/10/95). These two factors enabled Tiffin to persuade competitors from Johannesburg to attend the 1895 sports (Free Press 18/10/95). When the clash between the SAAAA had been resolved, Queenstown joined the CCAA and CU and the 1897 Bicycle Club Sports were held under the rules of the Cape association. (Free Press 4/6/97).

C A Larter, one of Queenstown's early athletes, died in 1896 aged forty. In 1894 it was reported that he must stop athletics on the advice of his doctor (Free Press 16/2/94). In his obituary the Free Press (27/10/96) wrote:



He was looked upon as one of the first athletes in South Africa, and several times held the Challenge Cups of the Border.

With Rolland, the Browns, Roach, Evatt and Farrar he had helped establish Queenstown as an important athletic centre.

The 1896 Annual Sports were scheduled for Thursday 15 October, but were postponed to 29 October because the 15th was declared a Day of Humiliation and Prayer throughout the Colony on account of the threatened rinderpest plague (Free Press 9/10/96). In its report that year the Free Press commented (30/10/96): "Sports Day is perhaps the most favourite of the annual holidays in Queenstown." But the sports had reached their hey-day, and in 1897 drought and the rinderpest crippled the sports (Free Press 15/10/97) and in 1898 they were not held. The Free Press (11/10/98) said:

It seems a pity that the Hospital Sports should fall through after so many years.

#### King William's Town

Mention has already been made in Chapter Two of British Army sports in King William's Town. Sports were a feature of public life in the town as early as the 1860's, and were held at the race-course in 1866 to mark the laying of the Town Hall Foundation Stone (Kaffrarian Watchman 25/10/66). They were a type of rural sports and included such events as a 200 yards sack race, and foot races over 100 and 500 yards. The 100 yards was described as a "scurry for all-comers." Prizes were cash, ten shillings and fifteen shillings. Gymnastics and athletic sports were held on Boxing Day 1868 and on the Queen's Birthday 1869. The main venue for sports from 1867 was the Recreation Ground,

opened that year. According to Burton (1963) the Victoria Sports Ground, as it was named, acquired a 440 yards athletic track in 1888, thanks largely to the efforts of the mayor, C A Jay, who also happened to be president of the athletic club, which was formed in 1885.

The British Army also played a part in promoting public athletics, and in 1873 the 32nd Light Infantry held sports for school children, referred to as an annual treat (Cape Argus 28/1/73).

In the early years H W Brown was active and in 1874 lost a 200 yards foot-race to Gilman of the 32nd Regiment, for a ten pounds stake (Cape Argus 28/4/74).

The Kaffrarian Amateur Athletic Sports in 1885 attracted two thousand spectators and athletes from other towns. Athletic clubs represented were Queenstown AAC, Cape Mounted Rifles, Komgha Cricket Club, Dale College AC, East London AC, Stutterheim Cricket Club and King William's Town AC. The track was described as "heavy and partly uphill" (Daily Dispatch 18/4/85). The athletic and gymnastic clubs held successful sports in 1886 (Dispatch 14/4/86) and Queen's Jubilee Sports were held in 1887.

Relations between King William's Town and East London became strained in 1888 when Puzey, an East London hurdler, applied for membership of the King William's Town athletic club in order to compete at the Queen's Birthday meeting and was refused. The KWTAC was accused of making itself a private organisation and wanting to keep its trophies for local members, and East London athletes threatened to boycott the meeting (Dispatch 16/4/88).

It has been noted that 'Challenge Races' for expensive trophies became popular at most centres in the last quarter of the nineteenth century and King William's Town was no exception. The

440 yards Challenge Trophy Race was introduced in 1891, won by Roach in a fast 51.9/10 seconds, with Jim Brown second (Dispatch 14/10/91). Phil Hunter travelled from Kimberley to contest the event in 1892, but was beaten by A Gerhardi (Dispatch 15/10/92).

King William's Town usually held sports on Wiener's Day, Queen's Birthday, Arbor Day, or another public holiday, and special trains from East London were often arranged at reduced fares. Athletes from East London, Queenstown and Cathcart competed regularly. The meetings were attended by large crowds, and the athletic and gymnastic club, under Charles Jay, prospered and flourished. It had a useful bank balance and enjoyed the support of Dale College, Diocesan Grammar School and Kaffrarian Collegiate Girls' School.

The Order of the Foresters played a role in keeping athletics alive and well, and in 1896 held a two-day meeting on Whitsun and the Queen's Birthday (E.L. Standard and Border Gazette (29/5/96). The Foresters Sports in 1898 had thirty events, three of which were cycling (Dispatch 3/6/98).

At the turn of the century athletics in King William's Town was active and ahead of development in East London. According to the Cape Mercury (10/10/1900) J Davis was the driving force:

He is an indefatigable sport, and more than one meeting in King William's Town owes a large portion of its success to his untiring zeal.

The Anglo-Boer War period was a quiet one for athletics, but was underway again in 1902 when the Foresters held their seventh annual sports under CCAA and CU rules (Mercury 5/5/02). The athletic and gymnastic club was still active, and at the Annual General Meeting in 1903 there were reported to be about forty

members (Mercury 4/2/03). The club was becoming disenchanted with Port Elizabeth and the CCAA and CU (Eastern Province Centre) because it had received no reply to letters for two years. The secretary, Mr Manning, wrote to the CCAA and CU headquarters, which by then had moved to Cape Town, and he advised the formation of their own centre in the Border (Mercury 4/2/03). A meeting of Border athletic and cycling clubs was held on 5 December 1903, attended by East London Cycling Club, East London Speedwell Cycling Club, King William's Town Cycling Club, King William's Town Gymnastic and Athletic Club and the Foresters, and the Border Centre was formed (Mercury 7/12/03). There were no representatives from East London AC, Queenstown or Cathcart. J Cole was elected secretary and the first Border Championships scheduled for 20 December at King William's Town. They were not very successful, with a poor crowd and few entries (Dispatch 22/12/03).

In the Border country towns the development of athletics followed the usual pattern. Athletic sports were held on public holidays or to celebrate a special occasion and the sport thrived if there was an enthusiastic organiser. Molteno held sports annually for several years, including the Queen's Birthday 1884 (Queenstown Free Press 27/5/84), and Cala had sports the same day with a range of events:

...divided between Europeans and Natives, horse-racing, V.C. race, and all the sports usual on such occasions. (Queenstown Free Press 30/5/84).

The arrival of the railway in Aliwal North was celebrated by sports in 1885, with Jim Brown successful (Queenstown Free Press 4/9/85), and a gala atmosphere prevailed at the Whit-Monday Sports in 1891. Queenstown athletes travelled up by train overnight and on arrival next morning at 8.30 a.m. marched

through the town behind a band to the grounds, crowded with "a large concourse of people" (Free Press 18/5/91). At Whittlesea, the opening of the telegraph office was celebrated with athletic sports in 1890 (Free Press 4/7/90).

From this survey it can be concluded that athletics was an important aspect of life in Border towns in the nineteenth century and, up until the time of the Anglo-Boer War, progress was equal to that in other areas of the Cape Colony. In fact, in 1903, when the Border AAA was formed, the Border area appeared to have gained an advantage over Eastern Province. Progress in East London was, however, disappointing, and the lack of development there, due it seems to poor facilities, an unsympathetic Town Council and no real enthusiast, eventually hampered the entire Border area.

Athletic activity in the Border area between the Anglo-Boer War and the First World War continued in much the same way as in the nineteenth century and there was little real progress. Queenstown was one of the most active towns. A new track was laid at the Recreation Ground and opened in 1904 and, according to Fairweather (1906, pp. 61-59), describing the opening meeting:

Athletics returned to us in all its pristine glory.

Athletics had been moribund since 1895 but, under the guidance of Furnmidge and McPherson, the annual sports on Victoria Day, later Empire Day, became well known throughout South Africa. The 440 and 880 yards trophies that had been donated for the Hospital Sports were taken over and regained their position as coveted prizes. These sports continued up to the First World War and beyond and attracted some of South Africa's leading athletes, including Charlie Hefferon in 1909, who said that the Queenstown track was the best in South Africa (Cape Times 27/5/09). Hefferon

set an S A Record of 58:42.2/5 in the 10 miles. The CCAA and CU Championships were awarded to Queenstown in 1907 and 1909 and, since they were held immediately before the Victoria Day meeting, attracted many athletes and were, in fact, two of the very few occasions that these championships were successful. They were abandoned in 1913.

The 'Walking Craze' and the harrier movement influenced activities in King William's Town and East London. A harriers club was started in King William's Town (Cape Mercury 2/3/03), and several walks were held (Cape Mercury 14/9/03; 29/9/03; 5/10/03). Walks were also held in East London (Daily Dispatch 28/9/03). The East London C and AC was fairly active, holding several sports meetings, but they were mainly confined to cycling events (Daily Dispatch 17/2/03; 17/6/03; 26/10/03). The King William's Town sports in 1905 were reported as the poorest ever (Daily Dispatch 10/5/05), but the ELC and AC meeting the same month was described as one of most successful (Daily Dispatch 22/5/05). East London Harriers began operating in 1905 and were active until 1914. In 1913 an athletic points series was operating in East London (Daily Dispatch 8/4/13).

The Border AAA headquarters moved to Burghersdorp in 1909, and to East London in 1912. It was not an active body and appeared to be ineffective.



## CHAPTER SEVEN

## DEVELOPMENTS IN PIETERMARITZBURG

Pietermaritzburg was established in 1839 and soon overtook the small British settlement at Port Natal, established in 1824, as the leading town in Natal. Port Natal was renamed Durban in 1829 (Geen, 1961, pp. 95, 105). Rivalry between the two towns has always been intense and was reflected in the development of sport and athletics. It was similar to the rivalry between Queenstown and East London, Grahamstown and Port Elizabeth, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town, and George and Queenstown.

In Chapter Two and Three it was noted that athletic activity in Pietermaritzburg began much earlier than that in Durban. This was because there was a British Army garrison in Pietermaritzburg, and as the capital city, many of the leading administrators lived there, such as the Shepstones, who played a leading role in promoting athletics.

The Hon. T Shepstone, CMG and his son, T Shepstone Jnr were judge and referee at the first Pietermaritzburg annual sports in 1871 (Natal Witness 15/8/71; Natal Mercury 17/8/71). Shepstone Snr presented the prizes at a function on 19 August at which Shepstone Jnr proposed an annual championship cup, and a Standing Committee was appointed (Witness 22/8/71). In 1872 Shepstone Jnr attended a meeting with the mayor to discuss the building of a pavilion in Alexandra Park and a footbridge over the river to provide easy access for spectators (Witness 7/5/72). Despite the exodus to the diamond fields, where the Natal athlete, Berning, was prominent (Mercury 27/8/72), it was decided to go ahead with the annual sports (Witness 5/7/72), and the Inspector of Works assisted with the laying out of a circular course at the Oval (Witness 24/9/72). Up until that time it would appear that only

straight courses had been used. It was 3.1/2 laps to the mile, and the mile race was won by W H Shepherd in 5:15 (Witness 2/10/72). In November Berning returned from the diamond fields and met the local champion, A Moodie. There was heavy betting, and both failed three times at 5ft. 3ins. Moodie said, "I know I can jump that", and did (Witness 5/11/72).

The bridge from Chapel Street to the Oval was opened in 1873, and the committee prepared for the annual sports. The secretary was T J E Scoones, who also organised the annual swimming sports in the Umzimdusu River (Witness 18/2/73; 9/5/73). Twenty four pounds was spent on prizes, putting the committee seven shillings and six pence in debt (Witness 9/5/73), and one unusual problem was encountered - females who rode their horses over the Oval were damaging the surface.

Some of the races were reserved for novices, and the committee defined them thus (Witness 24/6/73):

The Trial Stakes are open to everyone who has never run for public money in a race open to all-comers.

There was no concern about amateurism since cash prizes were given for some races. A large crowd watched and A L Scott won several events (Witness 8/7/73; 15/7/73). At the prize-giving the mayor mentioned the possibility of holding Inter-Colony Sports (Witness 22/7/73) and it seemed the athletes had the support of the Town Council at that time.

Interest waned in 1874 and attempts to bring the committee together were unsuccessful, prompting this comment from the Witness 19/5/74):

Surely the citizens are not going to allow this Gala Day to drop through, after the successful meetings of the past many years.

A meeting of the committee was eventually achieved and a successful sports held. Profit on the day was sixteen shillings and three pence. No 'gate' was taken (Witness 14/7/74; 21/7/74). The Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Garnet Wolseley, attended the 1875 sports, his last public appearance in Natal. Private Bradley of the 1-13th Regiment performed well and the Broome Challenge Cup for the 440 yards was presented for the first time. The winner was G W Calvert in 55 seconds (Witness 3/9/73; 7/9/73; 31/8/75). This was also the first meeting in which times were recorded and reported for all the events. As in 1874, the meeting was held over three days. Military sports were also held regularly, such as the Garrison Sports in October 1874 (Witness 6/10/74) and the 13th Regiment Sports in April 1875 (Witness 9/4/75).

The influence of English athleticism was indicated by a reference to the "Age of Muscular Christianity" in the report on the 1877 sports, the ground for which was prepared by a fatigue party from the 'Buffs' regiment. G Lamond was outstanding (Witness 31/7/77; 7/8/77). These sports led to several private challenge races. The 'Buffs' band helped entertain the ground at the 1878 sports, attended by the Lieutenant-Governor, General Thesiger. Shepstone, Jnr was still a judge, and W Doig, prominent in early pedestrian events and a founder member, was still acting as starter (Witness 3/9/78; 10/9/78).

At the beginning of 1879 athletics in Pietermaritzburg was well-established and probably ahead of all other centres in South Africa. A dedicated committee had kept annual sports going for a decade; the military and the Volunteers held regular sports; and there were frequent pedestrian events and challenge races (see Chapter Three).

By contrast, athletic activity in Durban was still spasmodic, although Durban High School had a meeting in 1876 (Mercury 1/7/76). Sport in Natal was, however, brought to a standstill by the Zulu War (Witness 13/9/79), and the only athletic meetings held were those arranged by the army in the field (see Chapter Two). The meetings at Camperdown also continued (Witness 15/4/79).

The Zulu War ended in August 1879 and plans were immediately made to hold the annual sports meeting in Pietermaritzburg. The problem of amateurism then arose and the committee decided (Witness 18/10/79):

No man may take part in the sports unless he was able to prove to the satisfaction of the committee that he was not a professional.

T J E Scoones, still active and interested, offered to present a gold medal to the man winning the most events, and several other prizes were donated. Scoones was also secretary/treasurer of the horse-racing society, and Doig and Shepstone Jnr members, so they were able to borrow the horse hurdles for the sports. Theo Shepstone presented the prizes and the Witness (18/12/79) reported: "The chairman gave some good suggestions as to training, style of running, etc.

The Shepstones and Doig were still actively involved with the 1881 sports, and it seems a pity that the dedicated group to which they belonged, the Standing Committee, did not form themselves into an athletic club right from the beginning, in 1871. They were clearly the first group of men to organise athletics on a regular basis in South Africa. After the 1881 sports, at the prize-giving, the mayor, J Roseveare, suggested that a permanent committee be formed, so the idea of actually forming a club was in the air (Witness 14/9/81). The meeting

itself was criticised by the Witness 22/8/81) for being too long, with gaps between the events, and for starting too early. The lack of a stand was also criticised, the Witness saying that this was needed more than the drinking fountain proposed by the Council. Lamond won the Broome Cup in 52 seconds, timed by the donor, W Broome.

The announcement in September that a pavilion might be erected (Witness 17/9/81) moved the Witness to urge young men to take up athletics (17/9/81). But the erection of a pavilion was only achieved in 1898, and the lack of suitable facilities eventually proved to be a block to progress. Meanwhile, enthusiasm was high and in 1882 a public meeting was called to form the long overdue athletic club (Witness 7/8/82). The first day of the club's first meeting was not well organised. There were no tapes to run between; athletes did not have numbers; there was no telegraph board; and no programme was available beforehand. The Witness expected better things (28/8/82):

Of all the annual events that take place in a town, none can be made more interesting, or attract a larger number of spectators, than athletic sports...

After making the criticisms listed above, the Witness concluded:

Before next year a proper club should be established, or else the sports taken over by the Cricket Club.

The second day went better, there were no complaints, and many of the committee members who had been absent on the first day, attended (Witness 4/9/82).

It was evident that the attempt to form a club had failed and

the organisation of the annual sports was continued by a committee. The 1883 meeting was a huge success, despite the severe economic depression, attracting three thousand spectators on both days. Arrangements were also improved: times were taken by three watches; lane strings were provided; and bicycle races included. The Witness applauded the public for supporting athletics in the hard times, and went on to say (18/9/83):

Much might be said of the healthy tone given to the body by athletics; and when we remember that in almost every English school nowadays athletics forms a part of education, it is apparent that what may be considered desirable in the temperate atmosphere of the Old Country must become a necessity in our semi-tropical heat. The difficulty in Natal is to educate the body to face outdoor exertion, and it is by the promotion of athletic meetings that we can induce the habit. Thanks to the energy of a few enthusiastic persons, our athletic meetings have become annual...

The success of athletics in Pietermaritzburg was envied in Durban, but the coastal town was catching up and the Wasp's Sports were proving successful. A Natal Football Association had been formed in Durban and 'Umpire', writing in the Mercury, suggested that a similar association should be formed for athletics (Mercury 5/10/83). 'Umpire' was Jim Cumming, who played an important role in athletics and soccer in Durban and Natal. Nothing evolved from this in 1884. In 1885 a letter appeared in the Mercury 16/7/85) from "A lover of athletics", pointing out that the secretary of the Natal Football Association had issued a circular to various athletic clubs about the desirability of forming an athletic association and as nothing had happened the writer of the letter was calling a meeting to discuss the matter.



The meeting was held in Pietermaritzburg in 1885 (Witness 24/8/85). Thirty men attended and the rules drafted by a committee were discussed and accepted. The headquarters would be in Pietermaritzburg and championships would be held alternately there and in Durban. There was thus a provincial association in Pietermaritzburg before a successful club had been formed. The new Natal AAA adopted the following amateur rules:

1. A person who has never competed for a money prize or a staked bet, with or against a professional for any prize, or who has never taught, pursued, or assisted in the practice of athletic exercises as a means of obtaining a livelihood.
2. No value prize, such as a cheque on a tradesman, must be offered.
3. No prize in a handicap to be greater than ten pounds.
4. Prizes of greater than five pounds must be engraved.
5. Open betting is not allowed.
6. All Natal athletes are considered amateurs up to the date of formation.

The last rule was necessary since, in all probability, every athlete of note in Natal had received money prizes, or had been involved in betting on races.

The need for the formation of a controlling body had been highlighted by a development in 1883 in Durban. The Durban

Alpha Athletic Club held sports in October and included a 100 yards race for the Natal Championship. It was won by G Lamond in a fast 10 seconds (Mercury 23/10/83). The time and the race drew protests from clubs and athletes in both Durban and Pietermaritzburg. The Mercury (26/10/83) commented: "Nobody can stop them but they have no authority."

The athletes complained because they had only been given a week's notice and some refused to run. Another Natal 100 yards "championship" was run in the Combined Football Clubs Sports at Durban in 1884, won by Rolland in an extremely fast 9.9/10 seconds (Mercury 30/9/84), but W Simpson claimed he was the champion since he had won the 'Natal Championship' at Pietermaritzburg on 13 September, two weeks earlier (Witness 15/9/84). Rolland, then resident in Natal, made a sensible statement in the Mercury (24/10/84) which helped clarify the position. He said neither race could be considered the championship since both were 'local', and he proposed another meeting with all contenders present. Thus what can be considered the first official Natal championship event was presented by the newly-formed Natal AAA at the Pietermaritzburg Sports in September 1885, a 100 yards race won by Rolland from Brunton, Simpson and Hughes, in 10.1/2 seconds after three false starts (Witness 21.9.85). An interested spectator was Sir Henry Bulwer who soon after presented a trophy for a 2 miles race to be held annually (Witness 26/9/85).

Thus Natal was the first province to form a provincial association, probably because of the need to control the two strong centres of Durban and Pietermaritzburg. Although there was inter-town rivalry in other areas, there was always one town that could take the lead and dominate, such as Port Elizabeth in Eastern Province (See the following Chapter).

Evidence of rivalry between Durban and Pietermaritzburg was

illustrated by a letter that appeared in the Witness in 1884 (7/2/84). 'Scotsman' complained that Durban was holding Highland Games, so why not 'Maritzburg? This letter resulted in a meeting that agreed that such games would be held, and about four thousand people, a tenth of the total white population at the time, turned up to watch the first games in May 1884. Sir Theo Shepstone and Sir Henry Bulwer were present and the quality of the aristocracy outshone the athletes (Witness 19/5/84). The second Highland Games in 1885 were also successful, but arrangements approved of today were criticised by the Witness (8/6/85):

...is it wise to cram so many events upon one card, and, as an illustration of the inconvenience, we may point out that three events were being conducted simultaneously.

It was still the custom at that time to conduct each event separately, one after the other.

The crowd at the Pietermaritzburg Sports in 1885, at which Rolland won the first official 100 yards championship, was disappointing, especially on the second day. It is interesting to note that most of the prizes were orders to a certain amount on local shops, in contravention of the newly-formulated rules of the Natal AAA (Witness 28/9/85). On the second day there was also a clash with the Wasps Sports in Durban, further evidence that the Natal AAA was a long way from exercising effective control.

The Natal 100 yards championship was held in Pietermaritzburg again in 1886, but although won by a Durban athlete, E J Smith, in a slow 11 seconds, many Durban athletes were unable to compete in the meeting because of football games in Durban (Witness 14/8/86; 16/8/86). The Bulwer Trophy was on display for several days prior to the meeting at Wade's Jewellers, and was

won by J Mumberson of the 6th Dragoon Guards. A place-kicking event was won with a kick of 56 yards, 1 foot 3 inches. As a preview to the sports, the Witness carried a full report on the English AAA Championships (7/8/86) and, after the sports, a long report on the famous 4 mile race between the two great English athletes, Walter George and William Cumming, at Preston, Lancashire (Witness 18/10/86).

In 1887 the Combined Football Club Sports in Durban were reportedly more successful than the Pietermaritzburg Sports (Witness 7/1/11/87), and the 1888 sports in the capital were reduced to one day and there were fewer spectators, the result of the exodus to the Witwatersrand gold fields (Witness 3/9/88). The 1889 sports were successful and a crowd standing four deep lined the track. The spectators included Sir C B H Mitchell, KCMG, the new governor, Sir Theo Shepstone and the mayor. Rolland won the 100 yards (Witness 2/9/89).

Athletics was flourishing, and besides the sports the challenge races featuring Ted Smith, Watty Brunton and Tom McCrystal attracted much attention (see Chapter Three). It was these men who raised the question of the Natal AAA and what had happened to it. 'Meteor', writing in the Mercury (13/9/89) said: "The present state of affairs is most undesirable." He noted that there was no body to govern; no body to settle disputes; and amateurs and professionals were running together. He wrote a similar article a few weeks later (Mercury 2/11/89), when McCrystal challenged all-comers to run 220 yards (Mercury 25/10/89).

A second attempt to form a Natal AAA was made in 1890, but W E Lindsay, the proposer and secretary of the Pietermaritzburg committee, withdrew his proposal and agreed to the formation of a Pietermaritzburg Association (Witness 19/5/90), out of which it was felt a Natal AAA would emerge. What actually emerged was the Pietermaritzburg Athletic Club which held inaugural sports in

August at the Agricultural Show Grounds (Witness 30/8/90 ; 2/9/90). It would appear from later developments that the club moved from the Park so that a 'gate' could be taken and in the hope that a permanent track would be built. From this time on facilities became an issue that bedevilled progress in Pietermaritzburg.

The inaugural sports were not entirely successful. The track was not good and the spectators and refreshment tent were placed in the centre of the arena. There were many visiting athletes and the star was the sprinter C H Vintcent, who "entered the ground with a cigarette between his lips." He won the Broome Cup for 440 yards in 50 seconds, a time that some thought inaccurate. Vintcent was a member of a visiting Johannesburg soccer team (Witness 30/8/90; 2/9/90). The second meeting in November was also well supported, despite heavy rain, and the Witness (1/12/90) said:

Of local talent there was plenty, thus showing the great impetus given to athletics by the establishment of a recognised governing body.

This meeting featured the first appearance of the reigning English AAA 880 yards champion, Lieutenant T T Pitman, who had won the title in 1:58,4 earlier in the year. His best 440 time was 50.2/5. He was so heavily handicapped he had no chance. Pitman was an officer in the 11th Hussars, and he arrived in Pietermaritzburg in October 1890.

At the first Annual General Meeting of the Pietermaritzburg Athletic Club in July 1891 a third attempt at forming a Natal AAA was made. A sub-committee was appointed for this purpose after an appeal by the secretary, Frank Terry, who said:

I think you will agree with me that it is desirable in the interests of athletics that we should have in the colony an association to govern athletics: before this can be accomplished it is necessary that athletic clubs should be established in other towns in the colony, these different clubs would become affiliated to the association and hold their sports subject to its rules. (Mercury 2/7/91).

Before any further moves could be made to form the association, the arrival of the Cathcart team and the race between Pitman and Jim Brown commanded everybody's attention.

The clash between the English champion and Brown, who was regarded by many as the South African champion and the best at the distance in South Africa, generated much interest. Other well-known athletes, such as J C Dreyer, P M Rattray, G Rolland, W Roach and H W Brown, also competed and helped make the meeting the most significant yet held in South Africa. It was not only the racing that was important, but the events which preceded the meeting and which were held in conjunction with it stimulated the formation of an athletic club in Durban, another Natal AAA, and even promoted the formation of the SAAAA.

Events were set in motion when Frank Terry, secretary of Pietermaritzburg AC, received a letter from Cathcart AC saying they would like to visit Natal to compete in the capital and in Durban. 'Umpire' suggested to Terry that they come in September and that the Pietermaritzburg and Durban sports should be synchronised (Mercury 29/5/91). Another letter, from H W Brown, explained that they could come only in October because of lambing in the spring and the visit of the English football team in August (Mercury 10/7/91). The Browns also wanted to run



against Pitman, who agreed, provided his military duties permitted it. 'Umpire' advised Durban to postpone its sports to coincide with the visit, but they went ahead as scheduled in September (Mercury 14/9/91). Pietermaritzburg reaped the benefit.

The Cathcart team competed in Queenstown on 8 October, King William's Town on 12 October, where Roach beat Brown in the 440 yards challenge race in 51.9/10 seconds, and East London on 14 October. Travelling on the USS Tartar they arrived in Durban on 15 October. The Witness and Mercury carried articles and previews on the event and the Witness printed a series of articles called "Tips on Training" based on an English book, Athletics by H H Griffin (see Chapter Eight). Details were given of the team's performances at the Border meetings noted above and other recent meetings in South Africa (Witness 21/9/91; 10/10/91; 12/10/91; 17/10/91; 19/10/91). The final article was long and included the following (24/10/91):

...taking all things into consideration, the meeting can be voted a genuine South African athletic gathering, the fellow of which has not been seen or heard of in this part of the world in the course of its history.

Advertising placards read: "The grand inter-colonial athletic meeting", probably true, as there were athletes from Cape Colony, Natal, Zululand and Transvaal. 'Meteor' wrote (Witness 24/10/91): "...Natal athleticism will have grown from a tiny bantling into a well-developed bouncing boy..."

A record crowd attended the meeting, paying two shillings entrance fee, and saw 122 athletes contest 12 events over a 4 hour period. Pitman, who had trained for six weeks, beat Brown by six yards in the 880 yards in 2:02. Considering the hill in the track and a stiff breeze it was fast running. Pitman went on to

beat Jim and Stephen Brown in the Broome Cup 440 yards in 52 seconds (Mercury 26/10/91; Witness 26/10/91). For a description of the race see Parker (1897, p. 21). Rolland was disappointing, obviously unfit, and after running badly in the 100 yards, withdrew from the 220 and 440. Dreyer, 6ft. 7ins. tall (2,01m) and weighing 210 lbs. (95kgs), a visitor from Stockenstroom, heaved the shot 39ft. 10ins. and Rattray threw the hammer 94ft. 6ins.

At the inevitable 'Smoking Concert' held after the meeting, H. W Brown took advantage of the occasion to air his views on the need for a South African Athletic Association, and Terry agreed, urging its formation as soon as possible. Soon after this Terry had to resign because of ill-health, and Joshua Herschenson became secretary. Before handing over, Terry announced he had received a letter from Col C L Andersson of Wanderers, Johannesburg, about the need for a South African Association (Witness 18/11/91).

These developments both pleased and peeved 'Umpire', who wrote (Mercury 18/12/91):

I believe I was the first to propound the idea of a South African Athletic Association at any length - and to much the same tenor as Mr Andersson's proposition - about the same time that the South African Football Association was mooted in my column.

Herschenson applied himself with energy to his duties, and in February 1892 wrote to the Mercury (12/2/92) with the following proposals:

1. Durban should establish an Athletic Club, because the rules of the proposed SAAAA were

being discussed and Durban should have a say. He wanted to know to whom he should send a copy of the proposed rules.

2. Durban needed to obtain a ground from the municipality for athletics.

3. Pietermaritzburg was willing to assist Durban with the formation of a club.

Although well intentioned, the proposals were not well received in Durban and evoked some caustic replies. One pointed out that the idea of an SAAAA had been first mooted in Durban, and Durban had corresponded with Andersson before Pietermaritzburg received its letter (Mercury18/2/92). 'Umpire' adopted a more conciliatory tone in March when he suggested another attempt should be made to form a Natal AAA, and that Pietermaritzburg had drawn up rules that "had been carefully gone through" (Mercury 10/3/92).

Pitman, meanwhile, had also become involved with the formation of the SAAAA. He travelled to Johannesburg in 1892 to compete in the Wanderers New Year Sports, where he won the 440 (55,0), the 880 (2:02.2/5), the mile (5:01.1/2) and was third in the 220. While there he conducted negotiations about the proposed national association that led to comment in various newspapers.

Back in Natal, 'Rapier', a new writer, wrote the following in the Witness (4/5/92):

What has become of the Natal AAA? I understand that a provisional committee has been formed and forwarded to the Wanderers' Club at Johannesburg and to the Messrs Browne for their approval.

If our Natal Association is to be formed, why haven't secretaries of Natal clubs been notified, and asked to attend on behalf of their clubs, and discuss rules and become affiliated to the Association. That, I think, would be the best means of promoting the NAAA.

It has been stated with great gusto that the Johannesburg Wanderers' Club will enter into the scheme to make our NAAA a governing body for South Africa. Rather rich, isn't it.

It can be seen that there was much negotiation and manoeuvring going on and, although the implication of 'Rapier's' comments was acceptance of Johannesburg as the leading athletic centre, there is no denying that Natal was ahead of other provinces in attempting to form a provincial body, and in giving support to the idea of a national association.

On 12 May 1892 'Rapier's' criticisms were answered when twenty men met at the Pietermaritzburg Town Office in an attempt to form another Natal AAA. Herschenson wrote to clubs all over South Africa about the need for a national association and received replies from Wanderers (Johannesburg), Port Elizabeth AAC and Colesberg, expressing interest. The zealous secretary had the bit between his teeth, but a Mr Knott suggested that they first form a Natal AAA and later consider forming an SAAAA.

G A Tilney, however, argued that Natal should go ahead with the formation of a national association or the Transvaal and the Cape would otherwise form their own associations. Pierson said that that was exactly what they wanted to happen, and that Pietermaritzburg was not strong enough to form a South African association. It was eventually agreed to form a Natal AAA and to write to other centres asking them to form provincial

associations as a prelude to forming the national body (Witness 13/5/92).

In tracing the development of the Pietermaritzburg Athletic Club through to the formation of the Natal AAA, other athletic activity in the city has been ignored. Between 1880 and 1890 there were a significant number of pedestrian, military, and other sports meetings. Military units organising meetings were the Welsh Regiment, Natal Mounted Rifles, Garrison Sports, Volunteer Units, 82nd South Lancashire Regiment, 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons, 11th Hussar and the Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiment. The year after the spring races in which Tom McCrystal was involved (see Chapter Three). A Hancock, the professional world 50 miles walking champion, performed at the Show Grounds in 1890, unfortunately on the same day as the football semi-final match between Savages and Ramblers in Alexandra Park, so he attracted only a meagre crowd. He walked 6 miles 207 yards in the hour. Hancock said he normally covered seven miles but the track was poor (Witness 28/7/90).

The association football clubs promoted athletics. Savages had very successful sports in 1883 (Witness 9/10/83), and a Combined Football Club Sports in 1887 was reportedly better than the annual city sports (Witness 7/11/87). The inaugural 'Maritzburg College Sports were held at the Agricultural Show Grounds in 1891, assisted by the newly formed athletic club and attended by the Governor and Lady Mitchell (Witness 14/12/91). F Blamey performed well, and the programme included a hammer throw, an event almost non-existent in present-day South African schools. The full-sized 16 lbs. implement was used, and W M Colenbrander won with 75ft. 11ins.

In 1892 the Pietermaritzburg Sports were part of the "May Week" festivities, and the 100, 220 and 440 were announced as Natal Championship events. A poor crowd attended (Witness 23/5/92;

24/5/92). 'Rapier' objected to Pietermaritzburg calling the events Natal Championships (Witness 18/5/92), but there were no objections from Durban.

The first team to represent Natal competed at Harrismith in July 1892 amid much controversy. The organiser of the sports wrote to Herschensonn inviting Natal to send a team, and he selected the team without consulting the committee. 'Rapier' objected: (a) on principle; and (b) because there were army men in the team whom he said were not 'Natalians'. He took the opportunity to attack the Natal AAA:

What has become of the much talked-of Athletic Association? Has it already died a natural death? (Witness 15/6/92).

Herschensonn claimed that he chose the team himself because Rosa of Harrismith wrote to him privately. The team competed, wearing "white jerseys with pale blue badges containing the Natal coat-of-arms". A new writer in the Witness, 'Comet', said it must not be allowed to happen again. There were five athletes, Mason and Rattray from Durban; Richardson and de Jager from Ladysmith; and Lindsay from Pietermaritzburg (Witness 16/7/92).

Herschensonn encountered more problems at the Annual General Meeting of the Pietermaritzburg AC. He missed the first part and declared it invalid. There was "acrimonious discussion" and a letter to the Witness (13/7/92) attacked Herschensonn. His name does not appear after that.

The Pietermaritzburg Sports in 1893 were fairly successful (Witness 24/5/93) and, in June that year, the Athletic Club combined with the Bicycle Club to present sports to celebrate the opening of the Town Hall. Four thousand people attended (Witness 19/6/93). No gate money was charged since the meeting was at the



Oval, Alexandra Park and, since there was an entrance fee to meetings at the Agricultural Show Grounds, 'Meteor' wrote an article defending this and explaining why it was necessary (Witness 5/7/93). One result of the meeting occurred at the Annual General Meeting of the Pietermaritzburg AC held the following month, when it was agreed that the Bicycle Club members could join but there would be no change of the name. At the meeting a tribute was paid to Sir Theophilus Shepstone, who had recently died, for his services to athletics and the club (Witness 30/10/93). Apparently it was not a good year for sport in Pietermaritzburg, as the Witness (30/12/93) in its review of 1893: "It generally happens that a bad commercial year is a bad year for sports."

Early in 1894 the Witness reported the formation of the South African AAA and the forthcoming championships (14/2/94) and commented: "Surely Natal should be represented." The Pietermaritzburg AC met and recommended affiliation to the new body. (Witness 20/3/94). The matter was raised at the Annual General Meeting in July, but was again deferred (Witness 27/7/94). Affiliation eventually occurred through the Natal AAA. W A Tilney became the Natal representative of the SAAAA in 1895 (Witness 13/3/95).

At the Annual General Meeting it was reported that membership had dropped and the club was in a bad financial position (Witness 27/7/94), and the Spring Sports in October were unsuccessful since the weather forced postponement and some of the visiting athletes returned home. Only two hundred people watched (Witness 30/10/94). 'Meteor' was disappointed by the performances of the local Pietermaritzburg athletes, and remarked: "It may be reasonably asked, therefore, what good the Athletic Club is to the community." (Witness 31/10/94).

He drew attention to the Governor's speech, made after the

sports, that expounded the value of athletics. The Autumn Sports had attracted a good crowd, but the performances had also not been good again and the Witness (15/5/94) commented:

Athleticism in 'Maritzburg is not in a particularly rosy condition just at present, and it is difficult to find amongst those who frequent the running track, any champions, and very little new blood.

...those of maturer age are scarce, and do not take the trouble to train until within a couple of days of a meeting.

The Pietermaritzburg AC tried hard to promote athletics and received much support from George Bull, who wrote as 'Meteor' in the Witness, but these efforts were largely unsuccessful, and both the Oval and the Show Grounds were unsuitable. The opening of Lords in Durban in 1895 and the granting of the S A Championships to Durban in 1899 gave it the lead in Natal athletics. Brave attempts were made to keep the Natal AAA alive, especially by Bull, and in 1896 the SAAAA still regarded Pietermaritzburg as the headquarters of the Natal and Zululand District AAA (Witness 24/9/96). The mayor, C G Levy, who actively supported athletics, offered one hundred pounds towards the erection of a pavilion at the Oval in Alexandra Park, but the athletic club declined the offer because entrance fees could not be charged in the Park (Witness 24/9/95). In April 1896 the Witness complained that Pietermaritzburg was the only town of importance in South Africa without a private ground for athletics (22/4/96) and in August a sub-committee of the Town Council (Councillors Levy and Woodhouse, and the Town Clerk) met a deputation of sportsmen as the lease at the Agricultural Show Grounds was expiring. Bull ('Meteor') said the Show Ground track was unsuitable (Witness 2/9/96). Plans were made to construct a

new track in the Park but it was explained that a 'gate' could only be taken six times a year (Witness 19/10/96). The new track, built for cycling, was opened in February 1897, but there was no pavilion and less than a thousand people attended since it drizzled (Witness 1/3/97). Later that year the Town Council arranged Diamond Jubilee Sports which were very successful, drawing a crowd of five thousand people but it was the social occasion, rather than the athletics which attracted them and performances were mediocre (Witness 23/6/97). The foundation stone of a new pavilion was laid at the meeting. The athletic and cycling club sports, also held in the Park, was attended by a good crowd (Witness 28/6/97), and four thousand people watched military sports in the Park (Witness 20/9/97). 'Meteor' was not deceived by this apparently successful situation and wrote (Witness 14/7/97): "...and 'Maritzburg, which up to within recent date had the reputation of being the principal centre in the Colony for athletics, is being left."

These remarks were written because only a few athletic events were held at these meetings and the standard of performance was low.

The demise of Pietermaritzburg was completed in 1898 when a meeting was called in Durban to re-form the Natal AAA. The Pietermaritzburg-based organisation was considered extinct and was said to consist only of "just the secretary of the Pietermaritzburg AC", that is, George Bull (Mercury 2/9/98). George Bull was sufficiently far-sighted and sensible to send a letter of approval saying that he would support "anything that will establish athletics in Natal on a more stable basis." (Mercury 2/9/98).

The new pavilion at Alexandra Park was opened on 24 May 1898 at sports held to celebrate the Queen's Birthday, and the cycling events were held under the rules of the newly-formed Natal

Cycling Union. Four thousand people watched, but only seventeen hundred came to the athletic club sports organised by George Bull in June (Witness 25/5/98; 12/6/98). This tends to confirm that it was not athletics but the social occasion that drew the crowds. The 'Maritzburg College Sports, held in December that year, were successful and prompted 'Meteor' to appeal for an Inter-School event (Witness 14/12/98).

No mention was made in the Witness of the move to form a Natal AAA in Durban but 'Pneumatic' writing in the Star claimed it was a Durban AAA move to gain control and confront the SAAAA (Star 2/9/98; 17/10/98). This was the time of a dispute in Durban between the Durban AAA, the Natal Cycling Union and the SAAAA, which is discussed in the next chapter.

In the last year of the century, athletics in Pietermaritzburg declined. In May a meeting was called to consider whether the athletic club should be discontinued or re-established. Bull, the secretary, said that the club was defunct and no subscriptions had been paid since 1896. After some discussion it was agreed to resuscitate the club and waive the outstanding subscriptions. The entrance fee was dropped and the annual fee reduced to five shillings (Witness 13/5/99). Bull said he hoped the Natal and Zululand AAA would "be established on proper lines" at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting of the SAAAA at Durban. He admitted it was almost defunct (Witness 18/5/99). This did occur (Witness 2/6/99).

H C Phillips became secretary of Pietermaritzburg AC in 1899 and organised a fairly successful meeting that drew 2500 spectators but, as 'Meteor' said, one meeting a year was not enough. Athletes needed a series of events (Witness 13/6/99). This was, however, at least an attempt to revive athletics, and the Anglo-Boer War actually assisted the revival. Lords in Durban was taken over by the military and the Durban AAA agreed that the Natal

trophy events could be run in Pietermaritzburg. When Mafeking was relieved, between seven and eight thousand people turned up to watch impromptu sports in Pietermaritzburg held in celebration (Witness 21/5/1900).

During the war R F Smithers emerged as a powerful driving force in sport and athletics in Pietermaritzburg and was elected secretary of the athletic club, with Bull chairman (Witness 18/6/1900; 21/9/1900). He worked hard to effect a revival and organised successful sports in December that included four Natal Championship events (Witness 26/11/1900). At this time the Witness carried a series of letters and articles on athletics in Natal and Africa sparked off by 'A Military Critic' on 12 October. Letters also appeared in the Durban Mercury, written by 'Shaughran', which were answered in the Witness (19/10/1900) by 'Civilian Critic' (Witness 26/10/1900' 29/10/1900; 11/11/1900). 'Meteor' eventually wrote a stinging reply saying that the "sweeping allegations were unjust and unfounded" and "what on earth would life in 'Maritzburg be like if sport were abolished." (Witness 15/11/1900).

Smithers supported the 'Maritzburg cyclists in their complaints about the bad state of the track and assisted them to organise Protest Sports in Durban in an attempt to force the 'Maritzburg Municipality to take action. 'Umpire' said the 'Maritzburg Corporation was "spoiling the ship for a ha'porth of tar" but felt the move to hold sports in Durban was unwise (Witness 4/6/01). The sports went ahead, however, and drew a crowd of three thousand, making a profit of one hundred and fifty pounds (Witness 1/7/01). After the sports 'Meteor' said there should now be conciliation and the cycle track either renovated or removed (Witness 6/7/01).

The following year, 1902, Mr W H Shepherd offered eight hundred pounds towards the cost of re-surfacing the cycling track



(Witness 5/2/02), but it was felt that the Oval was an unsuitable venue as a running track could not be constructed because it would interfere with cricket (Witness 5/2/02). It was decided to form a Sports Committee to investigate the problem (Witness 8/2/02). The Borough Engineer estimated that four thousand, seven hundred pounds was needed to make the proposed improvements, and Shepherd offered to raise half the amount (Witness 1/7/02). The City Council approved the improvements in November (Witness 22/11/02), and plans were made to plough up the Oval and turf it (Witness 17/12/02). Shepherd, however, opposed making improvements to the existing Oval, and said it would be better to move to another site (Witness 7/2/03). This was agreed to, and was probably the correct decision, but the sequence of events that followed was disastrous for athletics. The old track was ploughed up in 1903 and plans were made to build a concrete cycling track with a cinder athletic track inside it (Witness 31/3/03). The start on the new track was continually delayed, however, and it was only after a long and bitter struggle that the new tracks were built and brought into use in July 1909. During that six year period athletics in Pietermaritzburg stagnated, while in Durban and other parts of Natal it surged ahead.

For men as keen and able as Bull and Smithers, the lack of facilities was particularly frustrating. They watched the initiative swing to Durban and, once Lords was brought back into action after the Anglo-Boer War, it was only a matter of time before Durban became the headquarters of Natal athletics.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Pietermaritzburg Athletic Club in 1901 it was announced that yet another attempt would be made to form a Natal AAA. The moves made in 1899 had probably been thwarted by the war (Witness 9/9/90). It appears that a body was formed as Smithers was later referred to as the secretary of the Natal Athletic Union (Witness 12/9/02). Similar moves were



being made in Durban, however, where it was reported that, after a four year lapse, a Natal AAA was to be formed with Dan Taylor president and J T Wallace secretary (Mercury 23/10/02). Neither of these attempts was successful, and in 1903 the Witness again reported attempts to revive the Natal AAA (29/12/03). The final successful formation was in 1904. Unfortunately Bull was not present to see it, since he had retired as 'Meteor'. He was highly praised by 'The Casual' in the Witness 9/1/02), and received a presentation from Sir Albert Hime, Prime-Minister and President of the athletic club (Mercury 6/1/02).

Fortunately for Pietermaritzburg, interest in the 'Harrier' movement and the 'walking craze' flared up in 1903 and kept athletics alive despite the lack of a track.

A harrier club was formed in the city on 30 April 1903 with H W Griffin as chairman. Several towns formed harrier clubs at this time, including Cape Town, Johannesburg and Pretoria. Fifteen athletes turned out for the first run in 'Maritzburg on Thursday 14 May, led by W Chandler, an ex-Polytechnic Harrier, London (Witness 1/5/03; 15/5/03). Cross country running, however, only really became important in Natal from 1909 onwards, well after it was established in other centres (see Chapter Thirteen for further details). The 'walking craze' in England was reported in the Witness on 1 July 1903, and such was the impact of the media enabling fashions and fads to sweep the world, that the craze began in 'Maritzburg a few weeks later and a walk to Durban was considered (Witness 15/8/03). This idea was abandoned and the first walk was held in October (Witness 19/10/03) followed by a spate of walks. According to the Witness editorial on 28 September, times were bad as far as business was concerned, and perhaps the walking craze took people's minds off the depression and the recent war. Walking is discussed in more detail in Chapters Thirteen and Sixteen.

Sports meetings were still held in 'Maritzburg while the new track was being built. Garrison Sports were held at the Polo Ground in January 1905 (Witness 10/2/05) and the Natal Carbineers included athletic events in their sports in August (Witness 28/8/05). The Friendly Societies arranged a fête and gala at Scottsville Racecourse in September 1905, with R F Smithers the handicapper (Witness 30/9/05). Smithers also assisted with Caledonian Sports at the Oval on Easter Monday 1906, and the Witness commented that they "supplied a want that has long been felt" (17/4/06). Other meetings in 1906 were held by the YMCA and the Friendly Societies again (Witness 1/10/06).

Athletics received a fillip in 1907 from the 'Advance Pietermaritzburg' scheme organised by the Association to publicise 'Maritzburg in cooperation with the Witness. Businesses in town were reported to be stagnating (Witness 2/2/07) so a 'Gala Week' was proposed to assist them. The Athletic Club was resuscitated at a special meeting chaired by George Bull, and Smithers was re-appointed secretary/treasurer (Witness 14/3/07). It was reported that athletics had taken on a new lease of life (Witness 15/4/07), but the first sports, held in May, were not a financial success. The significant features of this meeting were the success of young Reggie Walker, and the excitement engendered by the 4x220 yards relay between 'Maritzburg and Durban athletic clubs (Witness 20/5/07; Mercury 20/5/07). This relay event became very popular, which is interesting since relay racing had not yet been included in the Olympic Games. The Speedwell Cycling Club was also revived after four to five years of inactivity (Witness 23/5/07).

The S A Athletic Championships were held in Durban in 1907 and this helped to continue the interest in athletics stimulated by the APM. Charity Sports took place at the Show Grounds, the YMCA held a meeting, a walking race was held, the first for three years, and various military sports were organised. Every effort

was made to raise money for the new track and athletes and cyclists even agreed to forego receiving prizes to help raise funds (Witness 13/4/08). The Witness firmly believed that the opening of the new athletic and cycling track would bring visitors to 'Maritzburg and help to circulate money (Witness 18/9/08).

A huge crowd attended a meeting at the Oval in October 1908 held in honour of the visiting British Naval Squadron under the command of Sir Percy Scott (Witness 20/10/08; 21/10/08). Another large crowd watched the Royal Fusiliers' Sports in November at which the spectators were hoaxed by a 'mock marathon' in which the Dorando incident at the Olympic Games was re-enacted (Witness 6/11/08). The Olympic marathon created world-wide interest and two 'marathons' were held in Pietermaritzburg in 1909. The big event that year, however, was the visit of the Olympic 100 metres champion, Reggie Walker, and his team-mate Vincent Duncker. A huge crowd of five thousand people turned up, but the starter, J T Guttridge who had acted in that capacity for thirty years, was not up to the occasion and the 100 yards final was a fiasco, with Walker left at the start. Walker gave Duncker seven yards start in the 100 metres, but lost by a yard. Walker's heat times were 100m : 10.4/5; 100 yards : 9.4/5. Duncker won the 120 yard hurdles over obstacles borrowed from Pietermaritzburg College in 15.1/5 seconds, a South African record (Witness 19/4/09; Latest 17/4/09).

Despite the poor attendance at the 1909 Annual General Meeting of the Pietermaritzburg Athletic Club and the parlous financial position - the fund-raising meeting in 1908, having lost eighteen pounds five shillings and eleven pence (Witness 12/5/09) - the officials were hopeful of a revival in athletics in the city once the track was opened, especially since there was a general boom in athletics in South Africa. The Witness (19/5/09) remarked:

...there can be no gainsaying the fact that there is a wave of athleticism passing over the sub-continent.

The track was eventually opened in July 1909. A good crowd watched Charlie Hefferon set a South African record of 9:51.2/5 in the 2 miles a few days before he turned professional. Local man Fred Spencer, who had run with Alfred Shrubbs at Horsham in England, won the mile in 4:34.2/5. The most exciting event of the day was the inter-club relay, especially as Pietermaritzburg beat Durban (Witness 5/7/09). Spencer came to South Africa in 1908 and had a successful career in Natal athletics, setting records in the 880 yards and mile and winning the Natal Cross Country Championship (Witness 25/5/09; Star 18/10/09).

The struggle to acquire the track started with Shepherd's offer in 1902. Construction began in August 1904 (Witness 11/8/04) after complaints about the lack of progress (Witness 10/2/04). Work stopped in October due to lack of money and the wrong plans, eliciting a scathing attack from 'Umpire' (Mercury 20/10/04). There was no news of the track reported in 1906 and agitation started again in 1907 with the introduction of the 'Advance Pietermaritzburg' campaign. Several letters were published in the Witness, one from J Downing referring to it as "the weed-covered hole" and "a hideous blunder" (Witness 6/2/07). Once again there were no references to the track in 1908, but in January 1909 a deputation met the Council (Witness 15/1/09) and the APM appealed for funds to finish the project (Witness 17/3/09).

The opening of the track finally established athletics in Pietermaritzburg and George Bull must have been a happy man when he officially handed it over to Councillor W J O'Brien (Witness 5/7/09). The S A athletic championships, however, never came to the city, and 'Maritzburg never again challenged Durban as the athletic centre of Natal.

It was unfortunate that Bull and Smithers were active at a time when athletics in Pietermaritzburg was in such a depressed state. Smithers in particular had much to offer and, although he made a fine contribution, circumstances were against him making the impact of which he was capable.

The first moves that led finally to the successful formation of the Natal AAA were made at the Annual General Meeting of Durban Athletic Club in 1904 (Mercury 21/2/04). Natal 'Test' Sports were arranged for March, to pick a team to compete in the S A Championships and, after the sports, the Natal AAA was formed. There was no mention of Smithers being present (Mercury 14/3/04), although he was the district representative of the SAAAA in Natal (Mercury 29/9/05). A Provisional Committee met twice in 1904 and the Natal AAA was finally constituted in November 1905 (Mercury 29/9/05; 11/11/05). From the reports that followed it seems that Natal was divided into three districts, North, South and Midlands (Witness 29/12/06; Mercury 4/3/07). As the SAAAA had changed to the SAAA and CA in 1904, Natal decided to change also, and this was done in May 1907 at Pietermaritzburg. The Natal AA and CA was formed with Smithers treasurer and Bull as vice-chairman (Mercury 13/5/07). In that year the Pietermaritzburg Athletic Club was revived, and the NAA and CA (Midlands) was established with Bull as chairman and Smithers as secretary. Smithers resigned in 1908 because of his commitments with the provincial association (Witness 2/3/08). The Latest praised Smithers for his work with the Natal AA and CA (30/1/09), of which he eventually became secretary (Latest 1/10/10).

The opening of the new track brought about an increase in athletic activity in Pietermaritzburg in 1909 and it was described as a good year at the Annual General Meeting of the PAC (Latest 5/2/10). In July the Midlands District of the Natal AAA held successful inaugural sports. (Latest 3/7/09). Athletics then



declined again. The track was reportedly in bad condition in December (Witness 22/12/09); Bull and Smithers left Pietermaritzburg in 1911; and that year sports arranged for August were cancelled. 'Qrius' said: "Athletics is moribund in Natal." (Latest 12/8/11). The apathy in athletics in Pietermaritzburg remained up to the First World War.

Strangely enough, sports in Northern Natal flourished. Dundee began holding New Year Sports again in 1911, and several of the well-known Natal athletes competed, such as Spencer and de Bary (Latest 7/1/11). Newcastle, Ladysmith and Dundee each held an annual meeting, but that was all (Latest 8/4/11). Three thousand spectators watched the Dundee sports in 1912 (Latest 6/1/12).

The other significant development before the First World War was the idea of racing from Pietermaritzburg to Durban, initiated by George Blaver, who completed a walk between the two towns on 27 August 1910 in 11 hours 8 minutes (Latest 27/8/10). Letters appeared in the press and others completed the distance. A full account of these feats is given in Chapter Sixteen.



## CHAPTER EIGHT

## DEVELOPMENTS IN DURBAN

Progress in athletics in Durban lagged behind that in Pietermaritzburg for many years. Pietermaritzburg had an early start with the pedestrians, the garrison, and as the capital city. For a long time it had the advantage of the Oval in Alexandra Park, but once Lords ground was opened in Durban the greater wealth and population of the coastal town and the efforts of some able men enabled it to become the leading centre in Natal.

The early pedestrian activity and challenge races in Durban were described in Chapter Three. One of the first races reported was between Theo Shepstone, in Durban for horse-racing, and P Malone (Witness 12/6/67). Military Sports were held in Durban in 1873, and Durban High School also held sports that year (Mercury 6/11/73) but, although an attempt had been made to arrange sports for the public in 1872 to keep up with Pietermaritzburg, these efforts came to nothing (Mercury 14/5/72).

When the Zulu War broke out in 1879, sports meetings in Pietermaritzburg were well established, but no public sports had been held in Durban. This annoyed the editor of the Natal Mercantile Advertiser (23/10/79):

The spirit of sport is certainly more rampant in 'Maritzburg than here.

Whatever may be the reason, it is undoubtedly the fact that in 'Maritzburg sporting

afternoons are becoming quite an institution. While here, from week's end to week's end, we have nothing to disturb the dull monotony of every day business existence. Durban has...the means...has the men. Has it not a Collins or a Doig?

By this time Durban was bigger than Pietermaritzburg, and the situation had to change. The white population figures given by the Mercury (?/11/79) were: Pietermaritzburg 4724; Durban 7188.

The first public sports in Durban took place at the Point in 1880. Houses displayed bunting, ships were decorated, and the buses were crowded with spectators. The Mercury (20/5/80; 21/5/80; 25/5/80; 26/5/80) gave extensive coverage to the event, congratulating the organisers and expressing the hope that it would be held annually. Later that year the Wasp Football Club, recently formed, held its first annual sports on the Berea Flat. Robert Vause, later to be mayor, won the 440 yards (Mercury 4/10/80).

The Second Point Sports were held in 1881 on the Queen's Birthday, with athletic events in the morning and aquatic events in the afternoon. Cash prizes were given. Despite the newly-opened rail-link, few Pietermaritzburg athletes competed (Mercury 26/5/81). The Wasps also repeated their sports and they were attended by many leading citizens and their wives. The Mercury (3/10/81) was delighted.

It is a very good sign to see that such an interest is now taken in these sports in the Colony. For a number of years in England and on the Continent athletic exercises have been regarded as of increased importance, and their value has been especially recognised in the

proper training of youth, for whose particular benefit they now receive much attention.

The starter, E Kent-Smith, had difficulties with the pistol, resulting in a dispute and a re-run in the 100 yards. W Tilney won (10.3/4 seconds). Another problem was timing, and after the second day the Mercury (17/10/81) made an appeal:

Anyone, either amateur or professional, who is inclined to cavil at the records, who possesses a good stop watch, and at the same time a knowledge of timing, would we feel sure, be welcomed by the club in their endeavour to ascertain the correct records of their races.

Alpha Combination Club also held sports that year on the flats beyond Albert Park. This was a closed meeting, the first held by the club, which had been formed "to establish a union between the young men of Durban." The half mile steeplechase was won by J Cumming, who was later 'Umpire' in the Mercury, and who played an important role in sport and athletics in Durban (Mercury 16/11/81).

Cumming and Vause, with J Tyzack, also later to play a major role in the development of athletics, were all prominent at the Natal Volunteer Sports in 1882 (Mercury 17/4/82). A month later athletics took a step forward when the Durban Alpha Athletic Club was formed "...for the purpose of promoting athletic sports, especially association football and cricket..." It was agreed to send a letter to the West End Park Improvement Committee asking for an oval (Mercury 12/5/82):

That an ash or cinder pathway be laid round the Oval for promenaders, which could well be

used by football and cricket clubs at their annual sports, so as to encourage Natal athletes to do events in time which will compare favourably with that of other places.

The Alpha Athletic Club held its first sports at West End Park later in the year, and a good crowd saw the local sprinter 'Watty' Brunton win the 100 yards in 10.1/2 seconds (Mercury 18/9/82). There was almost an athletic season, since the Wasps' Sports and the Durban Mounted Rifles also held meetings that spring (Mercury 14/8/82; 4/9/82; 11/9/82). Wasps held their sports on their own ground, Mansfield Park, and again attracted the elite of Durban society. Cumming was secretary and improvements in the arrangements were marked distances and lane ropes. Brunton won the 100, while Cumming not only won the triple jump (41ft. 9ins.) but was also Victor Ludorum. There were good prizes donated by Greenacre, the local merchant and mayor. The Point Sports had been held earlier in the year on Whit Monday, but they consisted mainly of novelty events (Mercury 30/5/82).

The Mercury greeted 1883 in an optimistic mood, and commenting on the growing popularity of athletics announced that a cinder path had been completed around the recreation grounds of Mr Stone at Umgeni. It was five laps to the mile with a 120 yards clear straight, twelve feet wide laid with fine cinder - "...the first in the Colony, we believe." (Mercury 6/1/83). The Mercury felt, however, that the intense heat of summer would prevent athletics becoming an all-year-round sport. The Wasps responded to this development by calling a Special General Meeting "to consider the best means for laying the proposed cinder path." It was decided to build a 120 yards straight, and the whole oval would cost less than twenty pounds (Mercury 16/1/85). A "Cinder Path Committee" was formed, consisting of J Cumming, R Vause, H Cook, W Brunton and R Currie. The proposals to buy a shot, a throwing hammer and to build a pavilion were dropped.

The series of developments that led to the formation of the Durban Athletic Club in 1895 are involved and complicated. Unlike Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and, to some extent, Pietermaritzburg, where clubs were formed early on and struggled to promote athletics, in Durban the club evolved from general sports organisations and other bodies that often had overlapping functions. Prominent people belonged to several organisations at the same time and some of them followed through to the final formation of the club.

Soccer had a positive effect on athletic development. Cumming (referred to at different times as Jim, Jack and Jock) became secretary of the Natal Football Association in 1883, with Vause chairman. Greenacre was president of the Durban Alpha Athletic Club, of which Vause and Brunton were members. Cumming, Vause, and Brunton were members of the Wasps Football Club. At the Wasps Annual General Meeting in 1883 it was announced that the club had laid a cinder path and would hold regular sports. It was also decided not to change the name of the club (Mercury 7/3/83). The Wasps held sports on their new track to mark the opening of the football season (soccer) in April. They were announced as being open to all bona fide amateurs who were members of any football, cricket or other athletic club (Mercury 19/3/83). Bunting, decorations and the band of the Inniskilling Dragoons made it a festive occasion. Brunton won the 100 yards, and Cumming landed 17ft. 4ins. "from the garter" to win the long jump. Sir Theo Shepstone presented the prizes and said:

Sports of this kind have a great deal to do with the national character; they trained men to take beatings properly, and not to be too saucy if they won, for they must not forget that the winner today might be the loser tomorrow.

He also appealed for races for younger boys (Mercury 10/4/83). Commenting on the sports, Cumming criticised Vause for not competing, and wanted to know where the Alpha AC and Umgeni men were. He also doubted Brunton's time of 10.1/5 seconds, saying W P Phillips ran this time at the English Championships (AAA Champion 1880/81/82) and Brunton was not capable of that speed. Cumming also said that 'Maritzburg was keen to meet Durban in athletics and suggested "...we should like to see athletic sports, City vs Durban, held this winter." Cumming was writing as 'Umpire' (Mercury 13/4/83).

At a Wasps general meeting in July, the amateur question was raised again and the following rule was passed (Mercury 24/7/83):

Members of football and other athletic clubs within the colony who are considered not strictly amateur will be considered amateurs at this meeting.

It would appear that they were in danger of eliminating some of their own members and some of the best athletes from their sports. The Wasps held sports again at the close of the soccer season, and they were announced as an event that would "...eclipse anything of the sort ever held in South Africa." (Mercury 10/8/83). This was either wishful thinking or reveals ignorance of sports meetings in Port Elizabeth, Queenstown and Kimberley. There was a build-up to the sports in the Mercury and 'Umpire' wrote an article on training, sprinting and starting (Mercury 21//8/83). Just before the meeting there was a long preview exhorting people to attend and participate (Mercury 1/9/83). The sports were held over two days and the Wasps ground was 'en fête', but the second day was spoiled a little by rain and the non-appearance of George Farrar, the Eastern Cape miler, who had been invited. The clash between the 'Maritzburg sprinter,



G Lamond, and the Durban champion, 'Watty' Brunton, aroused great interest. Brunton won both the 100 (10.4/5) and the 220 (24.1/2). According to the Mercury this was the largest meeting held in Natal up to that time (Mercury 11/9/83). After the meeting the Mercury carried a long review in which all the English amateur records were quoted (15/9/83).

Interest in athletics was obviously growing in Durban, and several other successful sports meetings were held that year. In Pinetown the Inniskilling Dragoons had a meeting in February and announced athletic events would be held every first and third Tuesday of the month (Mercury 2/3/83). On Tuesday 13 March a new event was introduced to Natal, a "High Jump with a Pole". It was won by Private Thomson at 7ft. 3ins. (Mercury 19/3/83). The Volunteer Regiments also held sports at Pinetown, and some familiar names were present. Orderly-Sergeant Cumming won the 440 yards and long jump, and Sergeant Vause was a steward. The Point Sports were held again, on the sand behind Water Police Station on the Queen's Birthday. None of the well-known athletes competed as they were all playing football. Money prizes were given. The sports were combined with a regatta and a large crowd attended (Mercury 26/5/83). The year closed with Durban Alpha AC sports in October. Rain forced a postponement of many events, but not before Lamond caused a sensation by running the 100 yards in 10 seconds. The Mercury commented, however, that he "was on his journey two yards before the pistol fired," and gave a review of starting technique (Mercury 26/10/83). Controversy arose when Alpha announced that at the continuation of the sports the following Saturday a Natal 100 yards championship would be held. The Mercury protested (26/10/83), there was a letter of protest from an Oxford University athletic club member (Mercury 27/10/83) and in the end the event was not held since Simpson, who had won at Pinetown, and Brunton declined to run. Despite the rain on the first day a pole vault event went ahead, "a new sport for Durban". F W Brooke, described as "evidently an old hand", won

with 8ft. 3ins.

The Alpha Club's move to present a championship event had repercussions that precipitated moves to form a controlling body. In early October 1883 'Umpire' had said that there was a need for an Athletic Association similar to the Football Association. He thought football should be restricted to the period from April to August, and athletics could have a season from September to November. The association should control the dates of fixtures to prevent clashes, determine eligibility, approve records, and hold championships (Mercury 5/10/83). 'Umpire' - Cumming - also recommended an Athletic Association at the Annual General Meeting of the Wasps Club (Mercury 19/10/83), and followed this up with a supporting article as 'Umpire' (Mercury 27/10/83) at the time of the Alpha championship controversy. It is in fact possible that Alpha conceived the idea of the championship after Cumming's remarks at the Wasp's Annual General Meeting.

Right at the end of 1883 a pedestrian event took place at Wasps. Crosby and Johnstone met over a mile, with the odds 10 to 7 against Johnstone. Crosby won, and the lap times were recorded and reported: 1:11, 2:28, 3:34, 5:17 (Mercury 26/11/83).

Cumming continued to play a leading role in 1884. Probably influenced by a report on Scottish Sports in Port Elizabeth in October 1883, he persuaded the Caledonian Society to hold Scottish Sports in Durban (Mercury 6/2/84). These came off in June at the Wasps' ground in conjunction with Race Week, which meant they were delayed, allowing Pietermaritzburg to hold Scottish Sports first (Mercury 3/6/84). Cumming was also irritated by the report on the Port Elizabeth Scottish Sports, which claimed (Mercury 1/10/83):

These sports appear to be growing more popular...and Port Elizabeth is becoming the chief place for them in the Colony.

'Umpire' commented (Mercury 1/10/83): "This may be the case, but...the quality of the athletes is not first class."

Cumming wanted the athletics in Durban to be the best in South Africa, and worked for that end. He edited a booklet, The Athletic Annual, and at the Wasps' Annual General Meeting suggested the award of a medal for a 5 miles cross country - "something after the idea of the cross country races in England." (Mercury 1/3/84). The first race, however, was a fiasco and the idea was dropped (Mercury 29/3/84). One suspects that Cumming was also behind the move to change the Wasps Sports into a meeting organised by combined Durban Association Football Clubs. He chaired a meeting, attended by representatives from Wasps, Queens Park, Point, Alpha, Victoria and Star clubs, which decided to hold combined sports over five Saturdays (Mercury 2/8/84).

The first Combined Football Clubs Sports were held on 27 September 1884, and unfortunately "threatening weather" kept the public away, so many missed the great G W Rolland win a 455 yards race (440 yards incorrectly measured) in a very fast 55.2/5 seconds (Mercury 30/9/84).

Superb weather brought out a big crowd for the second day, 4 October, at which it was advertised (Mercury 14/8/84) that there would be a Natal 100 yards Championship, no doubt the idea of Cumming. Four runners lined up between the strings, including Rolland and 'Watty' Brunton. Rolland's winning time of 9.9/10 seconds caused much comment (Mercury 6/10/84). 'Ped', in a letter to the Mercury, said a fund should be started to send Rolland to England, while another letter said Rolland's time was impossible, and the latest watches in London only timed to half a second (Mercury 9/10/84). 'Umpire' said the timekeeper had been talking (Mercury 13/10/84) but 'EP', the timekeeper replied, that he had

not been talking and had started the watch (only one) on the flash of the gun (Mercury 15/10/84). Rolland reportedly received "the best prize that has been awarded at any previous competition in the Colony." (Mercury 27/10/84).

Rolland and Brunton, learning that Simpson was claiming he was the 'champion' since he had won the championship race in 'Maritzburg on 13 September, challenged him. The negotiations that resulted in the first official Natal 100 yards Championship were continued by Cumming, who proposed that a cup should be bought by public subscription and the event should be run alternately in Durban and 'Maritzburg (Mercury 18/2/85). 'Maritzburg agreed to the proposal, and the event was held in that city on 19 September, won by Rolland (see previous Chapter). This first official championship event was under the auspices of a newly-formed Natal AAA. In July 1885, 'A lover of athletics' wrote to the Mercury; following up the suggestions put forward by Cumming (Mercury 16/7/85):

A short time ago the hon. sec. of the Natal Football Association issued circulars to the captains of the various athletic clubs requesting them to furnish their opinions as regards the forming of an athletic association.

He pointed out that nothing had happened and proposed: "I therefore beg to...request their attendance at a general meeting within a fortnight."

The meeting was held in August, and decided to hold the championship (Mercury 11/8/85). This led to another meeting at which the Natal AAA was formed (see previous Chapter).

In 1885 the Durban Alpha Club had collapsed, and the Wasps held

sports in September, so it seemed that the idea of Combined Football Club Sports had also been abandoned. Ted Smith won the Millar Cup, presented for the Durban 100 yards championship, and Rolland said he was too ill to run. He was well enough, however, to tie in the high jump with a leap of 5ft. 6ins. (Mercury 14/9/85; 28/9/85). Cumming's idea that the Natal AAA should prevent a clash of fixtures was substantiated by the Wasps meeting clashing with sports in 'Maritzburg. At the prize-giving after the Wasps Sports, B W Greenacre, owner of the famous department store and a prominent athletic official, appealed to the mayor to support a scheme to have an oval built for athletics at West End Park. The mayor, who was present, promised to do his best (Mercury 4/11/85), but the Parks Trust Committee refused the request on the grounds that too many trees would have to be felled (Mercury 14/11/85; 18/11/85). The Council decided to consider other sites, but the athletic lobby went back to the Parks Trust, sent a deputation to the Council, and in January 1886 it was decided to allocate part of Albert Park for use by athletic clubs. An "Oval Committee" was charged with submitting regulations for use to the Council for approval (Mercury 25/1/86).

It would seem that at the start of 1886 Durban was in a position to challenge and surpass 'Maritzburg as the athletic centre of Natal, but circumstances changed and athletics in Durban virtually collapsed. At the Wasps Annual General Meeting the only mention of athletics was that a loss of seventeen shillings and six pence had been incurred on the 1885 sports (Mercury 23/3/86), and in August Wasps announced that the annual sports might not be held. The culprit was gold. Men were flocking to the Witwatersrand goldfields, and although there was the problem of an end of season cup-tie, the Mercury said about the cancellation (14/11/86): "...for various reasons, not the least powerful of which is the growing exodus up-country."



The Caledonian Society was also affected, and no Scottish Sports were arranged (Mercury 15/9/86). Not all the athletes, of course, left Durban, and a letter from 'Aspiring Athletes' read (Mercury 5/10/86):

What has come over the athletic spirit of Durban that an institution established seven years ago is allowed to lapse and sink into oblivion.

The writers felt that the exodus had not hit Wasps that badly, but it had, and the following year the Wasps could not even raise a football team (Mercury 8/3/87).

The Oval Committee continued with its efforts and in 1886 announced that "a sprinting path from 120 yards to 150 yards long, as well as a cinder track round the oval" would be built (Mercury 14/4/86). The committee intended making a report to a meeting of athletes at the Prince of Wales Hotel in March 1887, but the secretary had joined the exodus to the goldfields, so there was no report available. It was announced that the Council would operate the Oval (Mercury 9/3/87). Dan Taylor led a delegation that met with the Parks Committee and visited the site. It was learned that no gate money could be charged as the Park was public property (Mercury 18/3/87), so subscription lists were circulated in town (21.3.87), and the first sports, organised by the Durban District Football Association, were held on 2 April. All the stalwarts were there as officials, including Cumming, Millar, Greenacre, Taylor and Tyzack, and over two thousand spectators turned up. Ted Smith was meeting secretary, and also won the Durban 100 yards Championship (Millar Cup) in 10.2/5 seconds (Mercury 4/4/87). Athletics in Durban was back on its feet.

After the meeting there were immediate attempts to match Smith



with Brunton, but 'Watty' had boils and was about to leave for the goldfields.

An attempt was made to revive Wasps in 1888, and Cumming chaired a meeting attended by ten members (Mercury 21/1/88). The attempt was not successful. Victoria Athletic Club, a football club, captained by Tyzack, took over the Wasps ground and the combined football clubs organised the sports. Ted Smith won the Natal 100 yards championship (10.1/2 seconds) and leaped a fine 48ft in the triple jump (Mercury 16/4/88). This event was rarely contested in the nineteenth century, and it appeared only in the English AAA Championships in 1914. Quercetani (1964, p. 259) notes that John Daly Ireland, reached 45ft. 4ins. in 1873, so Smith's effort compared favourably with the best in the world at the time.

There was agitation for a pavilion to be built at the track, especially since many of the spectators were female, and in August it was announced that the Oval Committee were drawing up rules and regulations for the use of a new pavilion (Mercury 31/8/88). It was filled at the 1889 Spring Meeting (Mercury 9/9/89). Both the Autumn and Spring Meetings organised by the Combined Football Clubs were successful and, of the former, the Mercury said it was attended by "the whole of Durban and its wife and family." (15/4/89). The centre of interest was Tom McCrystal, a sprinter from Howick, who had swept the boards at 'Maritzburg (Witness 3/9/88). McCrystal trained for six weeks and did not disappoint, beating Ted Smith in 10.3/5 seconds. The event was followed by a series of challenge races between McCrystal, Smith and Brunton that caught the public imagination. Brunton and Smith trained carefully for the first race, at Pietermaritzburg in July, and there was heavy betting. McCrystal won, but reportedly had a 'flier' (beat the gun) at the start (Mercury 4/7/89).

In the second race Brunton and McCrystal tied, but the Durban man

won the re-run by two yards in 10.1/4 seconds, much to the delight of his Durban supporters when the result was announced at a football match at the Albert Park Oval - they cheered loudly (Mercury 8/7/89). (See Chapter Three.)

During the 'eighties' there were few athletic events other than the sports arranged by the Wasps and the combined football clubs. The Volunteers were active, and the Durban Mounted Rifles held annual sports from 1882 onwards. It was soccer, however, that kept athletics going, a fact confirmed by Tyzack at the Victoria Athletic Club annual dinner when talking about the Natal Football Association:

...the Association had been the means of organising regular athletic sports, thus doing good to the youth of the town. (Mercury 27/8/88).

The formation of a Bicycle Club in Durban towards the end of 1889 and the success of the Durban cyclist Joe Worman at Port Elizabeth (Mercury 15/10/89) encouraged local Durban sportsmen to work towards obtaining a proper track. Writing in the Mercury 24/7/90), 'Umpire' drew attention to the poor facilities in Durban for cycling and athletics and praised the 'Maritzburg Athletic Club for developing a track at the Agricultural Show Grounds. 'Umpire' said a track should be constructed on the vlei (marshy area) near the old Wasps ground, and this was the beginning of a campaign which eventually led to the building of Lords, a ground that has played a colourful role in South African athletic history.

The track at Albert Park was upgraded in 1890 under Cumming's supervision ('Umpire') and re-opened in September with a meeting attended by nearly three thousand people. A star attraction was Charlie Vintcent, the Johannesburg sprinter, who was with a

visiting football team. He was heavily handicapped and gained a 2nd and a 3rd place (Mercury 8/9/90). On the second day a Kafir Race was included, the first one reported in Durban. The sports committee was Taylor (chair), Brunton (secretary), Greenacre, Shepstone, Cumming and Tyzack.

Cumming, however, was still concerned about the lack of a permanent ground, and said cycling would never thrive until there was a proper track (Mercury 22/11/90). Cumming was convinced that the first step was the formation of an athletic club, and a letter forwarded to him by the Durban Post Office spurred him into action. The letter was from Johannesburg Amateur Bicycling Club and addressed to "The Secretary, Durban Athletic Club", and the Post Office "knowing that Durban did not possess such a desirable institution as an athletic club", passed it on to 'Umpire' (Mercury 27/11/90). 'Umpire' raised the need for a club in his comment on the 'Maritzburg Sports (Mercury 4/12/90). He stressed the need for healthy rivalry between Durban and 'Maritzburg but pointed out that the capital city had the advantage of an athletic club. "We shouldn't be behind them in this respect and should equalise matters as quickly as possible." The Mercury also published a letter from 'Unity is Strength', supporting the idea of an athletic club and suggesting that all sports bodies should combine to attain a private ground with social facilities (Mercury 4/12/90). 'Umpire' reported that he had received many letters in support of forming an athletic club, and most approved of the idea of establishing something like Wanderers in Johannesburg (Mercury 17/12/90). A meeting of the secretaries of all Durban sports clubs was held at Princess Cafe on 23 December and although fears were expressed that the Council would feel that the moves were in opposition to the Albert Park Oval, an organisation was formed, the Durban Amateur Athletic Association (Mercury 1/1/91). Greenacre was then mayor, and he chaired a meeting of the DAAA in March attended by over forty delegates, and after an address by Dr Campbell on the value of

athletics (sports) to develop Natal boys, whom he said lacked the physical development of English public schoolboys, all agreed to support the new association (Mercury 7/3/91). Greenacre's participation allayed fears about opposition from the Council.

The DAAA arranged successful sports in April, although 'Umpire' criticised the low number of entries (Mercury 16/4/91). Ted Smith won the Natal 100 yards from Private Moore, 'Maritzburg'. Smith had a fine sprinting record and had been secretary of several sports meetings. It was a sad blow to Natal athletics when he died in Zululand in December 1892 at the young age of twenty six (Mercury 8/12/92). The second DAAA sports in 1891 were marked by controversy. The Durban Cycling Club, which had been gaining in strength, threatened to boycott the sports unless they were allowed to take them over, 'Umpire' opposed this move (Mercury 2/7/91):

The 'Sports Committee' is a body, representative of athletes and influential men of the town, formed to manage and obtain subscriptions for the various athletic meetings.

The cyclists were unsuccessful and the DAAA went ahead. Meanwhile, the DAAA delegates had met with the Town Lands Committee, and although the area suggested by 'Umpire' at the foot of Berea was not granted, the Council offered a site near the railway station at ten pounds a year for twenty-one years (Mercury 29/5/91).

The letter from Herschenson in 1892 (see previous Chapter) stimulated discussion in Durban about the need for a club and a ground (Mercury 16/2/92). 'Umpire' accused the Durban Council of stringing the DAAA along "from pillar to post". The cyclists also began agitating for the same piece of ground as the athletes (Mercury 26/6/92).

In 1893 'Umpire' continued to urge clubs to unite and obtain a sports ground, as six football clubs at the Oval were too many (Mercury 20/10/93). The exhortations were successful and in December it was announced that delegates appointed by the Council and the DAAA would meet to discuss the proposed ground and lay their proposals before the Council (Mercury 14/12/93).

Once again, however, there was a delay, which the Mercury queried, asking why nothing had been heard from the committee (Mercury 19/4/94). Greenacre called a general meeting of athletes in May 1894, attended by about fifty men, and said that although the association had been unsuccessful in the past, he felt that they would now succeed. A Thiselton, secretary and convener of the first meeting of the DAAA in 1890, outlined what had happened since that time. A committee was appointed to expedite matters and Thiselton sent a letter to the Council stating the objects of the association (Mercury 12/5/94; 1/6/94). Although Cumming had retired as 'Umpire' in January that year (Mercury 18/1/94) the Mercury still strongly supported the DAAA and its leading article to the issue on 19 June, pointing out that the Council should not oppose the construction of a private ground as it was needed:

All communities nowadays that are in the least degree in sympathy with the spirit of the age give all the encouragement they can to those sports which so materially assist towards the attainment of manliness, healthfulness, and good-fellowship, united with moderation of the appetites.

... nothing conduces more directly to morality than participation in the class of sport to which we refer.



'Umpire' commented (Mercury 1/10/83): "This may be the case, but...the quality of the athletes is not first class."

Cumming wanted the athletics in Durban to be the best in South Africa, and worked for that end. He edited a booklet, The Athletic Annual, and at the Wasps' Annual General Meeting suggested the award of a medal for a 5 miles cross country - "something after the idea of the cross country races in England." (Mercury 1/3/84). The first race, however, was a fiasco and the idea was dropped (Mercury 29/3/84). One suspects that Cumming was also behind the move to change the Wasps Sports into a meeting organised by combined Durban Association Football Clubs. He chaired a meeting, attended by representatives from Wasps, Queens Park, Point, Alpha, Victoria and Star clubs, which decided to hold combined sports over five Saturdays (Mercury 2/8/84).

The first Combined Football Clubs Sports were held on 27 September 1884, and unfortunately "threatening weather" kept the public away, so many missed the great G W Rolland win a 455 yards race (440 yards incorrectly measured) in a very fast 55.2/5 seconds (Mercury 30/9/84).

Superb weather brought out a big crowd for the second day, 4 October, at which it was advertised (Mercury 14/8/84) that there would be a Natal 100 yards Championship, no doubt the idea of Cumming. Four runners lined up between the strings, including Rolland and 'Watty' Brunton. Rolland's winning time of 9.9/10 seconds caused much comment (Mercury 6/10/84). 'Ped', in a letter to the Mercury, said a fund should be started to send Rolland to England, while another letter said Rolland's time was impossible, and the latest watches in London only timed to half a second (Mercury 9/10/84). 'Umpire' said the timekeeper had been talking (Mercury 13/10/84) but 'EP', the timekeeper replied, that he had



not been talking and had started the watch (only one) on the flash of the gun (Mercury 15/10/84). Rolland reportedly received "the best prize that has been awarded at any previous competition in the Colony." (Mercury 27/10/84).

Rolland and Brunton, learning that Simpson was claiming he was the 'champion' since he had won the championship race in 'Maritzburg on 13 September, challenged him. The negotiations that resulted in the first official Natal 100 yards Championship were continued by Cumming, who proposed that a cup should be bought by public subscription and the event should be run alternately in Durban and 'Maritzburg (Mercury 18/2/85). 'Maritzburg agreed to the proposal, and the event was held in that city on 19 September, won by Rolland (see previous Chapter). This first official championship event was under the auspices of a newly-formed Natal AAA. In July 1885, 'A lover of athletics' wrote to the Mercury, following up the suggestions put forward by Cumming (Mercury 16/7/85):

A short time ago the hon. sec. of the Natal Football Association issued circulars to the captains of the various athletic clubs requesting them to furnish their opinions as regards the forming of an athletic association.

He pointed out that nothing had happened and proposed: "I therefore beg to...request their attendance at a general meeting within a fortnight."

The meeting was held in August, and decided to hold the championship (Mercury 11/8/85). This led to another meeting at which the Natal AAA was formed (see previous Chapter).

In 1885 the Durban Alpha Club had collapsed, and the Wasps held

sports in September, so it seemed that the idea of Combined Football Club Sports had also been abandoned. Ted Smith won the Millar Cup, presented for the Durban 100 yards championship, and Rolland said he was too ill to run. He was well enough, however, to tie in the high jump with a leap of 5ft. 6ins. (Mercury 14/9/85; 28/9/85). Cumming's idea that the Natal AAA should prevent a clash of fixtures was substantiated by the Wasps meeting clashing with sports in 'Maritzburg. At the prize-giving after the Wasps Sports, B W Greenacre, owner of the famous department store and a prominent athletic official, appealed to the mayor to support a scheme to have an oval built for athletics at West End Park. The mayor, who was present, promised to do his best (Mercury 4/11/85), but the Parks Trust Committee refused the request on the grounds that too many trees would have to be felled (Mercury 14/11/85; 18/11/85). The Council decided to consider other sites, but the athletic lobby went back to the Parks Trust, sent a deputation to the Council, and in January 1886 it was decided to allocate part of Albert Park for use by athletic clubs. An "Oval Committee" was charged with submitting regulations for use to the Council for approval (Mercury 25/1/86).

It would seem that at the start of 1886 Durban was in a position to challenge and surpass 'Maritzburg as the athletic centre of Natal, but circumstances changed and athletics in Durban virtually collapsed. At the Wasps Annual General Meeting the only mention of athletics was that a loss of seventeen shillings and six pence had been incurred on the 1885 sports (Mercury 23/3/86), and in August Wasps announced that the annual sports might not be held. The culprit was gold. Men were flocking to the Witwatersrand goldfields, and although there was the problem of an end of season cup-tie, the Mercury said about the cancellation (14/11/86): "...for various reasons, not the least powerful of which is the growing exodus up-country."

The Caledonian Society was also affected, and no Scottish Sports were arranged (Mercury 15/9/86). Not all the athletes, of course, left Durban, and a letter from 'Aspiring Athletes' read (Mercury 5/10/86):

What has come over the athletic spirit of Durban that an institution established seven years ago is allowed to lapse and sink into oblivion.

The writers felt that the exodus had not hit Wasps that badly, but it had, and the following year the Wasps could not even raise a football team (Mercury 8/3/87).

The Oval Committee continued with its efforts and in 1886 announced that "a sprinting path from 120 yards to 150 yards long, as well as a cinder track round the oval" would be built (Mercury 14/4/86). The committee intended making a report to a meeting of athletes at the Prince of Wales Hotel in March 1887, but the secretary had joined the exodus to the goldfields, so there was no report available. It was announced that the Council would operate the Oval (Mercury 9/3/87). Dan Taylor led a delegation that met with the Parks Committee and visited the site. It was learned that no gate money could be charged as the Park was public property (Mercury 18/3/87), so subscription lists were circulated in town (21.3.87), and the first sports, organised by the Durban District Football Association, were held on 2 April. All the stalwarts were there as officials, including Cumming, Millar, Greenacre, Taylor and Tyzack, and over two thousand spectators turned up. Ted Smith was meeting secretary, and also won the Durban 100 yards Championship (Millar Cup) in 10.2/5 seconds (Mercury 4/4/87). Athletics in Durban was back on its feet.

After the meeting there were immediate attempts to match Smith

with Brunton, but 'Watty' had boils and was about to leave for the goldfields.

An attempt was made to revive Wasps in 1888, and Cumming chaired a meeting attended by ten members (Mercury 21/1/88). The attempt was not successful. Victoria Athletic Club, a football club, captained by Tyzack, took over the Wasps ground and the combined football clubs organised the sports. Ted Smith won the Natal 100 yards championship (10.1/2 seconds) and leaped a fine 48ft in the triple jump (Mercury 16/4/88). This event was rarely contested in the nineteenth century, and it appeared only in the English AAA Championships in 1914. Quercetani (1964, p. 259) notes that John Daly Ireland, reached 45ft. 4ins. in 1873, so Smith's effort compared favourably with the best in the world at the time.

There was agitation for a pavilion to be built at the track, especially since many of the spectators were female, and in August it was announced that the Oval Committee were drawing up rules and regulations for the use of a new pavilion (Mercury 31/8/88). It was filled at the 1889 Spring Meeting (Mercury 9/9/89). Both the Autumn and Spring Meetings organised by the Combined Football Clubs were successful and, of the former, the Mercury said it was attended by "the whole of Durban and its wife and family." (15/4/89). The centre of interest was Tom McCrystal, a sprinter from Howick, who had swept the boards at 'Maritzburg (Witness 3/9/88). McCrystal trained for six weeks and did not disappoint, beating Ted Smith in 10.3/5 seconds. The event was followed by a series of challenge races between McCrystal, Smith and Brunton that caught the public imagination. Brunton and Smith trained carefully for the first race, at Pietermaritzburg in July, and there was heavy betting. McCrystal won, but reportedly had a 'flier' (beat the gun) at the start (Mercury 4/7/89).

In the second race Brunton and McCrystal tied, but the Durban man

won the re-run by two yards in 10.1/4 seconds, much to the delight of his Durban supporters when the result was announced at a football match at the Albert Park Oval - they cheered loudly (Mercury 8/7/89). (See Chapter Three.)

During the 'eighties' there were few athletic events other than the sports arranged by the Wasps and the combined football clubs. The Volunteers were active, and the Durban Mounted Rifles held annual sports from 1882 onwards. It was soccer, however, that kept athletics going, a fact confirmed by Tyzack at the Victoria Athletic Club annual dinner when talking about the Natal Football Association:

...the Association had been the means of organising regular athletic sports, thus doing good to the youth of the town. (Mercury 27/8/88).

The formation of a Bicycle Club in Durban towards the end of 1889 and the success of the Durban cyclist Joe Worman at Port Elizabeth (Mercury 15/10/89) encouraged local Durban sportsmen to work towards obtaining a proper track. Writing in the Mercury 24/7/90), 'Umpire' drew attention to the poor facilities in Durban for cycling and athletics and praised the 'Maritzburg Athletic Club for developing a track at the Agricultural Show Grounds. 'Umpire' said a track should be constructed on the vlei (marshy area) near the old Wasps ground, and this was the beginning of a campaign which eventually led to the building of Lords, a ground that has played a colourful role in South African athletic history.

The track at Albert Park was upgraded in 1890 under Cumming's supervision ('Umpire') and re-opened in September with a meeting attended by nearly three thousand people. A star attraction was Charlie Vintcent, the Johannesburg sprinter, who was with a



visiting football team. He was heavily handicapped and gained a 2nd and a 3rd place (Mercury 8/9/90). On the second day a Kafir Race was included, the first one reported in Durban. The sports committee was Taylor (chair), Brunton (secretary), Greenacre, Shepstone, Cumming and Tyzack.

Cumming, however, was still concerned about the lack of a permanent ground, and said cycling would never thrive until there was a proper track (Mercury 22/11/90). Cumming was convinced that the first step was the formation of an athletic club, and a letter forwarded to him by the Durban Post Office spurred him into action. The letter was from Johannesburg Amateur Bicycling Club and addressed to "The Secretary, Durban Athletic Club", and the Post Office "knowing that Durban did not possess such a desirable institution as an athletic club", passed it on to 'Umpire' (Mercury 27/11/90). 'Umpire' raised the need for a club in his comment on the 'Maritzburg Sports (Mercury 4/12/90). He stressed the need for healthy rivalry between Durban and 'Maritzburg but pointed out that the capital city had the advantage of an athletic club. "We shouldn't be behind them in this respect and should equalise matters as quickly as possible." The Mercury also published a letter from 'Unity is Strength', supporting the idea of an athletic club and suggesting that all sports bodies should combine to attain a private ground with social facilities (Mercury 4/12/90). 'Umpire' reported that he had received many letters in support of forming an athletic club, and most approved of the idea of establishing something like Wanderers in Johannesburg (Mercury 17/12/90). A meeting of the secretaries of all Durban sports clubs was held at Princess Cafe on 23 December and although fears were expressed that the Council would feel that the moves were in opposition to the Albert Park Oval, an organisation was formed, the Durban Amateur Athletic Association (Mercury 1/1/91). Greenacre was then mayor, and he chaired a meeting of the DAAA in March attended by over forty delegates, and after an address by Dr Campbell on the value of



athletics (sports) to develop Natal boys, whom he said lacked the physical development of English public schoolboys, all agreed to support the new association (Mercury 7/3/91). Greenacre's participation allayed fears about opposition from the Council.

The DAAA arranged successful sports in April, although 'Umpire' criticised the low number of entries (Mercury 16/4/91). Ted Smith won the Natal 100 yards from Private Moore, 'Maritzburg. Smith had a fine sprinting record and had been secretary of several sports meetings. It was a sad blow to Natal athletics when he died in Zululand in December 1892 at the young age of twenty six (Mercury 8/12/92). The second DAAA sports in 1891 were marked by controversy. The Durban Cycling Club, which had been gaining in strength, threatened to boycott the sports unless they were allowed to take them over, 'Umpire' opposed this move (Mercury 2/7/91):

The 'Sports Committee' is a body, representative of athletes and influential men of the town, formed to manage and obtain subscriptions for the various athletic meetings.

The cyclists were unsuccessful and the DAAA went ahead. Meawhile, the DAAA delegates had met with the Town Lands Committee, and although the area suggested by 'Umpire' at the foot of Berea was not granted, the Council offered a site near the railway station at ten pounds a year for twenty-one years (Mercury 29/5/91).

The letter from Herschensonn in 1892 (see previous Chapter) stimulated discussion in Durban about the need for a club and a ground (Mercury 16/2/92). 'Umpire' accused the Durban Council of stringing the DAAA along "from pillar to post". The cyclists also began agitating for the same piece of ground as the athletes (Mercury 26/6/92).

In 1893 'Umpire' continued to urge clubs to unite and obtain a sports ground, as six football clubs at the Oval were too many (Mercury 20/10/93). The exhortations were successful and in December it was announced that delegates appointed by the Council and the DAAA would meet to discuss the proposed ground and lay their proposals before the Council (Mercury 14/12/93).

Once again, however, there was a delay, which the Mercury queried, asking why nothing had been heard from the committee (Mercury 19/4/94). Greenacre called a general meeting of athletes in May 1894, attended by about fifty men, and said that although the association had been unsuccessful in the past, he felt that they would now succeed. A Thiselton, secretary and convener of the first meeting of the DAAA in 1890, outlined what had happened since that time. A committee was appointed to expedite matters and Thiselton sent a letter to the Council stating the objects of the association (Mercury 12/5/94; 1/6/94). Although Cumming had retired as 'Umpire' in January that year (Mercury 18/1/94) the Mercury still strongly supported the DAAA and its leading article to the issue on 19 June, pointing out that the Council should not oppose the construction of a private ground as it was needed:

All communities nowadays that are in the least degree in sympathy with the spirit of the age give all the encouragement they can to those sports which so materially assist towards the attainment of manliness, healthfulness, and good-fellowship, united with moderation of the appetites.

... nothing conduces more directly to morality than participation in the class of sport to which we refer.

The narrow-minded prejudices of the Calvinists fortunately do not exist here...

At present the town is debarred from forming one of the athletic centres at which annual meetings are held for various South African championships on account of the difficulty connected with the collection of 'gate-money', which can only be dealt with by the securing of grounds which can be fenced in.

Letters were received supporting the editorial (Mercury 25/6/94) and the cyclists also weighed in (Mercury 3/7/94):

Certain portions of the general public have the idea that our club has attempted to 'do' them by making an optional charge for admission to the Oval on the occasion of recent sports.

Had it not been for the Cycling Club, for the past two years no athletic gathering worthy of the name, would have been held in the park at all.

So until the athletes of Durban have a ground of their own, where they can legally charge gate-money, sports or athletic meetings will be conspicuous by their absence.

These remarks from Alfred E Fysh, captain of the Cycling Club, were not entirely correct. Although it was true that the public were attracted by the novelty of cycle racing, the sports were organised either by the DAAA or by the Foresters. The letter, however, had made valid points.

At a meeting on 19 July 1894 full details were given about the cost of the proposed ground, how it would be funded and the restructuring of the DAAA to accommodate changes in the membership and management. It is interesting to note that the holding of athletic meetings was a prime objective. The clubs involved were football, cricket, cycling and gymnastics. No independent athletic club had yet been formed (Mercury 20/7/94). Soon after that meeting it was also agreed to include the Agricultural Show Society in the association (Mercury 31/8/94). It seemed that 'Umpire's' dreams would be realised. It was not to be. On 15 November the Mercury reported:

It is generally known by now that the proposition of the Town Council to hand over the piece of ground at the foot of the Park to the Athletic Association has received the death blow.

All was not lost, however, as the Mercury intimated: "War Department Lands are now a possibility."

The possibility became a reality and in 1895 the DAAA began to sell debentures (Mercury 28/2/95). Thiselton, still secretary, complained that nobody was buying them, and he sent a circular to all the clubs appealing for support (Mercury 28/2/95). Construction of the ground at the site off the Umgeni Road went ahead, however (Mercury 25/4/94). In May Thiselton reported that one person only had bought two one pound debentures (Mercury 10/5/95). 'Umpire', now A E M Rolland, lambasted the reluctant subscribers, saying it was "base ingratitude" and that there were fully three hundred young men in Durban who should be subscribing (Mercury 10/5/95). 'Umpire' also queried the arrangements with the Agricultural Society and recommended the appointment of a trustee for the association (Mercury 7/6/95).

'Athlete' wrote a letter to the Mercury criticising the construction of the track, claiming that the wrong material was being used. He also made the suggestion that the athletic and cycling tracks should be separate (Mercury 8/6/95). 'Umpire' investigated this criticism and reported that Thiselton had appealed for advice three months earlier and seven people had replied. 'Athlete' should have made his suggestions then. 'Umpire' said the criticism of the construction was invalid and gave a point-by-point rebuttal (Mercury 14/6/95). The recommendations of an 'Expert' in February had been (Mercury 28/2/95): "a base of 3 to 4 inches of rotten stonebinding, topped by 2 inches of sifted cinders, with a binding of tarred stone dust or tarred Sydenham grit." 'Athlete' replied that the new track would be suitable for cycling but not for athletics and his points appeared to be valid (Mercury 20/6/95).

A large crowd gathered at the Princess Café on 3 October to confirm the agreement with the Agricultural Society, and the history of development was given (Mercury 5/10/95). A full meeting of the DAAA a month later also heard the full history of the negotiations and details of the agreements. Greenacre, in the chair, reported that the annual recital would be two hundred and seventy pounds and the Agricultural Society would be entitled to use the ground 21 days a year. Clubs represented at the meeting were:

Natal Football Association: Durban District.  
 Durban Pirates Gymnastic Club  
 Wanderers Cricket Club  
 Zingari Cricket Club  
 Durban Cricket Club  
 Queen's Park Cricket Club (Mercury 5/11/95).

The DAAA decided to affiliate to the SAAAA and advertise for a

secretary (Mercury 9/11/95). The ground was opened on 21 December with a sports meeting. It was named 'Lords' by A F Evans, then secretary of the DAAA. The track was 3 laps to the mile (Mercury 29/11/95; 5/12/95; 23/12/95).

The knowledge that at long last there was a permanent athletic facility spurred the athletes into action. They had been reluctant to buy debentures but now that the track was a reality they realised that they could not rely on the DAAA and sports such as football and cricket to promote athletics indefinitely, and that an athletic club had to be formed. In the report on the S A athletic championships the Mercury had noted that Natal was the only centre (province) not represented (Mercury 28/3/95). 'Umpire' said that the Pietermaritzburg Athletic Club had affiliated to the SAAAA, and the S A Championships could be allocated to Natal (Mercury 30/5/95). Where would they be held he asked?:

Unfortunately we have no properly organised athletic club here. In view of the progress being made with the new ground, I think it is high time someone moved in the matter. It is a reproach to us that we have no athletic club at all in Durban, nor have had any sports for months.

The man who 'moved in the matter' was Ted O'Flaherty, who had performed well as a miler for many years. He convened a meeting at the Princess Café on 9 December, the notice reading (Mercury 28/11/95):

In order to enable athletes to become members of the Athletic Association, it is proposed to form an Athletic Club, to be subsequently affiliated to the Association.



This step was absolutely necessary because as explained above, there was no athletic club affiliated to the DAAA, so any athlete who wanted membership would have had to join one of the football, cricket or other clubs listed. The meeting was chaired by the ex-sprinter 'Watty' Brunton and the following committee elected:

President : J E Evans  
 Chairman : W Brunton  
 Secretary : E G O'Flaherty  
 Vice-Presidents : D Taylor, J Tyzack  
 Committee members : L V Mann, W L Luke, G Ahrenbeck

Twenty five-members joined the club (Mercury 10/12/95). The dreams of Cumming, Tyzack, Taylor and others were realised - Durban had a track and a club and immediately gained parity with other centres, actually surpassing 'Maritzburg. The 'gate-money' problem was solved and there was a venue for the S A Championships, which were granted to Durban in 1899.

The efforts to acquire a ground and establish an athletic club have been traced from 1885, when Greenacre appealed for a track in West End Park, over a period of ten years until 1895 when Lords was opened. During that time there was considerable athletic activity both on and off the track.

Arthur Hancock, the English professional walker, who had attracted only a small crowd in 'Maritzburg because of the clash with football (see previous chapter), was more fortunate in Durban. Walking at the Queen's Bridge Grounds, Umgeni, he covered just over 7 miles in the hour before a crowd estimated at more than 2000 people (Mercury 21/7/90).

The Ancient Order of Foresters was another body that organised

sports regularly and, in 1892, there were events for children in the morning and adults in the afternoon (Mercury 7/6/92). L V Mann emerged as a competent sprinter at the DAAA sports in 1892, and Mann and C M Tucker were both prominent at the Foresters' Sports and DAAA sports in 1893 (Mercury 29/5/93; 11/9/93; 18/9/93). T A Warren, another leading athlete of the period, came to the fore at the DAAA sports, 1893, winning the mile in 4:43. 'Ted' O'Flaherty, who became first secretary of the Durban AC in 1895, emerged as a miler when he beat H Miller, billed as "the crack miler of Natal" in 1890 (Witness 30/9/90) and went on to win at the Pietermaritzburg Sports in 1891 (Witness 25/4/91).

In addition to the sports in Durban and 'Maritzburg, there were occasional meetings at country towns such as Harding, Ixopo, Richmond, Howick, Ladysmith and Dundee. The last two towns were particularly active. Annual New Year's Day Sports were held at Dundee from 1896 onwards and many of the leading athletes from 'Maritzburg and Durban competed there (Mercury 3/1/94; 3/6/94).

Cumming not only used his position as 'Umpire' on the Mercury to agitate for the formation of a club and the acquisition of a ground, he also maintained public interest in athletics through his column and his articles. In August 1889 he began a weekly column on sport and often wrote about athletics. Cumming's knowledge of athletics was increased when he received the book Athletics edited by H H Griffin, with chapters written by leading experts of the day. Excerpts were published in the Mercury (4/6/91). Cumming also covered the visit of the Cathcart Athletic Club team in 1891 in detail, and tried to arrange for the team to compete in Durban (Mercury 29/5/91; 10/7/91). He gave a full report on the clash between Brown and Pitman, and the other well-known athletes, such as Rolland (Mercury 22/10/91; 26/10/91). This report also included the remarks made by H W Brown on the need for a South African Athletic Association, and set 'Umpire' off on the topic of controlling bodies. He reminded readers that

he believed he was the first to propose an S A Association (see previous chapter). Who actually first thought of the idea and put it forward as a serious proposal is difficult to determine. It was probably either Cumming or Brown, though in Kimberley an attempt had been made to form a body to keep national records as early as 1889. It was called the South African Polytechnic Athletic Club (Diamond Field Advertiser 5/6/89).

In 1890 'Umpire' received a letter from a Mr Durford of Kimberley proposing an amalgamation of the Pirates Gymnastic Club, Kimberley, and the Durban Gymnastic Club (Mercury 3/7/90). 'Umpire' used this to support the idea of national sporting associations (Mercury 3/7/90):

If agreed to it would be one more step in the consolidation of South African athleticism, the lack of unity of which has been a great fault in the past.

When Frank Terry, the Pietermaritzburg AC secretary, made his appeal for a Natal AAA at the club's Annual General Meeting in July 1891, his remarks were reported in full by the Mercury (2/7/91). 'Umpire' did not react to this. Then Terry resigned, Herschenson took over and plunged in with his rather patronising letter to Durban, which aggravated some people, and letters appeared in the press. 'Umpire', however, ignored the issue of the national association and said a Natal AAA was highly desirable. He also expressed satisfaction with the rules drawn up in 'Maritzburg' (Mercury 10/3/92). As explained in Chapter Seven, Herschenson's plan to form a national association was rejected at a meeting in 'Maritzburg' and a fourth attempt to establish a Natal AAA was made instead. There were further attempts before the association was successfully formed in 1905 with its headquarters in Durban (see previous chapter).

The DAAA affiliated to the SAAAA and their successful sports in 1896 were advertised as being run under SAAAA rules, as were the Point Sports and the Foresters' Fête Sports (Mercury 26/5/96; 27/7/96). It had been hoped to attract Johannesburg athletes to the DAAA sports, as the rail link had been completed in 1895, but the meeting clashed with sports at the Wanderers. 'Maritzburg and country athletes did not enter because, according to the Mercury, they heard the Transvaal athletes were competing (27/7/96).

Between the opening of Lords and its take-over by the Military in the Anglo-Boer War, athletics made tremendous strides in Durban. There was also much confusion and controversy. Many athletes thought they could not enter the Durban AC Sports on 25 April 1896 because they were not members of the Durban AAA, and the sports were cancelled. 'Umpire' pointed out that athletes were eligible if they belonged to any club affiliated to the Durban AAA or the SAAAA (Mercury 23/4/96). The Mercury (27/7/96) claimed that four thousand spectators attended the DAAA sports in July, although the Witness (Mercury 27/7/96) estimated two thousand. Lee Mann won the Leuchars Challenge Trophy for the Natal 100 yards' championship. Mann was prominent at the 'Maritzburg Spring Sports in 1894, the 'Maritzburg Autumn Sports in 1895 and the Foresters Sports, Durban in May 1896 (Mercury 26/5/96). The Durban AC began a club handicap series in May 1896 but did not attempt another sports meeting until 1897. The Durban Amateur Cycling Club held sports in October and included some track events. 'Umpire' was critical of the standard and wrote (Mercury 29/10/96): "Natal youths are without exception, the laziest lot of chaps I have ever come across..."

The famous Free State walker, J S Mellet, visited Durban in November but, unlike Hancock before him, attracted only a meagre crowd and had to be content with seven pounds. He walked 9 miles in 1:21:13.2/5, reported as a 'new record', and rain prevented him completing the intended 12 miles (Mercury 23/11/96).

In a letter to the Mercury (24/9/96) 'Athlete' expressed his dissatisfaction with athletics in Durban claiming that the sports meetings catered only for cyclists and sprinters. He said there should be field events "as it is not everyone that has gone dotty on bykes." (sic). There was no reaction to this letter and the criticism appears to be unjustified as a study of the results of meetings clearly shows that flat races up to a mile, hurdles, high and long jumps and throwing the hammer were regularly included. The scornful attitude towards cyclists was foolish because the public was attracted by cycling especially after the dramatic success of Laurens Meintjes in England and at the Chicago World Fair in 1893. Hoffman (in Swaffer, 1914, p. 100) confirmed this: "Cycling was now a craze; it became the great attraction at all sports meetings."

At the first Annual General Meeting of the Durban Athletic Club in December 1896 the new track at Lords was criticised because it had no spring and was banked for cycling, which confirmed the criticism by 'Athlete' in 1895 referred to earlier. Agitation by the athletes eventually led to the provision of a separate track for athletics which came into use in 1897. Another criticism concerned membership. Non-members had the same privileges as members. C Henwood, the chairman, explained that according to SAAAA rules athletes could compete at one meeting unattached, and then had to join a club, but when they had tried to enforce the rule athletes had refused to run (Mercury 12/12/96). The situation at the Durban AC sports and the complaints at the Annual General Meeting indicate that athletes were confused by all the new associations, the DAC, the DAAA and the SAAAA and the relationships between them.

The Durban AC Sports in 1897 were held on separate tracks for cycling and athletics. The crowd was reportedly the biggest so far in Durban, and for the first time a programme of events was



athletic events through the summer while cricket was being played. 'Umpire' had earlier opposed the idea as he felt there would be accidents (Mercury 3/9/97), but later the DAAA held the trial for the S A Championships in fifteen minute breaks in cricket matches (Mercury 4/12/97), at which Tucker was selected. The DAC also decided that a club handicap over 100 yards would be contested in the summer months, and Dan Taylor agreed to provide a medal for the winner (Mercury 8/10/97).

At the Annual General Meeting of the DAAA in November it was noted that the cycling track was clay and could therefore not be used in summer because of the rain (Mercury 10/11/97). At the committee meeting in December it was agreed that the cycling track had to be made all-weather so that it could be used in the summer (Mercury 4/12/97). The SAAAA proposal to send another team to England in 1898 was also discussed, and the DAAA felt it could not support the idea as the United Kingdom did not reciprocate on expenses.

1897 was a year of progress for athletics in Durban and 'Meteor', writing in the 'Maritzburg Witness, (14/7/97) acknowledged Durban's supremacy:

...and Maritzburg, which up to within recent date had the reputation of being the principal centre in the colony for athletics, is being 'left'.

The headquarters of the Natal AAA, however, remained in Pietermaritzburg. It was virtually moribund and actually consisted of George Bull acting as the regional representative of the SAAA (Witness 24/9/95; Mercury 22/10/97). Durban was busy with its own problems and Bull did not interfere when the DAAA sent Tucker to the S A Championships. For a while this 'live and let live' status quo was maintained.



The cyclists in Durban were becoming more powerful and in 1898 were involved in a head-on confrontation with John Morley and the DAAA which had far-reaching consequences and finally involved Natal with the SAAAA. When cycle racing first developed it seemed the obvious thing to add cycling events to athletic sports meetings. This also happened when motor-cycles were invented. The cyclists were at first quite happy to be included with the athletes but, as cycling became more popular and the need for separate tracks arose, cyclists formed their own clubs and began to demand a greater say in control and administration. The success of Meintjes led to the formation of a South African Cycling Union in 1893, almost a year before the SAAAA was formed (Hoffman, 1914, p. 100). The Natal cyclists formed the Natal Cyclists Union (NCU) on 1 January 1898 (Mercury 4/1/98) and immediately clashed with the DAAA, which until then had controlled cycling in Durban. The cause of the dispute was a letter to Morley from the NCU with no address, no secretary's name and little other formal information, which Morley ignored. The NCU approached the SAAAA, who involved the Natal AAA (Bull) and the argument became involved (Mercury 23/3/98; 24/3/98; 23/4/98; 9/5/98; 16/5/98). As is often the case in such matters the original dispute was forgotten as incidents and accusations occurred over the twelve months' period it lasted. At first sympathy appeared to be with the cyclists. 'Umpire' said the DAAA should meet the NCU and consider their requests (24/3/98), and the SAAAA said they would stand by their agreement with the NCU (Mercury 23/4/98). The DAAA stopped work on the permanent surface for the cycling track and it seemed that the S A Championships, scheduled for Durban in 1899, would have to be held elsewhere (Witness 4/5/98). H W Griffin assured Durban cyclists of the support of 'Maritzburg cyclists (Witness 16/3/98), and 'Umpire' said Morley was re-opening the intense rivalry between 'Maritzburg and Durban that had existed eight to ten years ago (Witness 23/3/98). The DAC Sports in June were affected by the

dispute and only novice cyclists took part (Mercury 6/6/98). The DAAA, in an effort to beat the cyclists' boycott, mounted a massive advertising campaign for their sports in July (Mercury 1/7/98); 2/7/98), but bad weather and the dispute impaired them (Mercury 11/7/98). Opinion turned against the cyclists when tacks were strewn at the exit from the DAC Sports, causing punctures in the tyres of cyclists who competed, and on the track at the DAAA Sports, causing punctures, despite the fact that the original dispute had been settled (Mercury 7/7/98). The dispute then concerned three riders whom the NCU would not re-instate because they competed during the boycott. Letters for and against the DAAA and the NCU appeared in the press and, as the DAAA gained support, there was a ground-swell of opposition to the SAAAA (Mercury 13/7/98; 21/7/98). The dispute was discussed in Transvaal newspapers since the NCU proclaimed the Transvaal cyclists who took part in the DAAA Sports. On 12 August, R H Corke, secretary of the NCU, said there would be no more cycling in Natal until the dispute was settled (Mercury 12/8/98). Some Natal cyclists challenged Corke on this issue (Mercury 13/8/98). The DAC went ahead with sports and a letter from 'Sportsman' summed up the situation: people were tired of the quarrel and it should be resolved (Mercury 13/8/98). The NCU held cycling sports at Albert Park and made a point by attracting a large crowd of over three thousand people (Mercury 12/9/98).

In the middle of the dispute a meeting was held in Durban to form a Natal AAA. It was attended by delegates from the Durban AAA, Durban AC, Foresters' Sports Committee, Caledonian Society, Umzinto AC, Dundee and Wessels Nek AC and Ladismith AC, so it was representative apart from the conspicuous absence of Pietermaritzburg. A letter convening the meeting was sent out on 15 August after a meeting of Durban clubs had decided it was necessary. It was felt that the Natal and Zululand AAA based in 'Maritzburg existed in name only, and that the SAAAA was incapable of controlling athletics throughout South Africa as

Johannesburg was too isolated. The team sent to England had proved that the SAAAA was "an association of Johannesburgers." Natal should control its own affairs (Mercury 2/9/98). One of the conveners of the meeting, W A Lawrence, had earlier written to the Mercury (13/7/98) saying a Natal AAA was necessary and that the CCAA and CU opposed the SAAAA. 'Pneumatic', writing in the Star (2/9/98; 13/9/98) thought that the move to form the Natal AAA was a DAAA backed move to gain control and confront the SAAAA over the dispute with the NCU. There was some truth in this as the DAAA had appealed to the SAAAA for support when the dispute broke out, without success (Star 19/4/98). The Witness ignored the meeting but George Bull, to his credit, wrote a letter saying he would support "anything that will establish athletics in Natal on a more stable basis" (Mercury 2/9/98). He warned against Natal alienating itself from South African athletics.

On a proposal from E W Ballantine ('Umpire') seconded by O'Flaherty, the meeting agreed to form a sub-committee to draft rules, appointing those two men and Lawrence. They did not manage to present their findings before the S A Championships were held in Durban in 1899. At the Annual General Meeting of the SAAAA held in conjunction, George Bull admitted that "an Association in Natal had never existed", but also accused the SAAAA of liaising directly with the DAAA on the S A Championships and ignoring him. Morley said that the new Natal AAA was still busy drawing up rules (Mercury 20/5/99). The sub-committee distributed its rules for a Natal AAA in June 1899 (Witness 2/6/99), but before a meeting could be called to constitute the new association, the Anglo-Boer War began and athletics was disrupted.

At the 'Maritzburg AC Annual General Meeting in September 1901 Bull announced that the formation of the Natal AAA was again being considered (Witness 9/9/01). The Durban athletes, however, had to put their own affairs straight first, and without Lords this was proving difficult. The DAAA had collapsed (Mercury

18/9/02) and the DAC was moribund. Tyzack and O'Flaherty convened a meeting to revive the DAC in October 1902 and announced that a Natal AAA would also be formed (Mercury 23/10/02). There were occasional reports that work was progressing on the Natal AAA (Mercury 24/6/03; 21/1/04) and a meeting was called in Durban in March 1904 to consider the constitution and rules (Mercury 14/3/04). According to the Mercury (29/9/05) Smithers and Griffin worked on the preparations in 1903, and then a sub-committee consisting of Taylor, Tyzack and Wallace completed the task. Natal athletics was finally placed on a firm and permanent basis in 1905 when Lords was re-opened in May and the Natal AAA was formed in Dundee on 8 November (Mercury 11/11/05).

The dispute between the DAAA and the NCU was settled in December 1898. Towards the end of the year it was apparent that both sides were at fault and that the misunderstandings had been exacerbated by the pressmen who were also athletic administrators, and by poor communications. The SAAAA instructed Platnauer and Greathead to investigate the dispute, and their report was considered in October (Mercury 27/10/98). The SAAAA met again in November with Morley present (Mercury 5/11/98). The DAAA and the NCU both changed their rules, and all parties learned from the negotiations. The Transvaal CU wrote to the NCU suggesting that a South African Cycling Union be formed again (Mercury 20/12/98). The SAAAA had its weaknesses exposed but emerged stronger and its field of influence was widened. Attention was focused on the need for controlling bodies with uniform and mutually acceptable rules and regulations. An unfortunate effect of the dispute was the interference with the arrangements for the S A Championships in Durban in 1899 and there were so many delays and misunderstandings (Mercury 27/3/99) that 'Umpire' said the headquarters should be moved to Natal (Mercury 30/3/99): "Give Natal a chance. We can't make a bigger mess of things."

When the dispute was nearing settlement, 'Umpire' made a telling

remark that it could have all been avoided had the Transvaal CU read the Natal CU rules before accepting them (Mercury 10/11/98).

Although the dispute impaired athletic activity in Durban in 1898, a certain amount still occurred. In sports at Umzinto in February, Tucker beat J Landers - "a youngster of 16, showed promising form, his stride being remarkable" (Mercury 11/2/98). Landers became an outstanding athlete. The Point Sports were held on the Queen's Birthday (Mercury 25/5/98), and the Caledonian Society revived Scottish Sports in June, the first for many years. A star attraction was Donald Dinnie, the famous Scottish athlete, who gave exhibitions of tossing the caber and other events, while P M Rattray, later an S A champion, won the shot, the hammer and tossing the caber (Mercury 20/6/98). Morley included races such as 200, 300, 600 yards and three-quarter mile in the DAAA Sports, but they were not received favourably by the Mercury reporter. A strong wind affected performances, and the 100 yards was declared 'no-race' because the time was slower than 11 seconds (Mercury 11/7/98). Moodie retained the Leuchar's Trophy for the Natal 100 yards at the DAC Sports in August (Mercury 15/8/98).

Once the dispute had been settled the DAAA agreed to the formation of the Lords' Bicycle Club and it arranged successful sports at Lords in March 1899 (Mercury 20/3/99). The first sports after the settlement were organised by the DAAA in February (Mercury 27/2/99). In March some Natal cyclists travelled to compete at a meeting in East London, and in April the Sons of England arranged inaugural sports on St George's Day, 22 April, assisted by Morley. These were the final sports before the S A Championships, and Moodie showed his class by beating Phil Blignaut, who had been a member of the SAAAA teams to England in 1895 and 1898 in the 100 yards (Mercury 24/4/99).

Eighty-eight entries were received for the S A Championships.



Western Province did not compete as they said they were only informed about them on 1 May, and the athletes did not have time to train. There was remarkably little 'build-up' in the Natal press and 'Umpire' for instance had one paragraph on the championships but a whole column on football (Mercury 15/5/99). A large crowd of about three thousand people watched the events, eighteen of which went to Natal, twelve to Transvaal, and one to East London (Mercury 22/5/99). The Foresters' Sports held two days later attracted a much larger crowd of five thousand (Mercury 23/5/99), no doubt because it was a pleasant way to spend the Whit Monday holiday. The DAC Sports in June were less successful, drawing only thirteen hundred spectators. Tucker brought his prize total to 199 (Mercury 5/6/99) and passed the 200 mark at the Caledonian Games. This was the fifth sports meeting in three months, and the public were becoming satiated. The crowd was only two thousand (Mercury 26/6/99). The DAAA Sports in July suffered badly, and despite a big publicity campaign only a small crowd clicked through the newly-installed turnstiles. Bad weather also kept the crowds away (Mercury 10/7/99). This was the third year running that the DAAA Sports suffered from bad weather, and suddenly the organisation was in financial trouble. Affiliation fees were raised (Mercury 6/10/99), but the loss of Lords to the Military was a heavy blow and as the war ended it was announced that the DAAA was one thousand, six hundred pounds in debt (Mercury 8/2/01). The DAAA applied to Durban Council for assistance and there were lengthy negotiations before the Council finally agreed to assume control (Mercury 8/2/01). 'Umpire' commented: "The DAAA have tried to do for the town that which the Corporation neglected to do." (Mercury 1/3/01). In 1904 the DAC announced that it would take on the DAAA responsibilities concerning athletics (Mercury 21/1/04) and, at the DAC Annual General Meeting in 1905, it was learned that the Agricultural Society was renovating the track at Lords and the Council had granted six hundred and fifty pounds towards the scheme (Mercury 26/1/05). John Morley continued to prepare



the Lords track for competitions (Mercury 10/7/05; 7/4/06).

Athletics in Durban finally recovered from the set-backs of the Anglo-Boer War and the problems with Lords when the S A Championships were held there in 1907. The Council agreed to renovate Lords for the championships (Mercury 21/12/06).

In May 1907, just before the championships, the cyclists and athletes combined to form the Natal AA and CA (Mercury 13/5/07). Two factors brought about the union. The national body had changed to the SAAA and CA three years earlier and, in September 1906, another dispute broke out with the cyclists, who were accused of 'throwing' races and other malpractices (Mercury 8/11/06). This dispute also threatened to disrupt the S A Championships, as in 1899, and 'Umpire' appealed to all sides to "bury the hatchet" (Mercury 2/3/99). By then it had become complex with the Durban Sports Association, the Durban Football Association, the Natal AAA, the Natal CU, Durban AC and the Sons of England all involved. The Natal AA and CA was formed in May 1907 and all clubs affiliated to the Natal AAA and the Natal CU were admitted. The Reverend J G Aldridge said that the new association would deal with the dispute but the championships came first (Mercury 13/5/07). The S A Championships, held in July, were extremely successful (Mercury 1/7/07; 2/7/07).

When the Natal AA and CA was formed it was agreed that there would be district associations, and the Southern District, controlling Durban, was constituted on 16 May, three days after the provincial body. United ACC was admitted and it was agreed to amend the agreement with the DSA. This helped solve the dispute with the cyclists. Aldridge became president with Morrissey secretary (Mercury 17/5/07). At the Annual General Meeting of the DSA in January 1908 Morley acted in an unnecessarily officious manner by claiming that the Natal AAA was no longer affiliated, because it had changed to the Natal AA and CA (Mercury 5/2/08).

Relations returned to normal when the decision was ruled out of order at a later meeting (Mercury 13/2/08). At this second meeting several DSA members expressed the view that the Council should take over Lords. This must have happened, as at the Natal AA and CA meeting in January 1909, delegates felt that athletics was benefitting since the Council had taken over. The personality clashes also appeared to be declining (Latest 16/1/09).

Albion Harriers held their first sports in June 1907, just before the S A Championships. J P Davidson just beat Walker in the 220 yards (Mercury 24/6/07). Albion Harriers became a successful and popular club until 1910, when the falling interest in athletics and economic depression caused financial difficulties. The club survived, however, and after the First World War was active with DAC in re-establishing athletics in Durban (Latest 4/10/19; 11/10/19).

Durban went to great efforts to make a success of the 1907 S A Championships once the dispute with the cyclists had been settled. The City Council put the track in order, though the banking on the cycling track proved inadequate, and granted one thousand pounds for the festival period (Mercury 12/12/07). Stands from the Public Swimming Bath were moved to Lords, three telegraph boards erected, and two megaphones procured. Many shops agreed to have a half-holiday and Wallace produced a brochure which was a mine of information.\*

The competitors were royally entertained, so much so in fact, that the SAAA and CA later criticised Durban for the lavish expenditure, although at the time Nourse eulogised Durban, saying it had set an example to the rest of South Africa (Mercury 4/7/07; Latest 11/10/07). Durban obviously wanted to repair the previously strained relations with the national body. Competitors were made honorary members of the Yacht Club and taken on trips around the bay; a tug-ride was arranged; there was a tram trip

---

\* The S A Champions and Springbok Athletes, printed and published by P Davis and Sons.

around the town in two "gaily decorated trams", with a stop for refreshment at Mr and Mrs Houghting's home on the Berea (Mayor); and of course, there were the usual banquets and smoking concerts. On the Sunday morning between the athletics, a special church service was held at Aliwal Street Congregational Church, where the Reverend J G Aldridge preached a sermon on sport and athletics and Dan Taylor sang a solo (Mercury 29/6/07; 1/7/07; 2/7/07; 4/7/07). The Sons of England held sports the day after the Championships (Mercury 4/7/07).

The sensation of the Championships was Walker's win in the 100 yards, beating Duffy, Phillips, Davidson and Sulin after there had been several false starts. These may have given Walker time to gain composure, since the young teenager (born 1889) had not seen the newspaper announcement that the final had been brought forward from 3 p.m. to 2 p.m. He ran to change when the steward called the competitors and arrived at the start in his plimsolls. The starter allowed him to return to put on his spiked shoes (Mercury 4/7/07). There was also drama in the pole vault where the novice Corporal Fred Williams of the 4th Hussars, Potchefstroom, had two heavy falls before beating the veteran Heinrich Heine of Greytown and raising the S A record by 3.1/2 inches (10ft. 7.1/2ins). Heine had set the S A record in 1904 and again in 1905 (Wallace, 1907, p. 13), and regained the record in 1908 (10ft. 8ins.) only for Williams to clear 10ft. 9.3/4ins. later the same year, which remained the record until 1922 (Vogt, 1955, p. 54)

Subsequent meetings in Durban in 1907 were not particularly successful but towards the end of the year several walking events were held and the Mercury, commenting on the Point Walk, said that the prizes were good considering the depression in the shipping trade (18/11/07). The lack of interest in sports meetings continued into 1908 and Morrissey reported at the Annual General Meeting of Southern Districts that the depression had dissuaded clubs from holding sports, and those that did, lost

money. The 'Ocean Beach', entertainments on the beachfront, was attracting the crowds away (Mercury 7/4/08). At the Annual General Meeting of the DAC members were told that no sports meetings had been held because the club was in financial difficulties (Mercury 17/3/08) and, in an effort to put the club back on its feet, 'Come-back Sports' were arranged in May, but these too were unsuccessful, the developments at the beach again being quoted as the problem (Mercury 26/5/08). There were many athletes but the crowd was small. The Caledonian Society decided to stop holding their sports (Mercury 9/6/08).

The Natal AA and CA was, however, satisfied with the progress. The Zulu uprising in 1906 had been quelled and the Dinizulu dispute in 1907 had been settled allowing better communications. The dispute with the cyclists was settled, and there was keen interest in athletics after Walker's success at the 1908 Olympic Games (Latest 23/1/09). Indeed, there did seem to be a renewal of public support, and the Albion Harriers' Sports in February, featuring four Olympians in Springbok colours, were a great success (Mercury 13/2/09). An enterprising hotelier, the ex-sprinter W H Hamilton, took advantage of the Olympic after-glow, formed the Queensbridge Athletic Club at Umgeni and presented athletic meetings under electric lights. At the first meeting the runners in the 100 yards crashed into the hedge at the finish, but for a while the venture was a success (Latest 6/3/09; 20/3/09; 3/4/09).

Less successful were the efforts of the Natal AA and CA to raise funds to finance athletes to the S A Championships by holding Test Sports. Wallace began the idea in 1904, but the meetings were not well attended, and the 1909 version attracted only a few spectators (Latest 13/3/09), so the idea was dropped in 1910 (Latest 29/1/10). Yet a month after the Test Sports, Durban AC attracted a record crowd to the Walker Sports, held just before Walker left for Europe (Latest 24/4/09), and this enabled the

club to clear itself of financial problems for the first time since 1904 (Latest 1/5/09). The Caledonian Society, encouraged by the renewed public interest, brought back their meeting in 1909 (Latest 26/6/09). Lords was the venue for all the meetings, and the Latest reported that the Oval at Albert Park had fallen into disuse (6/11/09).

Four other developments made 1909 a significant year for athletics in Durban. Cross country had steadily gained in popularity and the DAC began regular winter runs in May. In June the Latest published a letter from E Berridge which suggested an Inter-Town team race, ten a side, on the race course (19/6/09). The idea received support and DAC organised the first Natal Cross Country Championships on 16 October over 10 miles. The trophy, the Houghting Shield, was won by Pietermaritzburg (Latest 16/10/09). The same month, the interest in marathon running following the Olympics persuaded the Latest (23/10/09), no doubt urged by Wallace, to organise a marathon in Durban, finishing at Lords. McArthur won in 2:44:36, some eleven minutes faster than the 1908 Olympic time. While the marathon was in progress, the first ever Inter-School Sports were organised by DAC at Lords, won by Durban High School. The fourth interesting item was the staging of professional athletics in Durban. Tincler beat Hefferon in a mile at Lords in November, running the fastest time ever recorded in South Africa, 4:25.3/5. Hefferon bettered his own amateur record with 4:30.2/5 (Latest 13/11/09). A few days later Tincler beat Hefferon over 2 miles in 9:39 (Latest 27/11/09). The Johannesburg sprinters Postle and Donaldson performed at Lords in April 1910 (Latest 30/4/10).

The Sons of England and Foresters' discontinued organising sports meetings in 1909 (Latest 15/1/09), which should have made the club meetings more popular, but both the Albion Harriers Sports and the DAC Sports in 1910 drew small crowds (Latest 9/4/10; 21/5/10). Albion Harriers paid the hotel and railway expenses of



visiting athletes from Johannesburg and this resulted in a long and acrimonious dispute (Latest 21/5/10). The DAC organised sports for schools and cadets in November 1910, losing heavily on the meeting (Latest 26/11/10), and after their Eastern Sports were washed out in 1911, resulting in further loss (Latest 22/4/11), it was no wonder that the Annual General Meeting in March 1912 heard it had been a bad year (Latest 2/3/12). A tiny crowd of about three hundred and fifty people turned up for the Albion Harriers Sports in May 1912, which decided the DAC to cancel their next meeting (Latest 8/6/12) and, commenting on the situation, 'Qrius' said that both Albion Harriers and DAC were in a bad way financially. The beach development scheme was blamed again (Latest 23/11/12), but this was not entirely correct, as 'Qrius' himself admitted that "athletics have struck a serious slump in all parts of Africa" (Latest 12/4/13).

The DAC Gala Season Sports in June 1913 were favoured by a large crowd, attracted perhaps by the duel between Richardson and Gitsham in the 4 miles, which Richardson won in 20:19.3/5, both athletes breaking the S A record (Latest 21/6/13). Just before the outbreak of the First World War there were reports of the DAC and Albion Harriers combining (Latest 28/2/14), but it did not happen, and after the war both clubs were active in resuscitating athletics (Latest 4/10/19; 11/10/19).

The decline in support for athletics in the 1911-1913 period resulted in a heavy loss of money at the Natal Championships in 1913 (Latest 9/11/13), as a result of which the 1914 championships were cancelled (Latest 19/9/14). The 1912 Cross Country Championships were also cancelled, through a misunderstanding about entries (Latest 25/1/13).

Wallace retired as 'Qrius' in March 1915 and left Durban to become editor of the Rand Daily Mail and the Sunday Times (Latest 6/3/15), so was not present to see one of his dreams come true,



the formation of an Inter-School Athletics Association, which held Primary School Sports in October and High School Sports a few days later (Latest 9/10/15; 23/10/15).

The outstanding athlete in Durban before the First World War was obviously Reggie Walker. Although much of his competitive running both as an amateur and a professional was done away from Durban, he often returned to his home town to recover and prepare for his next campaign. His favourite venue for his recuperation period was on the Clarence's farm near Kokstad, after which he would sharpen up with some trials in Durban, as in November 1911 when he ran at the interval in a cricket match, attracting a crowd of fifteen hundred (Latest 18/11/11; 25/11/11). Walker is discussed more fully in the chapter on professionalism. Another outstanding athlete was J T Landers (Josh) who made his entry into athletics at Queensbridge in 1903. He trained on a 350 yards track marked out on his farm at Park Rynie, and was advised by Tincler (Latest 9/4/10). He achieved one of his ambitions when he beat Richardson and the S A mile record in May 1910, running 4:31.1/5 (Latest 21/5/10). He was S A champion over 880 yards in 1904, 1905, and again in 1910. An athlete who achieved his greatest fame in the Comrades, Arthur Newton, also competed at that time. He ran fourth in the Natal Cross Country Championships in 1911 (Latest 10/12/11), which Landers won, and was first in the Albion Harriers road race in February 1913 (Latest 15/2/13).

A final event that deserves recording was the Mail Boat relay competition. This was a series of relay races between the 'Mail Boat' steamers that travelled between Southampton and Durban. The teams consisted of eight runners who each ran 200 yards, and the races took place at both ends of the journey, in England and South Africa. In Durban they were held on Alexandra Square at the Point, and the result in 1909 was:

1. R M S Walmer Castle
2. R M S Carisbrook Castle
3. R M S Saxon

Eight ships entered the competition (Latest 3/4/09; 19/6/09).

## CHAPTER NINE

## DEVELOPMENTS IN KIMBERLEY AND BLOEMFONTEIN

Although Kimberley and Bloemfontein were in different provinces, in fact in different countries, geographically they were close together and athletes were able to travel between the two centres. Kimberley was part of Cape Colony but had very tenuous links with either Port Elizabeth or Cape Town and was not happy to be under the control of either one.

## Kimberley

When diamonds were discovered at Colesberg Kopje and Pniel, young men from all over South Africa and from many parts of the world flocked to the diggings hoping to make a fortune. Many of these men were, or had been, athletes, and although their departure impoverished athletics in established towns in Cape Colony and Natal for a while, the overall effect was to create another athletic centre, to bring more athletes into the country, and to channel money into the sport.

As early as 1870 the Diamond News carried an advertisement for 'The Pniel Races', which included horse-racing and athletic events, to be held on 2 January 1871:

SPORTS - Entrance one pound. Time permitting,  
other sports - Running, Leaping, Putting the  
Stone, Sack Racing, etc. - will come off.  
(Diamond News 24/12/70).

A foot-race was won by John Austen (Diamond News 7/1/71).

"Professor" Diamond was a visitor in May 1871 and, as might be expected in a community where betting was common-place, there were frequent pedestrian challenge races. Sports were held on Boxing Day 1871 on the ground between Colesberg Kopje and the De Beers Company. Results were reported in the press (Diamond News 30/12/71). The Queen's Birthday 1872 was celebrated with sports (Diamond News 27/4/72), and in 1873 C J Wiley made an attempt to overcome professionalism when he organised the Griqualand West Athletic Sports near 'the Park' on 24 November, for amateurs only. A large crowd attended, including Governor Southey, and one of the competitors was Henry Nourse, later President of the SAAAA from 1894 to 1924. He won the high jump, the long jump, and the 440 yards hurdles (six hurdles) (Diamond News 35/11/73). Wiley organised the sports to celebrate the formation of Griqualand West as a constituency with four representatives in the Legislative Assembly.

Nourse was prominent again at the Boxing Day Sports in 1874, winning the long jump (18ft. 6ins.), the high jump (5ft. 4ins.), the hop, step and jump (40ft. 5ins.) and the mile walk (Diamond News 20/4/76). Good Templar Sports were held in 1876 (Diamond News 20/4/76) and Queen's Birthday Sports at the Race Course in 1877 (Diamond News 26/5/77). Wessel's Farm was the venue for several meetings, and was known as the Sportsman's Retreat. Sports were held there on the Queen's Birthday 1878 and New Years' Day 1878 (Diamond News 29/12/77; Diamond Fields Advertiser 14/5/78; 21/12/78).

The first moves to form an athletic club were made in 1881. A public meeting was called in August, chaired by the mayor, and on the day before the meeting the Diamond Fields Advertiser (5/8/81) printed a long article on the value of athletic sports and the effects of training on health. At the meeting discussions centred mainly on football (Diamond Fields Advertiser (10/8/81). Sports

were held at the Race Course in December 1881, and there were several challenge sprint races with W Ling prominent in 1881, 1882, and 1883. The first annual sports took place at Easter 1883, apparently organised by a club. Money prizes were awarded (Diamond Field News 28/3/83). The club was probably the Griqualand West Sports Athletic Club which organised what were also referred to as annual sports at the Race Course in October. A large crowd attended and betting was prevalent. The Browns of Cathcart were present, and Stephen won the 220 and 440 yards. H Alexander won the 100 yards because Brown was watching Ling who had previously been beaten only by Solomon of Port Elizabeth. Henry Nourse won the high jump and putting the stone (Diamond Fields News 18/10/83; 22/10/83; 25/10/83). H W Brown retired from the mile run, but had won the mile walk at the Football Club Sports held the previous month (Diamond Field News 10/9/83).

Betting was again evident at the second Annual Sports in 1884. The Diamond Field News (16/4/84) reported:

The U and O\* tables seemed to do a roaring trade in spite of the hardtime, and the betting on the races, at times, was fast and furious.

I Smith won the 100 yards, beating Ling and W B Duffy. H W Brown was disqualified in the 2 miles walk and said he would appeal to England. The success of the sports encouraged the club to follow the example of other towns to acquire a ground. A Committee was formed with representatives from the athletic club and football and cricket clubs (Diamond Field News 18/6/84). It seems that their efforts were successful and, in 1885, there is reference to the Eclectic Ground (Diamond Field News 2/12/85) when sports were held to celebrate the arrival of the railway in Kimberley. As in East London, however, progress in Kimberley was impaired by lack of a ground exclusively for athletics and cycling until De Beers

---

\* U and O probably meant 'under and over', a term used for betting.

Stadium was opened in 1927 in commemoration of the discovery of diamonds fifty years earlier.

1884 was an active year for athletics. In addition to the Griqualand West AAC Sports discussed earlier, Football Sports were held to raise money for the trip to Cape Town. The sports were organised by J Swart. This was probably the man who later moved to Johannesburg and helped establish Wanderers. H Brown won the 880 yards and mile (Diamond Field News 21/7/84; 29/7/84).

Another event in July was a 5 miles Go-as-you-please, won by P Vigne in 30 minutes (Diamond Fields Advertiser 8/7/84). The Griqualand West AAC (GWAAC) held sports over two days at the end of October and although well advertised (Diamond Fields News 8/10/84), there were few spectators, and the Diamond Fields News said they were too far out of town. It was also dusty and windy (Diamond Fields News 3/11/84). F Smith won the sprints and Henry Nourse won the long jump (20ft. Oins.) and high jump (5ft. 3ins.) H Brown was again involved in arguments in the 2 miles walk, which was held again on the second day. Brown beat J Mellet, who was just beginning his long and illustrious career. Brown also beat Mellet in a one hour walk. Brown's style was frequently the centre of controversy (Diamond Fields News 30/10/84; 3/11/84). In July 1885 Brown wrote to the Diamond Fields News protesting about criticism of his style, quoting H F Wilkinson, "one of England's greatest authorities", and pointing out that he had been walking for fifteen years and was fed up with the critics (Diamond Fields News 13/7/85). The Browns had left Cathcart at that time and were living at Beaconsfield, near Du Toit's Pan, probably seeking their fortune. They regularly competed at sports meetings. At the Queen's Birthday Sports 1885, Jim Brown won the 440 and mile (Diamond Fields News 26/5/85) and, at the Opening of the Railway Sports, he beat Ling in the 100 yards (10.2/5) and won the 440 and mile. Stephen won the long jump and 220 yards. H W Brown was again involved in controversy in the 1 mile and 2 miles walks.



The high jump enthralled the crowd. Gill Dixon, a Cape-Cart driver, decided to enter after three rounds had been completed. He was refused at first because he was in "ordinary attire", but was eventually allowed to compete. He cleared the height, then took off his boots and to vociferous cheering went on to win at 5ft. 1in. (Diamond Fields News 2/12/85).

Juvenile Sports for young athletes from under 9 years' old and upwards, at two-yearly intervals (i.e. Under 11, Under 13, etc.) were organised in June and a large crowd attended (Diamond Fields News 30/6/85). The Pirates Club also held sports and daringly included a Ladies' Race (Diamond Fields News 25/8/85).

H W Brown organised a meeting in 1886, at which J Swart was the starter. One of the events was a 10 miles 'Go-as-you-please' in which Brown was beaten by J Gyselman, who had won some mile races previously (Diamond Fields News 22/3/86). Soon after that J Swart left for Johannesburg.

De Beers Company held sports in August 1886 and the prizes were donated by Cecil Rhodes and C D Rudd (Diamond Fields News 23/8/86). Ling won the 100 yards, and won again at the Rugby Football Union Sports in October (Diamond Fields News 4/10/86). The final sports of the year were presented by the Bechuanaland Border Police in December. Athletics was now well established in Kimberley and over the next six years interest increased as outstanding athletes developed and competitors were attracted from other areas. Kimberley became for a while one of the leading towns for athletics and in 1892 the Kimberley Exhibition provided the opportunity for a series of gala sports meetings. These were the high point of athletic activity in Kimberley, and the occasion was the first truly national athletic festival in South Africa.

The Pirates Club became very involved with athletics. They had



their own grounds and held meetings regularly. In 1887 they arranged sports in conjunction with the Kimberley Cricket Tournament, attracting a large crowd. Stars of the meeting were the Vintcent brothers from Bechuanaland. Charlie won the 100 (10.1/5), 440 and long jump (19ft. 6ins.). In the 100 he beat F Smith and W B Duffy. His brother, L Vintcent, won the high jump and hurdles. George Farrar took the mile (4:56), and C W Jones, later, like Charlie Vintcent, an S A champion, was third in the 120 yards off 9 yards (Daily Independent 18/4/87). At the RFU Sports in October, Charlie Vintcent, then living in Kimberley, won five events (Daily Independent 24/10/87). Charlie Jones won the sprints and Phil Hunter the 440 at the Pirates Club Sports 1888 (Diamond Fields News 9/4/88), and Pirates continued to organise regular sports, including one of the gala meetings at the Kimberley Exhibition. When the English football team visited Kimberley, Pirates arranged sports in which the visitors competed against teams from Cape Colony and South Africa (Diamond Fields News 29/8/91). It was to Pirates that C L Andersson wrote in January 1895, explaining the formation of the SAAAA and inviting Kimberley to join (Diamond Fields News 12/1/95). This led the Diamond Fields News to urge the formation of a Kimberley Athletic Club and to obtain the S A Championships for Kimberley (Diamond Fields News 21/1/95).

Pirates were not the only organisation holding sports. The Rugby Football Union has already been mentioned, and the Football Clubs (soccer) were also involved. The Kimberley Athletic, Social and Dramatic Club held a meeting on the Pirates Ground in 1890 (Diamond Fields News 28/8/90), spoiled by clouds of dust, a constant problem in the town. The Diamond Bicycle Club appeared in 1890 and held sports on Whit Monday, and again in October, at the Pirates' Ground. Hunter, Jones and Gyselman were prominent at all these meetings (Diamond Fields News 27/5/90; 28/8/90; 7/10/90). The Public Undenominational School held sports in 1887 and 1888 (Daily Independent 29/9/88) and the Caledonian Society

held the first Scottish Sports at the Public Gardens in 1890 (Diamond Fields News 1/12/90). In 1891 they were held on the Eclectic Ground, and 1892 formed part of the Exhibition programme (Diamond Fields News 24/10/92).

The Queen's Birthday was usually celebrated by sports, as in most centres. At first the sports were at Beaconsfield, but later in Kimberley itself, at the Natal Cricket Club Ground (Daily Independent 25/5/88; Diamond Fields News 25/5/93). The Griqualand West Diamond Mining Company arranged the meetings in 1888 and 1889 and the Kimberley Bicycle Club in 1893. In 1895 the Diamond Fields Horse and the Kimberley Athletic Club both scheduled sports for the Queen's Birthday, a clash that was resolved by the KAC moving to Whit Monday (Diamond Fields News 25/5/95; 4/6/95). The Queen's Jubilee had been celebrated by sports, as in most towns in South Africa (Daily Independent 22/6/87), and this was repeated for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 (Diamond Fields News 23/6/97).

The most significant organisation presenting sports at this time, however, was the De Beers Diamond Company. These began in a modest way with an excursion to the Modder River in 1887, at which sports were held (Daily Independent 4/1/88). In 1889 and 1890 they held a Christmas Festival at Kenilworth (Diamond Fields News 27/12/89; 29/12/89), and in 1891 the venue was the Eclectic Ground. They were by then known as the De Beers Christmas Sports, and attracted a large crowd and many athletes (Diamond Fields News 28/12/91). De Beers also presented sports at the Kimberley Exhibition and the six hundred pounds worth of prizes attracted 200 competitors from all parts of South Africa. Four thousand people watched. Jim Brown excelled himself by running the 880 yards in 1:57.1/5, the fastest ever recorded in South Africa (Diamond Fields News 17/10/92). De Beers gained a reputation for organising meetings with the best prizes in South Africa, if not the world (Diamond Fields News 27/12/93). In 1894 the prizes were

imported from England. At the sports held on Boxing Day a stand holding six hundred people collapsed, but nobody was seriously hurt (Diamond Fields News 27/12/94).

De Beers Sports, often held on Christmas Day, and sometimes extending into Boxing Day, became an institution that attracted athletes from other centres for many years, and they even continued through the Anglo-Boer War, apart from 1899 when Kimberley was besieged. In 1902 it was suggested that they should move to Easter, and were not held in 1903. They began again as Easter Sports in 1904 and continued at that time until 1907. In 1908 the organising committee announced that the sports would be abandoned because of the difficult economic climate which had caused much retrenchment and heavy losses. There was a crisis in the diamond market. De Beers promised that the sports would be resumed as soon as conditions became normal (Diamond Fields News 14/1/08) and they began again in 1909, but then were found to clash with the S A Championships which were also beginning to favour Easter (Diamond Fields News 8/4/12). In 1913 they moved to Empire Day, 24 May, then stopped during the First World War. They were resumed in 1920 at Easter. Joint organisers for many years in the nineteenth century were S H McCullum and Nicholson.

Walking was popular in Kimberley in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Mellet was first mentioned in 1887, and the Daily Independent commented: "he shows signs of future promise" (8/8/87). Heavy betting was involved. In 1889 it was announced that Arthur Hancock would meet the Scottish walker John Sutherland, over fifty miles (Diamond Fields News 5/8/89). Hancock was also negotiating with Mellet, but Mellet returned to the Free State and the arrangements were cancelled. The Hancock vs Sutherland event was held at the Pirates Ground in September for a stake of two hundred pounds. Hancock gave Sutherland 3.1/4 miles start, and even so the Scotsman gave up after 34 miles (Diamond Fields News 9/9/89). In a similar event, J J Barrow,

beat Walshe in a race described as a fiasco (Diamond Fields News 3/2/90) and, in March 1890, a walking race was advertised as a South African Championship (Diamond Fields News 1/3/90). A large crowd saw Mellet win. The newspaper printed a photograph, one of the earliest occasions that this occurred (Diamond Fields News 3/3/90). Mellet gave several walking exhibitions during the Kimberley Exhibition.

There were five athletic meetings held in conjunction with the Kimberley Exhibition in 1892, two of them spread over two days. The Pirates Club led off on 10 September, but the cold, dusty conditions kept the crowd down to seven hundred (Diamond Fields News 12/9/92). The S A Championship Sports were held on 3 and 8 October at the Eclectic Grounds. Ling was starter. Jim Brown won the 440 and 880 but Hunter failed to win an event although he was placed in the 100, 440, 120 hurdles and long jump. The athletic events were held mainly on the first day, with cycling the big attraction on the second day. A crowd of two thousand watched (Diamond Fields News 4/10/92; 10/10/92). Scottish Sports took place on 22 October at the Kimberley Cricket Ground, and the giant shot putter from the Fish River Rand AC, H D Gradwell, won the putting the 16 lbs. stone with 38ft. 1ins. T O'Connor, who won the long jump and hurdles at the S A Championship Sports, cleared a fine 42ft. 10.1/2ins. in the triple jump. Four thousand people came to the Exhibition Sports on 2 December but there were few athletes competing (Diamond Fields News 3/12/92). The most successful meeting was the De Beers Exhibition Sports on 14 and 15 October, despite cold weather and showers (see above) (Diamond Fields News 17/10/92).

After the Exhibition, athletics continued to be popular in Kimberley, and the local press took a keen interest in the sport and the formation of the SAAAA (Diamond Fields News 19/2/94), especially when Charlie Jones won the first 100 yards championship (Diamond Fields News 27/3/94). Jones was an

outstanding sprinter who performed brilliantly at the Exhibition S A Championship Sports in 1892, beating Vintcent and Hunter in 9.4/5 seconds. He was, however, reported as having a flying start (Diamond Fields News 4/10/92). On 8 October at the same meeting he won a handicap 100 off scratch in 10 seconds (Diamond Fields News 10/10/92).

Other outstanding athletes were Phil Hunter, Charlie Vintcent, Fred Smith and A de Kock. Hunter was extremely versatile, competing successfully in the 100, 220, 440, hurdles, long jump, high jump and pole vault. De Kock was outstanding in the long jump and hurdles (Diamond Fields News 29/5/91; 4/10/92).

Highlights of 1894 were Laurens Meintjes' participation at the Kimberley Bicycle Club Sports on the Queen's Birthday (Diamond Fields News 25/5/93), and Hunter's performances at the Scottish Sports (Diamond Fields News 26/11/94), and the De Beers Sports (Diamond Fields News 27/12/94).

In 1895 Kimberley became involved in the clash between the SAAAA and the CCAA and CU. Kimberley had been incorporated into the Cape Colony for administrative purposes, but was much more closely connected with Johannesburg and Bloemfontein as far as athletics was concerned, and as mentioned above, took a keen interest in the formation of the SAAAA. In January 1895 the Pirates Club received a letter from Andersson explaining that the first Annual General Meeting of the SAAAA would be on 15 January where the date of the S A Championships would be decided, and whether or not a team would be sent to England (Diamond Field News 12/1/95). The Pirates Club decided to send George Devenish, organiser of the Exhibition Sports, to the meeting, and to apply for the S A Championships to be staged in Kimberley. Thus, unlike Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Pietermaritzburg and Durban, Kimberley was involved with and supported the SAAAA right from the beginning. This was partly geographical, but also because many of



the Kimberley men, such as Swart, N Nourse, Homan, Pullinger, Taylor and others had moved from Kimberley to Johannesburg.

The Kimberley Athletic Club was formed (see above), an association similar to the Durban AAA, aimed at procuring a suitable ground and consisting of representatives of all the Kimberley sports clubs (Diamond Fields News 18/1/95; 21/1/95). There was talk of forming a Griqualand West AAA (Diamond Fields News 1/4/95; 17/4/95) but, before anything materialised, the clash between the CCAA and CU and the SAAAA occurred. The Diamond Fields News said it could not see the need for the CCAA and CU (6/7/95) and commented the following month (23/8/95):

...surely Johannesburg has far greater claims than Cape Town or Port Elizabeth can ever have to be considered the sporting centre of South Africa, and this being the case, the Transvaal certainly should be the headquarters of the governing body.

The assumption that South Africa was one country, or would become one, was clearly evident and, although Johannesburg was strictly speaking in a foreign country, they chose to support it rather than the Cape body.

De Beers complicated matters by announcing that they would hold their Christmas Sports under their own rules, and not SAAA rules. This was probably an attempt to prevent either the CCAA and CU or the SAAAA banning athletes from competing, but the Diamond Fields News (22/11/95) did not approve and felt it would lead to "...the utter annihilation of amateur athleticism on the Diamond Fields." Andersson, the SAAAA secretary, saved the situation by proposing that the closed events (those open to De Beers' employees only) be held under De Beers' rules, and the open events under SAAAA rules. This was accepted (Diamond Fields News 2/12/95).



The clash between the SAAAA and the CCAA and CU having been settled, the SAAAA asked the Cape body to incorporate all the Cape Colony clubs, as the SAAAA wanted each state or colony to have its own association affiliated to the national association (Diamond Fields News 24/1/96). This spurred the Kimberley athletes into action, and the Kimberley AC invited all clubs on the diamond fields to a meeting to form a district association, including outlying towns. 'Rapier' in the Diamond Fields News (31/1/96) supported this move. The meeting took place in February (Diamond Fields News 8/2/96), and the Griqualand West AAA was formed in April (Diamond Fields News 24/4/96). Although there was no Kimberley representative at the Annual General Meeting of the SAAAA, the S A Championships were awarded to Kimberley, as the SAAAA wanted them to be held in the Cape (Star 22/4/96; 22/5/96). Kimberley was pleased to host the championships, but objected to joining the CCAA and CU and asked to be affiliated directly to the SAAAA (Diamond Fields News 31/7/96). The CCAA and CU tried to coerce the GWAAA into joining them, but the Kimberley athletes would not agree and refused to enter the first CCAA and CU Championships at Port Elizabeth in August. The SAAAA agreed that Griqualand West "would be under a different head" (Star 11/8/96), and arrangements went ahead to hold the S A Championships in Kimberley.

The championships were organised by H G Field in October at the Kimberley Athletic Club Ground, where much work was done to prepare the track in time. The first day was ruined by a huge dust storm which kept spectators away and necessitated the 100 yards being run in the opposite direction. Eastern Province athletes won half the events, the Grahamstown contingent of Barber, Norton, Gradwell and Atherstone performing particularly well. Local Kimberley athletes had limited success but before the meeting had complained that there was nowhere to train in town since the tracks were so poor (Diamond Fields News 22/9/96).

The weather improved on the second day and a larger crowd came to watch. The starter was the old Kimberley sprinter, W Ling. (Diamond Fields News 6/10/96).

An interesting sidelight of the championships was a 3 miles cycle race for Coloureds on the second day. Sports for Blacks had been held at De Beers in December 1892 (Diamond Fields News 28/12/92) as part of the Kimberley Exhibition and, at the Pirates Sports in 1894, a 440 yards for Coloured cricket and football players was held as part of the Pirates Sports (Diamond Fields News 23/7/94). This event apparently encouraged Coloureds - 'Kaapnaars' - to form an athletic club (Diamond Fields News 25/5/96) and they held their first sports on the Queen's Birthday 1895 (Diamond Fields News 25/5/95). It was called the Colonial Athletic Club. Problems within the club arose in 1896 between the Malays, the Coloureds, and the 'Kafirs'. Blacks had been recruited to the club to bring in funds, and promised seats on the committee, which were later refused. The annual sports, however, went ahead (Diamond Fields News 27/5/96). The Colonial AC also had cyclists and it was announced in September that there would be a 3 miles race for them at the S A Championships (Diamond Fields News 16/9/96). 'Pneumatic' of the Star apparently received an objection that there was a race for 'Kafirs' (Diamond Fields News 5/10/96).

Athletic activity continued at a high level in 1897 and at least six sports meetings were held during the course of the year, but there was a decline in 1898 and the Kimberley AC Sports at Whitsun were a failure (Diamond Fields News 31/5/98). In January 'Rapier' had tried to stir up interest amongst the athletes, and it seemed as if cycling was stifling track and field (Diamond Fields News 7/1/98). There was a poor response to the SAAAA appeal for money for the team travelling to England, and nobody from Kimberley competed at the S A Championships. In September Sheppard resigned as the GWAAA representative on the SAAAA as he could get no replies from the association in Kimberley, and the

Diamond Fields News (2/9/98) referred to the GWAAA as "that moribund body." In July 1899 a new body was formed, the Griqualand West Cycling and Athletic Union (Diamond Fields News July 1899). J E Wonfor was the new secretary, a position he held until 1906 when the Griqualand West centre finally affiliated to the CCAA and CU.

Several sports meetings were held during the siege of Kimberley, details of which are given in Chapter Seventeen. After the siege athletics carried on as normal and Kimberley AC and De Beers held sports in 1900 (Diamond Fields News 25/5/1900; 2/10/1900; 27/12/1900). The Colonial Athletic Club also continued to operate and in 1902 visited Cape Town. The 'Walking Craze' arrived in June 1903 and there was a big press build-up to the Diamond Fields Walk on 12 August. A huge crowd watched and the Police had problems keeping control. The notorious Kimberley dust was also a hindrance (Diamond Fields News 13/8/03). An interesting development in 1911 was an inter-club match between Bloemfontein YMCA and Kimberley AC in which both sides scored 22 points (Diamond Fields News 27/11/11). At the De Beers Sports in 1913 Len Richardson won the 5 miles from scratch in 26:54.2/5 (Diamond Fields News 25/5/13), and in 1914 reduced his time to 26:49.2/5 (Diamond Fields News 25/5/14). Another development worth noting was the formation of a Harriers section of the Pirates Club in June 1907 (Diamond Fields News 24/6/07).

#### Bloemfontein

The first sport reported by the Friend as being played in Bloemfontein was cricket in 1870. The first report of athletics was in 1880 when it was announced that St Andrew's College and Grey College were holding their first annual sports meeting (Friend 9/12/80). President Brand attended and presented the prizes. He said:

We are glad that an inaugurate meeting of this kind has been held, the advantages of which are not to be undervalued. (Friend 16/12/80).

Military sports were held at Thlotsi Heights in October 1881 and the 100 yards for civilians was won by Charlie Vintcent (Friend 27/10/81). This must have been one of his earliest races. According to P C Taljaard writing in the Friend (3/4/78), there was not much sport in Bloemfontein until the British arrived, although boeresports were held on New Years' Day.

The first move to hold a full-scale athletic sports meeting in Bloemfontein was made in 1882. A public meeting was called in May at the Free State Hotel and it was decided to hold sports at the cricket ground on Ascension Day (Friend 11/5/82). Dr Krause of Grey College was on the committee, and it was agreed that half the events would be confined to Grey and St Andrew's scholars, so it would seem that in Bloemfontein, school athletics provided the model for public sports. The Free State Artillery Band provided the music and a good crowd attended. St Andrew's boys were prominent and one of them, Lippiatt, gained five first and two second places. The President's wife, Lady Brand, presented the prizes (Friend 25/5/82).

In December that year President Brand's birthday was celebrated with sports at the cricket ground. The results indicate that almost all the competitors were British. L Kelly cleared a creditable 5ft. 7ins. in the high jump (Friend 7/12/82). Kelly was also prominent at the sports arranged to celebrate the President's visit to Harrismith in October 1883. He won the 100 yards and put an 18 lbs. shot (8kgs) an enormous 42ft. 6ins. (Friend 8/11/83). The President's Birthday Sports in 1883, where Kelly won the 100 yards (Friend 13/12/83) prompted a letter from "An Old Athlete" who made the following comments on "How to

manage athletic sports" (Friend 20/12/83):

1. There should be a proper course with "straights".
2. Dig the ground for the jumps - "averting the severe shock to competitors on alighting on such hard ground as on Thursday last."
3. The weight of the shot should be defined, and all distances of events should be accurately measured.
4. A pistol start should be used, with a 1 yard handicap for false starts.

These comments provide insight into the unsophisticated nature of the sports, and although they cast doubt on some of the performances recorded, reveal also the difficult circumstances in which some athletes competed. The writer said he had "a desire to see athletics developed and encouraged."

There were no President's Birthday Sports in 1884 but sports were held on Easter Monday, and times were taken, probably the first occasion. Kelly again won the high jump. A Grey College master, T Inman, won the 880 yards and the mile in slow times - 2:20 and 5:29. Performances generally were poor compared with those in other centres (Friend 17/4/84). The report of the 1885 Easter Sports suggests that the athletics was of a low standard, as it comments on the poor entries and said some of the races were "hollow affairs" (Friend 9/4/85). In 1886 the sports fell away altogether, the Friend (29/4/86) regretting that "no cricket match or athletic sports were got up."

Athletics in Bloemfontein was thus very poorly developed in comparison with the other centres discussed, and nothing much happened until 1890 when a Recreation Ground had been opened



(Friend 17/4/89), and there was talk of forming an athletic club. The Friend was not optimistic about the club's chances of survival and commented: "How soon movements of any kind die out in Bloemfontein!" (Friend 15/1/90). The report referred to other ventures that had been started and become moribund, such as the Tree Planting Association, the Orchestral Society and the Choral Society, because the members lost interest as the novelty wore off. The Friend felt, however, that an athletic club would be "...a good thing for the young men of this town," and that it should be formed in connection with the cricket club, like Wanderers at Johannesburg, or the Pirates Club, Kimberley. A meeting was held at the Phoenix Hotel in May, chaired by Will MacLagan, and the Bloemfontein Athletic Club was formed (Friend 28/5/90). Prior to this, sports had been held in April, arranged by MacLagan, J Skirving and officers of the President Brand Rifles, who were determined to establish an annual sports day. The new Recreation Ground was used, a large crowd attended, President and Mrs Reitz were there, and the sports were successful. C H Collett of Bethlehem won the sprints and hurdles, and "a stone from the veld" was used for putting the weight. It was agreed that any profits would go to the formation of the athletic club (Friend 30/4/90).

The new club resolved to hold sports twice a year, in April and October (autumn and spring), but in fact only October sports were arranged. J B Skirving was elected secretary, and Collett, always prominent in the early meetings, was on the committee (Friend 28/5/90). At that time other Free State towns were abreast of or ahead of Bloemfontein in athletics. Bethlehem had held Queen's Jubilee Sports in 1887 and Queen's Birthday Sports in 1888. Ladybrand had New Year Sports for young athletes in 1886, and Native Sports were held at St Augustine's Mission Station at Modderpoort the same year (Friend 14/1/86). J Mellet, the walker, organised sports on the Market Square at Boshoff in January 1888 (Friend 14/1/88) and, in 1890, the Friend referred to the



Queen's Birthday Sports at Bethlehem as an annual event (4/6/90). Cronstadt (Kroonstad) held inaugural sports at the Sports Club in 1890 (Friend 6/8/90) and the first sports organised by the newly formed Bethlehem Athletic Club came off on 6 October to celebrate the President's birthday. Collet jumped 19ft. 6ins. (Friend 7/10/90).

In December 1890 sports were held to mark the railway line reaching Bloemfontein. Collet won the long jump (19ft. 10ins.) and high jump and Kelly won the shot. At the end of the sports Mellet took on eight amateur walkers, who walked a mile each, and beat them over the 8 miles in 1:16:55.3/5 (Friend 23/12/90). Athletics began to make progress in Bloemfontein, and Mellet's success helped popularise the sport. W Cunningham, writing as 'Chiel' in the Friend, and supported by the editor, Alf Barlow, gave good coverage to athletics and helped promote its development.

Mellet was always a great attraction. In January 1891 he walked four miles in 36:16.4/5 beating a relay of eight amateurs who each walked 880 yards (Friend 13/1/91). In May he lost to J Fisher, an English immigrant, over eight miles. Mellet walked, Fisher ran, and he gave Mellet fifteen minutes start, catching him at 7.1/2 miles (Friend 29/5/91). Mellet usually had to compete in matches of that nature since there was nobody who could match him at a straight walking race. He became the sporting hero of Bloemfontein and performed with distinction all over South Africa and in England. His career is covered in more detail in the chapter on walking.

'Chiel' commented on the progress being made in athletics by Port Elizabeth, and said that Physical Education was being neglected. The misconceptions about its value were being swept aside by the formation of athletic clubs, but Bloemfontein was lagging behind (Friend 5/5/91). 'Chiel's' hopes that athletics in Bloemfontein

would move ahead received a set-back when J B Skirving moved to Hoopstad, and the Friend remarked (5/5/91):

It was solely by the amount of life that Skirving infused into some of our clubs that they lived for any length of time...

Skirving was an enthusiast, and was later reported as trying to establish athletics in the Northern Districts. He arranged a meeting on Ascension Day 1894 for Heilbron, Reitz, Ficksburg, Senekal, Fouriesburg and Cronstadt (Friend 3/4/94). Will MacLagan was still active in Bloemfontein, however, and the Bloemfontein AAC was fortunate to obtain the services of another hard worker, Lionel 'Doddy' Richardson. The BAAC sports went ahead in October, attended by President Reitz and a large crowd (Friend 6/10/91). Some events were postponed to Wednesday 14 October, then very few spectators watched, and the Friend (16/10/91) said:

It is very difficult to account for the apathy displayed by our citizens towards anything in sporting matters.

As in other centres, gate-money was a problem. Apparently the Recreation Ground had not been transferred from the Municipality to the Trustees, so gate-money was being claimed by the Council. In an editorial the Friend (6/11/91) said the matter, involving the Cricket Club and the BAAC, should be rectified as quickly as possible. There were no further reports on this issue. Athletic meetings were transferred to Ramblers when it opened in 1897 and all important events were held there until the Free State Stadium was built.

The BAAC continued to organise meetings on the President's birthday in 1892 and 1893, but not in 1894. A meeting of the

club was called in December 1894, attended by seventeen members, and it was agreed to hold sports on the O F S Independence Day in February 1895. MacLagan was still chairman, and the secretaries were Richardson and Fichardt (Friend 18/12/84). The sports were held under SAAAA rules and cycling events were included. There was also a 'Kafir' race (Friend 5/2/95). Arrangements for the sports were improved, with strings for the sprinters, and certain events designated as O F S Championships, including the 100 yards, won by L Deale in 11 seconds. Competitors from Johannesburg and Colesburg took part, watched by a record crowd that included the President. J Radley won the high jump at 5ft. 6ins. (Friend 26/2/95).

Reviewing the sports, the Friend suggested that a team should be picked to represent O F S at the S A Championships in March (Friend 1/3/95). The BAAC met and decided to send four athletes. J Radley won the long jump (20ft. 1ins.) and was 2nd in the high jump. The Friend (26/2/95) sometimes referred to the BAAA and sometimes to the BAAC and it seems that these were one and the same. Bloemfontein accepted the SAAAA from the outset, accepting the rules and regulations and the right of the SAAA to organise championships. Unlike the other centres, Bloemfontein reacted favourably to the appeal for funds to send the team to England in 1898 and agreed to raise one hundred and fifty pounds (Friend 23/11/97). Unfortunately, the efforts were unsuccessful. The fact that the local star, Radley, won the high jump but was not selected, may have been an influencing factor.

Other clubs in Bloemfontein began to organise athletic sports in 1895. The Cricket Club held a meeting on Ascension Day (Friend 24/5/95), and the Cycling Club in August (Friend 2/8/95). Bicycles were reported as fashionable in Bloemfontein in 1890 (Friend 26/2/90) and by 1895 had become all the rage.

Fifty cyclists escorted President M T Steyn to sports arranged

by the Bloemfontein Cycling Club to celebrate the President's swearing in ceremony in March 1896. John Mellet also performed at the meeting (Friend 6/3/96). In October that year Mellet captured the front page headlines in the Friend when he met, and defeated, the Australian William Baker in Johannesburg (Friend 2/10/96).

In December 1896 it was announced that the ground of the new club, Ramblers, was nearing completion, and that all cyclists and athletes would have to sign up with the new club (Friend 4/12/96). In 1897 at its Annual General Meeting, attended by Andersson (Wanderers), the Bloemfontein AAC changed its name to Ramblers Athletic Club. The mayor, C G Fichardt, was elected president, L Richardson remained as secretary, and sports were arranged for Dingaan's Day (Friend 29/10/97). These sports were advertised as O F C Championships and were a great success. The President was once again present and Radley surpassed himself with a fine leap of 5ft. 9ins. in the high jump, which was claimed as a South African record, beating the 5ft. 8ins. achieved by Rolland and Johnstone in Durban in 1886 (Friend 17/12/97). No evidence could be found of the Durban feat, but Rolland and Johnstone did clear 5ft. 6ins. at the Wasps Sports in Durban, 1885 (Mercury 14/9/85).

The opening of the new ground at Ramblers and the success of the first sports should have heralded an upsurge in athletic activity in Bloemfontein. Unfortunately, this was not the case, and the meeting held to mark the opening of the new pavilion at Ramblers in April 1898 attracted few spectators (Friend 26/4/98), and the President's Birthday Sports were not held at all. Once again it was a case of one man making the difference. Lionel Richardson had left for Ficksburg, and as the Friend (30/9/98) noted: "...most of the sporting work at present has fallen on one man's shoulders."

Richardson's co-worker for athletics, Will MacLagan, had died in July 1897. Born in Perth, Australia, in 1858, MacLagan had been involved in athletics in Port Elizabeth, Tarkastad and Queenstown (Friend 23/7/97). Richardson returned to Bloemfontein in time for the O F S Championships at Ramblers in December 1898 which were unsuccessful. The Friend said (20/12/98):

Another sports meeting like Friday's and 'Ichabod' will be written over the athletics of the Free State.

The following April Richardson left to become sporting editor of the S A News, Cape Town (De Express 21/4/99).

These second O F S Championships caused conflict with the cyclists. As in Natal, prizes were the reason for complaint. Nine cyclists wrote a letter to De Express complaining about the quality, and the Ramblers AC suspended them (Friend 27/12/98). The matter came before the SAAAA in January 1899, and the suspensions were not upheld because Ramblers had not complied with SAAA rules. This caused some bitterness in Bloemfontein and 'The Mug' writing in the Friend (27/1/99) thought that: "...it will be a long time before meetings are held here again."

Mr Dick, one of the cyclists, attended the meeting of the SAAAA, and in March the national body agreed to re-open the issue and hear the Ramblers AC side of the dispute (Friend 10/3/99). Before it could be taken further the dispute was overshadowed by the Anglo-Boer War and had been forgotten when Ramblers resumed sports again in October 1901 (Bloemfontein Post 8/10/01).

There was considerable athletic activity in the Free State country towns, and Cronstadt, Ficksburg, Brandfort, Harrismith, Heilbron, Smithfield, Jagersfontein and Bethlehem all held meetings, some annually. Heilbron held annual sports on Ascension



Day, and the Volksraad at Harrismith granted three hundred pounds to organise sports to mark the arrival of the railway in 1892 (Friend 24/5/92). Mellet was extremely active in the decade prior to the Anglo-Boer War. He was referred to as the 'baas-stapper', and 'Favourite of the Free State', and often drew large crowds at Ramblers, including President Reitz (Friend 16/6/93).

The Anglo-Boer War brought a halt to athletics and there was no report of a sports meeting being held in Bloemfontein in 1899. The British Army entered Bloemfontein at the end of March 1900, and sports were announced for a week later (Friend 22/3/1900). The first sports were for the 6th Division (Friend 30/3/1900) followed by the 12th Brigade on 20 April (Friend 23/4/1900). Soldiers and concentration camp refugees competed together at sports on Christmas Day 1899 (Bloemfontein Post 3/1/01), and S A Constabulary Sports took place in January 1901, attracting over two thousand spectators (Bloemfontein Post 17/1/01). Mellet performed at Ramblers in July when he performed his usual feat of challenging a relay of eight walkers. An enormous crowd of two thousand watched this event and the Bloemfontein Post (1/8/01) compared it to "Derby Day."

At the first Ramblers AAC Sports held after the war, W D Gladwell ran the 100 yards in 9.4/5 seconds which, if accurate, was equal to the world's best at that time (Bloemfontein Post 8/10/01). Willie Gladwell won the 100 and 440 at the O F S Championships in 1898 (10.4/5; 54.1/5) and went on to become a top-class sprinter. He beat the Pretoria sprinter, H T Phillips, in the Inter-Capital Meeting in January 1906 (Friend 2/1/06). Ramblers AAC held sports on Boxing Day in 1901 and 1902, and at the Annual General Meeting in December 1902 had acquired a useful bank balance of one hundred and forty four pounds. It was agreed that the track needed improving (Friend 9/12/02).

A new club was formed in 1903, Bloemfontein Harriers. Cross



country running was becoming popular in South Africa, and fifty members attended the inaugural meeting (Friend 26/2/03). H W Brown, who had also attended the Ramblers Annual General Meeting in 1902, took the chair. The club requested that a 2 miles event be included in the Ramblers Sports and the first winner was Charlie Hefferon (30:34), later a great South African athlete (Friend 30/4/03). Hefferon also won the inaugural Naval Hill Race in 33:55 and received the cup presented by H W Brown (Friend 28/5/03).

The interest in cross country running, the impact of the 'Walking Craze', the beginning of Caledonian Sports, and the arrival on the scene of J Brady, a teacher at Grey College from Cork, Ireland, combined to bring about a boom in athletics in Bloemfontein. The Caledonian Society held its first sports in May 1903, attracting what was reported as the largest ever crowd at the Ramblers. Trooper C Hefferon won the 3 miles in 16:1.1/5. Shrubbs had just run 14:17 in Britain (Friend 26/5/03). The 'Walking Craze' reached the Free State in August and almost every town held a walk. Bloemfontein itself was rather slow in arranging one, much to 'Juggins' disappointment (Friend 13/9/03), but one was eventually organised by the banks (thirteen participated on 23 August over 20 miles) (Friend 24/8/03).

Brady attended the meeting at which Bloemfontein Harriers was formally constituted, and said that Grey College also had a cross country team (Friend 13/3/03), and in June organised an Inter-School Sports that included St Andrew's College, Grahamstown (Friend 24/6/03). Brady soon became secretary of Ramblers AAC and in August proposed an Inter-Capital Contest with Pretoria (Friend 13/8/03). Brady was also still an active athlete and in June went up to Johannesburg with Hefferon and won the 100 (off 6 yards) and the 440 (off 9 yards) at the Whitsun Sports (Friend 3/6/03). The first Inter-Capital Sports were held in Pretoria in September, consisting of ten athletic and three cycling events,

with three men per side in each item. Medals were brought from Europe, and Pretoria won 7-6. Brady himself won the 440 yards and 880 yards (Friend 28/9/03).

The introduction of the Inter-Capital Contest appeared to provide the incentive for a provincial association to be formed in Bloemfontein. A meeting was held on 29 August just before the team's departure for Pretoria, attended by two delegates per club, to discuss the formation of the Orange River Colony Athletic Association (Friend 31/8/03). There was no report on the meeting, but according to the minute book of the Orange Free State AAU, a meeting had been called in July to set up a provisional committee, and the association was formed on 23 January 1904. According to the Bloemfontein Post, reporting on the meeting in January 1904, Brady and A B Fyffe read minutes showing an association had been formed in July 1903, but the committee had never met (Post 25/1/04). Amongst those attending the 1904 meeting were A G Barlow, H W Brown, L Nathan, J Brady and G L Reynolds. There were representatives from clubs and towns such as the Caledonian Society, Ramblers AAC, Bloemfontein Amateur Harriers Club, Fauresmith and Thaba Nchu. According to the Orange Free State minute book (23/1/04) Brady travelled through South Africa to gather information about athletics and how it was organised. He reported that the CCAA and CU would support the SAAAA if the national body agreed to include cycling and that all the towns he had visited in the Orange River Colony were in favour of a provincial association. It was agreed to form an executive and appoint a sub-committee to draw up a constitution. G L Reynolds was elected secretary.

At a meeting on 6 February, the sub-committee presented a constitution based on that of the CCAA and CU, which was discussed point by point. Messrs Reynolds and Sharp were nominated to attend the SAAA meeting in April, at which the incorporation of cycling would be discussed, and several members

agreed to donate cups and trophies (OFSAA & CA minutes, 6/2/04) It is interesting to note that at the first Inter-Capital Sports held in 1903, the Bloemfontein team wore orange and white (Friend 15/9/03), and these became the Orange Free State provincial colours. After the formation of the ORCAAA and CU, nothing was reported for some months, and in July 'Juggins' asked what had become of the new association that had started in a blaze of glory (Friend 15/7/04). Work was going on behind the scenes, however, and in August the ORAAA and CU produced a booklet of laws and rules at one shilling and six pence each (Friend 30/8/04) But nothing happened until 1906. In 1907 the Friend remarked (1/1/07):

Athletics have been almost a dead letter, due mainly to laxity on the part of the governing body.

The Orange Free State Minute Book records that an executive meeting was held in October 1905, the first for twelve months, and in September 1906 a meeting was called to reorganise the Union, as the secretary, Reynolds, had left Bloemfontein and nothing had happened. According to the Friend (28/9/06), Lionel Richardson returned to Bloemfontein and took over as secretary in September 1906 and played a role in the revival of the Union. He remained secretary until he left South Africa in 1911. According to 'Qrius', writing in the Latest, his departure marked another decline in athletics in Bloemfontein (Friend 8/3/11).

Although the ORCAA and CU struggled to become a viable organisation, athletics went on in Bloemfontein. The Girls' High School held its first ever sports in June 1903 (Friend 23/6/03), and Bloemfontein Amateur Harriers Club held spring sports in November (Friend 5/11/03). Two natural disasters impeded athletics at the turn of the year. Lightning struck the pavilion at the Ramblers on 7 November and it burned down, and a flood in

January 1904 damaged the track. Meetings were still held at Ramblers, and Hefferon (Friend 3/12/03) set an S A record for 1.1/2 miles on 2 December. The ORC championships were not held, however. The Caledonian Sports were held regularly each year until 1911, usually on Empire Day. They were very popular and in 1906 the crowd was four thousand (Friend 25/5/06). In 1910 the Caledonian Society combined with St George's and the Irish Cambrian Societies to present sports on Empire Day, but they were poorly attended. The last Caledonian Sports were held in 1911.

Len Richardson emerged as a potentially great athlete in 1904 when he ran second to Hefferon in the Bloemfontein AHC 10 miles championship at the race-course (Friend 28/7/04). In August Richardson and Hefferon both beat the S A 4 miles record, Hefferon winning in 20:51.2/5 (Friend 5/8/04), and Bloemfontein considered itself the pioneer of distance running in South Africa. The Friend claimed that Bloemfontein introduced the 4 miles event into the S A Championships (18/8/04).

The second Inter-Capital Sports were held at Ramblers in September 1904. Bloemfontein beat Pretoria by one event. In his report 'Juggins' quoted the remarks of Brady that the Inter-Capital should lead to Inter-District, Inter-Colony, and perhaps Inter-National sports (Friend 22/9/04). Brady won the 880 yards. Hefferon won the mile in 4:39, reported as an S A record. The Inter-Capital Sports at Pretoria in 1905 were washed out by rain and postponed to 1 January 1906 at Bloemfontein. Pretoria sent only twelve athletes and won one event. de la Harpe cleared 5ft. 11ins. in the high jump (Friend 2/1/06). This was the last time the sports were held. An Inter-Capital Garrison Sports took place in April 1906 (Pretoria News 16/4/06).

The Free State Championships were held at Ramblers in 1904, when there was much argument about the inclusion of some events for blacks. These were eventually withdrawn (Friend 19/10/04;

31/10/04). In 1905 the Championships were held at Jagersfontein, and not at all in 1906. Athletics reached a low ebb and apart from regular record-breaking feats by Hefferon and some cross country activity, there were few sports meetings. When Lionel Richardson became secretary of the ORCAA and CU the Championships were held again at Ramblers (Friend 10/5/07), but athletic activity continued to decline, and the Caledonian Sports were the only ones of any importance held in 1908 and 1909. In 1911 the Friend reported on the bad state of Bloemfontein athletics and said the country towns were dominating (15/4/11). An attempt was made to revive Bloemfontein Harriers in 1910 (Friend 16/3/10), and they organised runs and meetings, but the latter were infrequent and poorly supported (Friend 2/11/11). Ramblers and the Council were of no help (Friend 3/2/13). The O F S Championships could not be held in Bloemfontein as there was no suitable ground (Friend 22/11/13). So the First World War broke out with athletics in Bloemfontein virtually non-existent (Friend 1/1/14).

After the Anglo-Boer War, there was an upsurge of interest in athletics in Bloemfontein, followed by a decline that lasted until World War One. Hefferon, however, produced an amazing string of performances between 1903 and 1909.



## CHAPTER TEN

## DEVELOPMENTS IN PRETORIA

Although Johannesburg established itself as the leading centre for athletics in South Africa within a decade of its foundation, athletic sports meetings were held in the Transvaal before gold on the Witwatersrand was discovered. These events were mainly in Pretoria, Potchefstroom and at the Eastern Transvaal goldfields.

The first report of athletics in Pretoria was a meeting in honour of President Burgers in 1876. An advertisement, in English, in De Volkstem (22/4/76) announced that sports would be held on Saturday morning at 11 o'clock. The Dutch version referred to the activities as "Volksvermakelijkheden." The President attended the sports. The winners, mainly English-speaking, received money prizes. An H Minnaar, probably Dutch-speaking, won the 100 yards (Volkstem 29/4/76).

When Sir Theophilus Shepstone arrived in Pretoria in 1876 he arranged a cricket match between his staff and Pretoria Club and in view of his close connections with athletics in Natal it is not surprising to note that he was present at Whit-Monday Sports in 1877. British troops, newly arrived in Pretoria after the annexation, were prominent, and De Volkstem, which was printed partly in Dutch and partly in English at that time, announced it would give the results of the meeting in the English section only, since the 'entertainment' did not interest the Dutch readers (23/5/77). Hans Minnaar was interested, however, and beat four soldiers to win the 100 yards in 10.1/2 seconds. Private McGill won the mile on a rough, hilly, grass track in 5:12.1/2. The long jump was a fiasco as no measuring tape was available at first and by the time one was found, the marks in the sand had been obliterated. There were also events for soldiers only, civilians



only, and boys, and there was even a steeplechase and a pole vault.

The Carrington Horse held sports in March 1878, at which Murrow, 13th Regiment, a prominent soldier athlete, won the mile in 5:01 (Volkstem 9/4/78). An unpleasant incident marred military sports at Standerton in 1880. A Boer team was winning the tug of war but were 'jewed' of their prizes by the soldiers' team who cheated, and the rope snapped. A civilian, Grobbelaar, was also best in the shot and cheated out of his win. The reporter said that civilians should run their own sports. Pienaar, a foot-hunter, won the mile (Volkstem 4/9/80).

The festival at Paardekraal in 1881 was celebrated with sports and shows that Rural Sports (Boeresport) were popular with the Dutch. The advertisement read (Volkstem 22/4/76):

DE ALGEMENE FEESTVIERING TE PAARDEKRAAL

13-16 DEC 1881

15 DEC

2-5 VOLKSSPELEN als Hardloopen, Zakloopen,  
Mastklimmen, ens.

The report (Volkstem 31/12/81) noted that the committee was: P A Cronje, H J Schoeman, M W Vorster, C J Juta, J A de Vogel, and P W T Bell (secretary). Some of the events and prizes make interesting reading.

Bowsprit Running (a type of obstacle race):

1st a revolver. 2nd Pilgrim's Progress. 3rd Portraits of Boer Generals.

100 yards : a hymn book  
200 yards : a bible  
300 yards : a Henry Martiny rifle

The reporter commented:

These national sports, which are old Dutch ones, were very amusing and created a great deal of fun.

The mixtures of religious items and firearms as prizes was perhaps an indication of the two most important features of life which the Boers considered necessary for survival in those troubled times.

Athletic sports meetings were few and far between. The main sports reported were tennis, cricket and football. In 1883 it was reported from Lydenburg that "an athletic and sporting movement is being inaugurated here" (Volkstem 28/12/83), and in 1885, sports were held on the Church Square in Pretoria (Volkstem 11/1/86). There was an increase in activity in 1886, and Henry Nourse was associated with it. Nourse had moved from Kimberley and had already become President of Pretoria Athletic and Sporting Club (Volkstem 14/12/86). Sports, referred to in Dutch as 'De Eerste Vermakelikheden', were arranged for December at the Sporting Club grounds. Nourse and R K Loveday were judges. There were horse races and athletic events, and it can be considered as the first formal athletic meeting in Pretoria. Nourse was still an active man, and proved it by winning the long jump (19ft. 0ins.), the high jump (5ft. 3ins.), and the shot (Volkstem 28/12/86). The Pretoria Athletic and Sporting Club had been formed at a meeting in the Town Hall in November (Volkstem 26/11/86).

De Volkstem also reported the first athletic sports that were held in Johannesburg at the race course on 31 December 1887. This

was before the Eastern Star had started publishing in Johannesburg.

The Pretoria A and SC held its second meeting in March 1887, Nourse winning the 120 hurdles and triple jump (41ft. Oins.), and the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations in June 1887, which lasted a week, also included sports. Although 'uitlanders' in a foreign state, the British behaved as if Transvaal was part of the Empire and, although there was no official holiday, most of the shops closed and a huge crowd, the biggest yet, attended the sports. They were organised by Nourse and his secretary, Lofthouse, and Nourse won the high jump and shot. Jim Brown won the 880 yards. There was a 3/4 mile race for 'Kafirs' won by Andreas. As no sports had been arranged in Johannesburg, many people went over to Pretoria (De Volkstem 24/6/87). The celebrations had a political aspect, and the Cape Times quoted the Transvaal Advertiser as follows (28/6/87):

The two or three thousand spectators gathered together to witness the sports on Monday were to the most cursory observer mostly of British origin. It is true that such might naturally be expected to be the case on such an occasion, and probably our Government took it for granted and thought no more about the matter. But a wise ruler would have thought it worth while to associate himself in some way or other with the occasion. Had the President shown himself and have participated ever so slightly in the sentiment of the day he would have secured an ovation.

The writer of the report felt that the sports meeting had provided an opportunity to unite Dutch and English for the future development of South Africa and that it was a tragedy it had

been lost:

We now know for certain that the Government intends to regard the British population of this country as aliens...

Athletics was making some progress in Pretoria, helped by the presence of Nourse, who had formed his Gold Mining Company in Pretoria in 1887. Despite Kruger's absence from the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations, the Sporting Club arranged sports in honour of his birthday on 10 October 1888 and, in July that year, the Savage Football Club held sports in the Botanic Gardens (Volkstem 31/7/88; 4/10/88). All these meetings were at different venues and, as in other centres, it was soon obvious that future progress depended upon the acquisition of a suitable ground. In 1888, after the Savages Sports, the Advertiser (30/7/88) commented:

It is certainly no traducement to state that Pretoria, for its size, is the most backward town in South Africa for athletic sports. There once existed a sporting club here, but its actions were spasmodic, and a few months ago it died out, leaving no record of its existence but a few bad debts. Since then several attempts have been made by a few of our sporting citizens to reorganise the club, but these attempts have all proved unsuccessful.

Williams, the British Agent in Pretoria, after presenting the prizes, pointed out the necessity of athletics for young men and condemned the lack of interest in sports evinced by the older and more representative citizens in Pretoria.

The Sporting Club was revived, and not only held the President's Birthday Sports in 1888, but also organised three meetings on holidays in 1889, at Easter (Advertiser 24/4/89), Ascension Day (Advertiser 31/4/89), and Whit Monday (Volkstem 6/6/89). Athletics received a boost in 1889 when Berea Park was opened, providing a home for athletics until the Caledonian Ground came into operation in 1898 (Advertiser 22/11/89). Mellet walked at Berea Park in December 1889 (Advertiser 16/12/89) and on Boxing Day "best ever" sports were held that featured a South African Republic 100 yards championship. Vintcent beat Rolland by two yards in 10 seconds (Advertiser 27/12/89). Rolland won the 100 yards at the Savages Sports at Easter 1890 (Advertiser 9/4/90).

The National Athletic Club was formed in Pretoria in 1890, and a Cycling Club in 1891. These two clubs held sports fairly regularly at Berea Park, but they were not nearly as successful as the meetings being held at Wanderers, Johannesburg, which were beginning to attract thousands of spectators and prominent athletes and cyclists, who competed for a dazzling array of trophies and prizes donated by wealthy enthusiasts (Star 22/11/90; 2/1/90). Bicycles were first included in the President's Birthday Sports in 1890 (Advertiser 13/10/90). Commenting on the 1891 October sports, the reporter for the Advertiser said that he was new to Pretoria, but could see that Pretorians had little idea of "sportsman" (Advertiser 12/10/91). It seems that sports were not well advertised, they were badly organised, the ground was unsuitable, performances were poor and there was petty squabbling. As in Bloemfontein, problems dogged athletics in Pretoria up to the First World War and progress was disappointing.

A Caledonian Society was formed in Pretoria in 1892 and their decision to become involved in athletics was of great importance to the development of the sport. The first sports were held on White Monday 1893, two days before the second annual Caledonian

Sports on the Queen's Birthday at Wanderers, and the prospect of being able to compete at both meetings attracted visiting athletes, including Charlie Jones of Kimberley (Advertiser 23/5/93). Until the Society opened its own ground in 1898 the sports were held at Berea Park and by 1896 were attracting a crowd of three thousand people. Nourse and McLaren, owners of Berea Park, carried out renovations and improvements in 1894, which enabled it to compete to some extent with Wanderers, Johannesburg. P J Blignaut, member of the team to England in 1895, gained his first success at the Caledonian Sports, Berea Park, 1884, and White of Grahamstown won the mile (Advertiser 17/5/94). The Pretoria Cycling Club could not use Ascension Day for their sports as Berea Park was booked by the Boys' Brigade Sports (Advertiser 4/5/94), so they had to wait until the President's Birthday in October. The sports were successful but the track was reported as still unsuitable for cycling (Advertiser 11/10/94).

The first indication that the Caledonian Society considered having its own ground was at the Annual General Meeting in November 1895 when R Baikie submitted a scheme for the society to buy land in Arcadia. This was approved (Advertiser 11/11/95). The ground was purchased from Wessels and Esselen, and the estimated costs were six thousand to seven thousand pounds. A Board of Management was formed and debentures issued (Advertiser 10/11/96). In 1897 the scheme ran into the following problems (Advertiser 1/11/97):

Owing to the general depression and other circumstances very little progress has been made in the matter of the recreation ground.

The annual sports could not be held because of the delay with the sporting ground.



It was also realised that extra space was needed, and application was made to have Pretorius Street diverted to provide more room, but the Executive of the S A Republic rejected that. Hugh Crawford and George Leith requested a personal hearing, and the decision was reversed, so plans went ahead (Advertiser 20/1/98). The S-bend in Pretorius Street around the ground is still present today. The ground, known at first as 'Caleys', and later 'Callies', was opened on 31 August 1898, with a four laps-to-the-mile cycling track costing over three thousand pounds (Pretoria News 4/7/98). The opening sports were attended by a record crowd of four thousand people (Pretoria News 3/9/98).

1895 was a quiet year for athletics in Pretoria and the Caledonian Sports were not held. A fête was held in Burger's Park instead (Advertiser 23/5/95). A new cycling club was formed in October, the Pretoria Mechanics Amateur Cycling Club, which was largely English-speaking (Advertiser 4/10/95), and it held sports on Boxing Day at Berea Park (Advertiser 27/12/95). There was increased activity in 1896, and the Caledonian Sports, held at Berea Park on a Wednesday were very successful. The shops closed although it was not a public holiday. The Johannesburg train delayed matters as it was two hours late. Pieter and Phillip Blignaut were prominent and H T Phillips, who was S A Champion in 1905, 1906, and 1907, won the 220 yards Boys' Race (Advertiser 28/5/96). The Pretoria Mechanics CC held successful meetings in February, August and December, the first one in conjunction with the visit of Lord Hawke's English cricket team to Pretoria (Advertiser 28/2/96). John Mellet performed in October and was reported as beating the world record for 9 miles (1:24:41.2/5) (Advertiser 10/10/96). Another club was formed in 1896. The National Athletic Club seems to have faded away about two years after its formation, and for four years there was no athletic club in Pretoria. The Pretoria Amateur Athletic and Cycling Club was formed in March (Advertiser 9/3/96), but nothing more was heard of it, and there is some evidence that it combined with the

Pretoria Mechanics CC (Advertiser 15/5/96). The Pretoria Mechanics also faded from the scene in 1899. The Pretoria Cycling Club was revived in 1896, having been inactive for two years. C M de Vries became secretary and ladies were admitted to the club (Advertiser 29/10/96).

The Pretoria CC held successful sports in February 1897. P Blignaut won the Transvaal 440 yards championship cup for the third time (Advertiser 1/3/97). The secretary, de Vries, took on the responsibility of organising the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Sports, which drew five thousand people. The athletic performances, however, were mediocre (Advertiser 23/6/97). The Cycling Club and Pretoria Mechanics held sports on the public holidays, and the athletic events generally were poorly supported and mediocre. The Diocesan College held inaugural sports in October (Advertiser 28/10/97).

In 1898 most of the meetings were held at 'Callies'. In March 1899, the Pretoria CC, the Pretoria Mechanics and the Caledonian Society combined to organise sports to raise funds for the Pretoria Cottage Hospital and the Home for Destitute Girls on Amajuba Day. Apparently the British in Pretoria had no compunction about arranging and attending sports on a holiday proclaimed to celebrate a defeat of the British Army (Pretoria News 1/3/98). There was a large crowd for that meeting, but suddenly interest waned. Few spectators watched the Pretoria CC sports in April, and the THOR Bicycle Club (new) sports in May, and entries for the Caledonian Sports were so poor that they were postponed until October. The Pretoria News commented (23/5/99):  
"...and Pretorians seem unaccountably slack in their attendance at athletic sports."

The Caledonian Committee was puzzled, and so was the Pretoria News. It was felt that the opening of 'Callies' would promote athletics, but it had not happened. The depression, the threat of

war and the poor standard of the athletes may have been contributing factors. Baikie was busy with a scheme to form clubs in the various branches of sport in December 1899 (Pretoria News 22/12/99) but, before it could be implemented, the Anglo-Boer War began. Just before the war started and Callies was occupied by the Military as a mule camp (Pretoria News 30/1/03), Charity Sports for the Transvaal Orphans were organised by yet another new cycling club, PICA, Pretoria International Cycling Association (Pretoria News 27/12/99).

There were no reports of athletic meetings in 1900 and 1901, but meetings were numerous in 1902 after the British had occupied Pretoria. PICA were first in the field with sports on New Year's Day at Callies attended by a large crowd. Phillips won the 120 yards in a fast 12.1/5 seconds (Advertiser 3/1/02). Athletics suddenly boomed, stimulated by the onset of peace and the presence of the British Army. Including the PICA Sports, there were almost a dozen meetings during the year and, although reports were not available, it would seem likely that meetings were also held in 1901, since Pretoria was occupied in June 1900, and Callies was in working order by 1902. An exciting athlete with the British Army was Joe Deakin, a Private in the Rifle Brigade, who continued with athletics when he returned to Britain and won the 3 miles team race at the 1908 Olympic Games in 14:39,6. The Star referred to him as the Irish Champion (4/4/02). He captured public interest at the Caledonian Sports in May 1902 when he ran the 880 yards in 2:02.2/5 and the mile in 4:40.3/5, both Pretoria records (Advertiser 21/5/02). At the Football Association Sports in August he ran the mile in 4:36.1/5, a best ever in Transvaal (Advertiser 5/8/02), and followed that with 4:31.1/3 in September at the PICA Sports, reported as an S A record (Advertiser 9/9/02). The only two performances in South Africa comparable to Deakin's seem to be a mile in 4:30 by F H Guthrie at Newlands, Cape Town, 1890, which was highly suspect since all the performances at the meeting were queried (Cape

and in 1905 applied to the TAAA to be recognised as an independent centre, similar to the arrangement they had with the TCU (Pretoria News 21/2/05). At this time, however, the TAAA itself was disorganised. It had been formed in Johannesburg in 1903, but the first Annual General Meeting was held only in 1905, and there was confusion because the SAAAA was reorganised to include cycling in 1904 (Star 18/2/04). The TCU agreed to allow Pretoria to form its own Union in 1907 (Star 2/8/07) but, as far as athletics was concerned, Pretoria remained as a centre affiliated to the TAAA until 1935 (SAAA and CA minutes, 19/4/35).

Several prominent athletes came to the fore in Pretoria before the First World War. Henry Phillips has already been mentioned. He consistently gained places in events ranging from 100 yards to 880 yards. Douglas Stupart was first mentioned at the Football Sports in August 1902, where he won the long jump (20ft. 6ins.) and triple jump (42ft. 2ins.) (Advertiser 5/8/02). Five days later at the Caledonian Coronation Sports he won the high jump (5ft. 7ins; 5ft. 8.1/2ins. in an exhibition), the triple jump (43ft. 1.1/4ins; 44ft. 4ins. exhibition), and was second in the long jump (Advertiser 11/8/02). He cleared 21ft. 3ins. at the King's Birthday Sports (Advertiser 11/11/02). The ex-Scottish 880 yards champion and London A C member J N Cormack was placed in an 880 yards event in May 1903 (Pretoria News 21/5/03). He settled in South Africa, became captain of Pretoria Harriers, ran in the 1906 Intermediate Olympic Games in Greece and was Vice-President of the TAAA.

The formation of Pretoria Harriers in 1904 was a turning point in athletics in Northern Transvaal. This club eventually became Pretoria Athletic Club, one of the strongest in the country. Pretoria Harriers was born of the enthusiasm for cross country that arose in South Africa after the Anglo-Boer War, and which led to the forming of Spartan Harriers, Celtic Harriers, Johannesburg Harriers, Bloemfontein Harriers, and others. A letter from A J Barker in the Pretoria News (19/1/04) announced



sports were reported as being held on August Bank Holiday, this was not a public holiday in Transvaal. The King's Birthday became a public holiday from 1902 onwards and was used for sports meetings.

Baikie's office was the venue for the meeting with representatives from Ramblers, Bloemfontein, at which the Inter-Capital Sports were discussed. Baikie was elected secretary (Pretoria News 25/8/03). The first meeting, held in Pretoria in September 1904, made a loss of one hundred and five pounds which local clubs had to bear (Pretoria News 28/9/03). The second meeting, held in Bloemfontein in September 1904 also made a loss, and this was the main reason why they were discontinued. Writing in the Pretoria News (21/12/05) 'Hobo' said:

...it is felt that the Inter-Capital Sports v Bloemfontein do not pay and should be replaced by matches v Johannesburg.

Just before World War One Pretoria won an inter-city contest with Johannesburg (Pretoria News 15/12/13).

The large number of sports meetings held in 1902 and 1903 caused some concern and, in December 1903, a meeting was called in Baikie's office to exercise some control and allocate meetings for 1904. At the meeting it was decided to form The Pretoria District Athletic and Cycling Association to control sport and sports in Pretoria (Pretoria News 8/12/03). This organisation can be considered the forerunner of the Northern Transvaal AAA. The new body (PDACA) clashed with the TCU, led by Leo Rogaly, a union worried about the SAAAA controlling cycling (Pretoria News 8/2/04). After negotiations, the TCU agreed to the formation of the PDACA (Pretoria News 22/2/04), and the latter body affiliated to the TAAA (Pretoria News 12/4/04). The new body became the Pretoria and District Cycling and Amateur Athletic Association

and in 1905 applied to the TAAA to be recognised as an independent centre, similar to the arrangement they had with the TCU (Pretoria News 21/2/05). At this time, however, the TAAA itself was disorganised. It had been formed in Johannesburg in 1903, but the first Annual General Meeting was held only in 1905, and there was confusion because the SAAAA was reorganised to include cycling in 1904 (Star 18/2/04). The TCU agreed to allow Pretoria to form its own Union in 1907 (Star 2/8/07) but, as far as athletics was concerned, Pretoria remained as a centre affiliated to the TAAA until 1935 (SAAA and CA minutes, 19/4/35).

Several prominent athletes came to the fore in Pretoria before the First World War. Henry Phillips has already been mentioned. He consistently gained places in events ranging from 100 yards to 880 yards. Douglas Stupart was first mentioned at the Football Sports in August 1902, where he won the long jump (20ft. 6ins.) and triple jump (42ft. 2ins.) (Advertiser 5/8/02). Five days later at the Caledonian Coronation Sports he won the high jump (5ft. 7ins; 5ft. 8.1/2ins. in an exhibition), the triple jump (43ft. 1.1/4ins; 44ft. 4ins. exhibition), and was second in the long jump (Advertiser 11/8/02). He cleared 21ft. 3ins. at the King's Birthday Sports (Advertiser 11/11/02). The ex-Scottish 880 yards champion and London A C member J N Cormack was placed in an 880 yards event in May 1903 (Pretoria News 21/5/03). He settled in South Africa, became captain of Pretoria Harriers, ran in the 1906 Olympic Games in Greece and was Vice-President of the TAAA.

The formation of Pretoria Harriers in 1904 was a turning point in athletics in Northern Transvaal. This club eventually became Pretoria Athletic Club, one of the strongest in the country. Pretoria Harriers was born of the enthusiasm for cross country that arose in South Africa after the Anglo-Boer War, and which led to the forming of Spartan Harriers Celtic Harriers, Johannesburg Harriers, Bloemfontein Harriers, and others. A letter from A J Barker in the Pretoria News (19/1/04) announced



15<sup>th</sup> October 1904.



**Pretoria Harriers.**

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF  
 HIS EXCELLENCY SIR ARTHUR LAWLEY,  
K.C.M.G., LEUT.-GOVERNOR.  
 LIEUT.-GEN. THE HON. N. G. LYTTELTON.

**FIRST ANNUAL . . . . .  
 SOCIAL GATHERING  
 . . . AND . . . .  
 DISTRIBUTION OF .  
 PRIZES**

*By the Mayor.*

*At Erasmus Hall, Church Square, Pretoria,  
 On Saturday, 15th October, 1904,  
 At 8.15 p.m.*

J. REED, BINDER

**THE PRETORIA HARRIERS.**

**Smoking Concert**

GIVEN AT

**THE CAFE ROYAL.**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 13TH, 1904.**

AT 8 P.M.

CHAIRMAN . . . . . J. B. WILLIAMSON, Esq.

**PART I.**

PIANOFORTE SOLO	... Selection from "Country Girl,"	... Mr. DUNLOP
SONG	... "My Queen,"	... Mr. A. MOORE
SONG	... "Our Threepenny Hop,"	... Mr. CON MULLIGAN
SONG	... "My Own Little Girl,"	... Mr. DUNLOP
SONG	... "Shit Up a Little Bit Further,"	... Mr. J. LAMB
MANDOLINE SOLO	... "Light of Foot,"	... Mr. B. W. PARKES
SONG	... "The Merry Mon,"	... Mr. L. BARROWMAN
SONG	... "Has It Ever Occurred to You,"	... Mr. A. P. SPRINGTHORPE
SONG	... Selected	... Mr. T. LADDLAW
SONG	... Selected	... Mr. FRAZER
SONG	... "Just Because I Happened to be There,"	... Mr. ALLEN TAYFIELD

**PART II.**

BAND SOLO	... Selected	... Mr. H. J. BARKER
SONG	... Selected	... Mr. MOORE
SONG	... "Skylark,"	... Mr. J. LAMB
SONG	... Selected	... Mr. MULLIGAN
MANDOLINE SOLO	... "Hock Hotsburgh,"	... Mr. PARKES
SONG	... "The Devout Lover,"	... Mr. DUNLOP
SONG	... Humorous	... Mr. TAYFIELD
SONG	... Selected	... Mr. FRAZER
SONG	... "Aly's Awfully Good at Algebra,"	... Mr. A. P. SPRINGTHORPE
SONG	... "The Bandoliers,"	... Mr. BARROWMAN
SONG	... Selected	... Mr. LADDLAW

GOD SAVE THE KING.

Accompanist . . . . . Mr. C. DUNLOP.

256 (a)

that a meeting would be held on 29 January 1904 to form a Cross Country Harriers Club. G E Kitson chaired the meeting which was attended by some forty athletes. J N Cormack was elected captain, and A J Barker secretary. The Vice-Presidents were Baikie, and T W McCawley, Superintendent of Physical Culture in the Education Department (Pretoria News 30/1/04). McCawley spoke and wrote on the value of physical culture and fitness on several occasions (Advertiser 19/11/02; Pretoria News 23/9/03) and, in December 1903, took a group on a demonstration tour of South Africa (Pretoria News 2/12/03). The early club runs started from his house at 131 Skinner Street (Pretoria News 2/2/04). The first club race was in March 1904. Pretoria Harriers and Johannesburg Harriers met regularly in competition and social runs, and were responsible for the introduction of the TAAA cross country championships in August 1905. Pretoria Harriers became Pretoria Harriers Athletic Club and from 1907 took an increasing interest in track meetings. The club weathered the lack of interest in athletics in 1912-1913 and, when the First World War began, it was still strong and active. It was one of the first clubs to resume activities in 1918 after the war.

Inter-school sports were held for the first time in Pretoria in June 1904 (Pretoria News 27/6/04), organised by E Smith Barry, headmaster of the Gymnasium School, and the medals, presented by Lady Lawley, were donated by education directors. 2331 entries from boys and girls ensured the success of the sports. There was no report of such a meeting in 1905, and the next report was in 1906 when the winners were Eendracht, a school for Dutch-speaking pupils. According to the report, pupils entering for the sports trained at 'Callies' for several weeks (Pretoria News 21/9/06). The Pretoria Inter-School Sports appear to have been discontinued in favour of the Transvaal Inter-High School Sports, which Eendracht of Pretoria won in 1906, at the Wanderers (Star 26/9/06). The Transvaal sports were first held at the Wanderers in September 1905, and Diocesan College, Pretoria, was one of the

five participating schools (Star 28/9/05). In 1907 the Transvaal Inter-High was held in Pretoria and was won by Pretoria College. Mrs Louis Botha presented the prizes (Pretoria News 30/9/07). The sports developed into a strong and popular institution but eventually foundered on the issue of bilingualism (Ira Emery : personal interview, 1975).

Mention has already been made (Chapter Nine) of the successful Inter-Capital Garrison Sports held between Bloemfontein and Pretoria at Roberts' Heights (now Voortrekkerhoogte) in April 1906 (Pretoria News 16/4/06). In 1906 a Garrison Athletic Club was formed (Pretoria News 6/2/08). Army athletics blossomed when Captain W Wetherall (often spelt Wetherell) arrived from Britain. Letters had appeared in the press appealing for Army Championships (Transvaal Leader 22/5/07; 8/1/08), and Platnauer supported the idea. When Weatherall arrived to take up his post of Superintendent of the Gymnasium at Potchefstroom, one of the significant things he did was to organise Army Athletic Championships at Callies in September 1908 (Transvaal Leader 15/6/08). The meeting was held under the 1908 Royal Navy, Military, and AAA rules, and several TAAA officials, including Platnauer, assisted. The 100 yards was won by Cutts, Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, in 10.2/5 seconds (Pretoria News 23/9/08). Cutts was a successful Army sprinter and had won the 100 yards at the sports arranged by the Queen's Bay Regiment when they left South Africa (Pretoria News 9/11/06; 28/11/07). He ran in the Transvaal 100 yards championship in December 1906 and was beaten by Phillips (Pretoria News 17/12/06).

The second Army Championships in October 1909 were very successful (Pretoria News 4/10/09), and Weatherall can take credit for establishing military athletics on a sound footing in South Africa. He did not confine himself to military affairs alone, but also took an active interest in athletics in Pretoria generally. He officiated at the Pretoria Centre TAAAA and TCU

Championships in December 1908 (Pretoria News 16/12/08), at the Caledonian Sports in May 1909 (Pretoria News 1/6/09), and at the Inter-High School Sports in September 1909 (Pretoria News 25/9/09). His expertise and enthusiasm were acknowledged in October 1909 when he was elected chairman of the Pretoria Centre of the TAAA, and chaired the meeting when Otto Schuller, the TAAA chairman, visited Pretoria in December 1909 to resolve the dispute that had developed between the provincial body, based in Johannesburg, and the Pretoria Centre (Pretoria News 13/12/09). Weatherall was referee of the sports meeting at which McArthur set a South African record for 5 miles in January 1910 (Pretoria News 10/1/10), and acted as secretary/treasurer of the committee formed to raise funds to send McArthur to Europe to run in the Athens Marathon and the English AAA 10 miles Championship (Pretoria News 7/2/10).

Weatherall returned to England in June 1910 and his contribution to athletics in Pretoria was recognised by presentations and citations (Pretoria News 22/6/10; 23/6/10; 24/6/10). His services to South African athletics were not finished, however. He assisted the South African Olympic Team in England in 1912 (Star 8/3/12; 3/5/12), acted as team manager in Stockholm (Van der Merwe, 1978, p. 78), and was asked by the S A Government to obtain information about government aid to other nations attending the Games (Star 24/5/12).

Professional athletics reached a peak in South Africa between 1908 and 1913 with the centre of activity in Johannesburg, so Pretoria athletes became involved. The Pretoria Wheelers Club held a meeting for professionals at Callies on Boxing Day 1905, and cash prizes were given for the athletic events (Star 27/12/05). Another meeting was held in August 1906, attended by a small crowd (Star 13/8/06). Pretoria athletes attended the first Sheffield Syndicate meeting at Braamfontein in June 1907 (Pretoria News 10/6/07), and these meetings became regular.

Similar meetings were arranged at Callies, the first organised by the Electric Light Company in October (Pretoria News 8/10/07) and the subsequent ones by the Transvaal Cycling Association, not to be confused with the TCU, the amateur body (Pretoria News 27/12/07; 21/4/08). The TCA Sports on 12 December 1908 were the first to be held in Pretoria under floodlights and featured a band and fireworks (Pretoria News 14/12/08).

The arrival of the Australian entrepreneur, Rufe Naylor, and world-class professional sprinters such as Arthur Postle, brought public interest to a peak, and a special stadium for professional athletics was built in Johannesburg (see Chapter Fifteen). Rufe Naylor took his group of professionals to Pretoria in October 1909 where they competed at Reck's Rink (roller skating) before a good crowd. Donaldson, Wilson, Conway and Terry performed (Pretoria News 20/10/09). There was a dispute in Pretoria in November because amateur officials officiated at a professional meeting at Callies (Pretoria News 15/11/09) but there were no repercussions reported. There were no further professional meetings reported in Pretoria. It seems that the few professional meetings held in Pretoria were arranged mainly by cyclists and there were only a few athletic events. Pretoria was thus involved indirectly, by athletes taking part in Johannesburg, probably under assumed names, and by the depressing effect that the success of the professional activities had on the amateurs.

The 'Walking Craze' involved both Pretoria and Johannesburg, as 'Go-as-you-please' events were organised between the two cities, copying the London to Brighton example. Most of these seemed to be from Johannesburg to Pretoria (Pretoria News 15/7/03; 31/7/03; 26/9/03). Cormack and Bennie, who were later leading Pretoria Harriers and Transvaal cross country runners, placed 1st and 2nd in a 24 mile 'Go-as-you-please' in Pretoria in August (Pretoria News 26/8/03).



It has been noted that there was an upsurge of interest in athletics in Pretoria after the Anglo-Boer War, with many organisations holding meetings. Interest waned in 1907 and 'Hobo', writing in the Pretoria News (18/12/07) said that the crowds at meetings had declined over the past two years and that the Football Association had stopped holding sports. He thought that the depressed economic conditions were partly responsible but also queried the effect of the "crawling" in the cycle races - the "go-slow" tactics. At the Pretoria Cycling Club Annual General Meeting in February 1908, it was admitted that the public had lost interest (Pretoria News 14/2/08) and this could have been a reason why the professional cycling meetings were attempted.

There was a brief upsurge of public interest in athletics in January 1909 when the Olympic athletes, Walker and Hefferon, competed at Callies. In an editorial the Pretoria News (2/1/09) called it:

...the historic sports meeting.

and continued:

Nearly all the sports meetings held during the past few years have been financial failures.

If you have a good thing and you advertise it well, you can make it go, even in apathetic Pretoria.

The Pretoria News (2/1/09) said the whole of Pretoria was there, from the mayor and councillors downwards, and it heralded a new lease of life for athletics. Unfortunately, this was not the case. Later in January the 'Caley' (Callies) was damaged by floods and there



was no money for repairs (Pretoria News 27/1/09). 'Hobo' wrote on the need to save Callies, while Baikie said the Caledonian Society would sell it (Pretoria News 8/2/09).

It appears that the Caledonian Society offered the ground to the Council, and in July it was announced that a special committee had recommended that the Council take over the ground, but after some bitter discussion the matter was referred back to the General Purposes Committee (Pretoria News 2/7/09). Letters appeared in the press (Pretoria News 5/7/09; 6/7/09; 14//7/09) and the General Purposes Committee recommended purchase but the Council voted against it (Pretoria News 16/7/09). Callies had been repaired and meetings were held there but the tracks were not good and the Pretoria Championships were postponed in December because the ground was a quagmire (Pretoria News 27/12/09). The S A Championships were allocated to Pretoria in 1910 as part of the Union Celebrations and, although the Pretoria News said Callies would have to be renovated and altered, there is no report of who supplied the finance (Pretoria News 18/4/10). The crowds at the championships were disappointing, only two hundred on the second day (Pretoria News 1/6/10), and in July 'Hobo' wrote (Pretoria News 6/7/10):

Surely our sport was never at so low a level...and there is no interest in athletics and cycling.

The lack of interest persisted and it was even suggested that language was a factor (Pretoria News 21/2/12):

Have all the people who used to patronise those meetings been 'gevoetsak' because they cannot 'praat the Taal'.

The Pretoria Centre Championships were cancelled in December 1912

because the entries were so poor and the Pretoria News (4/12/12) wrote: "Athletics is dead."

This may have been true of sports meetings but not all the athletes had lost interest. The TAAA Cross Country Championships in August had been a resounding success and Pretoria beat Johannesburg easily (Pretoria News 19/8/12; 3/12/12).

The cancelled track championships provoked comment in the press, including an editorial and a two-column article in the Pretoria News (5/12/12; 9/12/12), and several people aired their views in letters (Pretoria News 7/1/13; 29/1/13; 10/2/13). There was, however, no change in the situation before athletics was disrupted by the First World War (Pretoria News 18/4/14).

Between the Anglo-Boer War and the First World War athletics in Pretoria struggled to become a strong sport but did not achieve success. The upsurge in public interest after the Anglo-Boer War gradually receded, and the declining interest seemed to be related to inadequate facilities, boredom with the type of cycling presented (crawling), and the generally depressed state of the economy, both in industry and farming (Geen, 1961, p. 203). Fortunately the Pretoria Harriers continued its activities and cross country running was popular. At the outbreak of war the club boasted one hundred and twenty-two members (Pretoria News 4/3/14) and, after the cessation of hostilities, was able to play a leading role in reviving athletics.

## CHAPTER ELEVEN

## DEVELOPMENTS IN JOHANNESBURG

Athletics was well established in the Cape and Natal when gold was discovered on the Witwatersrand, but the influx of young, virile men to the Reef and the opening of the Wanderers Club and ground soon put Johannesburg in the forefront of athletic development in South Africa. So rapid was the progress that a national governing body for athletics in South Africa was established in Johannesburg, a mere eight years after the city was founded and before a Transvaal association had been formed. This happened despite the fact that Johannesburg was in a foreign country, separate from the Cape Colony and Natal Colony, and the people who formed the association were 'uitlanders': immigrants without citizenship rights in Transvaal. The sportsmen in Johannesburg considered South Africa to be one nation for the purposes of sport, and pre-empted the later military and political developments.

Athletic events and sports were probably held within weeks of the 'diggers' arriving at Ferreira's Camp, but the first officially reported sports were held on 31 December 1886 at the race course. Fifteen hundred spectators saw Jim Brown win the 100 and 120 hurdles and the mile (Volkstem 1/1/87). The sports were probably organised by the Johannesburg Sporting Club, and it was this body that held sports at the race course on the Queen's Birthday 1888. It was not a public holiday but, according to the Eastern Star (25/5/88), most Johannesburgers treated it as such.

The first Wanderers Sports reported in the Star were held in May 1889 and were attended by a crowd of three thousand people. Henry Nourse was a judge and he also won the 120 yards hurdles. Another judge

was C A Smith, better known later as the Hollywood actor, C Aubrey Smith, and George Farrar was a time-keeper. According to the report the 'under and over' gentry, the bookmakers, did a roaring trade until closed down by the committee with the aid of the police (Star 27/5/89). According to Gutsche (1966, p. 37), Wanderers held sports before that meeting, on 8 April 1889:

While the scaffolding for the Club House went up behind and alongside the Pavilion, the first 'Sporting Meeting' was held on the rough ground.

Gutsche (1966) described the foundation and development of Wanderers in detail, and her description of the early days in Johannesburg vividly portray the way the virile fortune-hunters became involved in sport and the Wanderers Club.

C L Andersson was the first secretary of Wanderers and Jacob Swart, formerly in Kimberley, negotiated the lease of the ground. Frantic efforts were made to prepare the ground for the visit of Major Warton's cricket team. According to Gutsche (1966) it was Andersson who proposed holding athletic meetings to raise money to develop Wanderers, which had been established primarily as a cricket and football club. The meetings were incredibly popular because, as Gutsche explained (1966, p. 37):

To the miserable, bored and lonely young men along the length and breadth of the Reef, it was a heaven-sent diversion.

Thus, unlike the other centres, Johannesburg had a club and ground at the start and athletics was supported by the Randlords, the wealthy and influential businessmen such as David Pullinger, George Farrar, Julius Jeppe, Abe Bailey, J B Taylor, W P Taylor and others. Many of them had been involved in athletics in the

Cape and Natal, and so with expertise, money and facilities, a large number of enthusiastic young athletes and thousands of people desperate for entertainment and social contacts, the Wanderers sports days soon outshone those in other centres. The Transvaal Advertiser (8/3/94) applauded the improvements to Berea Park in 1894 because it thought it would put a halt to Pretoria clubs "disappearing in the capacious maw of a monster Wanderers Club."

The professional walkers, the pedestrians, were also soon active in Johannesburg, and the match between J J Barrow ('Roaming Joe') and Arthur Hancock in a six-day event created enormous interest. Held in a large tent, it began on 28 October 1889, and the Star carried detailed daily reports of the race, which Barrow won. Mellet also went to Johannesburg and beat Barrow and Jenkins at the Wanderers in a 3 hours race (Star 2/12/89). Details of these events are given in Chapter Fifteen.

The first Wanderers New Year Sports were held on 1 January 1890, and they soon became famous throughout South Africa. The Star objected to the sports being an all-day affair and commented (6/12/89): "Athletic sports under the most favourable circumstances, are inclined to be slow."

The problem was that events were held sequentially and, as there were twenty-five, it must have been somewhat tedious. Boys' athletic sports were held in February with a large number of age groups (Star 3/2/90) and there was a meeting at Easter, but entries were low as many athletes competed in Kimberley (Star 8/4/90).

Cycling was included in the New Year Sports, and the cyclists complained about their prizes. 'Bicyclist' said the prizes for cycling were meagre compared with those given for foot-racing (Star 12/3/90). A mile race for natives was also held : "some twenty Kaffirs were raised from the neighbouring plains and set

running." The winner clocked 5:10 and received a sovereign (Star 2/1/90).

The Wanderers Whitsun Sports in 1890 attracted a record crowd. A feature of the meeting was a 2 miles steeplechase, which was actually a cross country race. The course took the runners round the residences of Abe Bailey and the Landdrost, covering some very rough ground. There were four starters, and the miler J P Murray won in 5:40, so as the Star remarked (27/5/90): "It was a long way short of two miles." There were moves to promote cross country at that time, as this report in the Star indicates (2/6/90):

A proposition has also been made to hold a cross country run of eight or ten miles, a sport so popular in England, and as we have several long distance runners here, there should be no lack of entries.

Nothing came of the attempt to establish cross country at that time, and it did not really become popular until after the Anglo-Boer War, when Johannesburg Harriers and Pretoria Harriers were formed. The longest distance run on the track was usually the mile, and Murray was the leading performer in those early Wanderers meetings. He won the Transvaal Challenge Trophy for the mile the first time it was contested in November 1889, in 4:41.2/5 (Star 4/11/89). Charlie Vintcent dominated the sprint events until he left Johannesburg for the Cape in December 1890 (Star 15/12/90). His departure took much of the interest out of the New Year Sports which Rolland had entered. Fresh from his triumphs in the Cape and Natal, Rolland had easy wins in the 100 yards (Abe Bailey Trophy) and 220 yards (Pullinger Trophy) in mediocre times: 10.4/5 and 26,0. Tom Parker, the ex-Grahamstown merchant, emerged as a fine middle distance runner, winning the 880 from scratch in 2:03, and the Transvaal Mile Challenge Trophy



in 4:47.3/5 (Star 2/1/91; 3/1/91). Abe Bailey was the starter. There was a huge crowd but the dazzling array of valuable trophies did not attract as many entries from athletes as had been expected. In 1891 there were again complaints about the prizes. These were not the trophies, but the prizes the athletes kept. They were considered inferior, and the athletes wanted their value printed on the programme (Star 4/4/91). Athletes and cyclists placed great importance on the prizes, and a successful athlete was always photographed standing by his display of trophies. In 1892 George Farrar travelled to England to obtain prizes for the Wanderers Sports (Star 27/2/92).

The prizes at the first Caledonian Sports were reported to be 'splendid' (Star 6/6/92). The Caledonian Society was formed in March 1892 (Star 19/3/92) and lost no time in arranging Scottish Sports for the Whitsun Holiday. Four thousand spectators turned up to the first of a long series of successful meetings. Tom Parker was again on form and won the 440 yards off scratch. This was no mean feat as there were no lanes and he had to overtake the twenty four opponents spread out around the track ahead of him. According to the Star (6/6/92; 7/6/92) the timekeeping at the meeting was poor.

Wanderers was not the only athletic club in Johannesburg. The Star Athletic and Recreation Club was formed in March 1890 (Star 6/3/90), and each mine usually held annual sports. The Robinson Gold Mine held a meeting in April 1890 "on the hill above the manager's house" (Star 28/4/90). In April 1891 the Johannesburg Athletic Club was formed to "cater for the sons of the humbler classes" (Star 25/4/91). The prime-mover was J R Couper, who felt that Wanderers was expensive and exclusive. Nothing further was reported of the club. The cyclists, of whom there were reportedly sixty in March 1890 (Star 12/3/90), also formed themselves into a club (Star 8/5/90), and their first venture was an outing to Halfway House on Thursday 15 May (Ascension Day) (Star 10/5/90).

The Cycling Club combined with Wanderers to present successful cycling sports in July (Star 7/7/90), which led to an amalgamation between the two in January 1891. Cycling events were greatly improved in 1890 when the pneumatic tyre was introduced (Star 13/7/91). The first school sports reported were held by St Michael's College in September 1891 (Star 30/9/91). Sports were also held in other towns, and the Star also reported (17/10/91) that the Krugersdorp Gymnastic Club held sports on the President's Birthday. President's Birthday Sports had also been held at the Wanderers in 1891, but they were cancelled in 1892 because of the growing dissatisfaction with President Kruger's attitude to the 'uitlanders' (Star 10/10/92). The Wanderers Juvenile Sports were held again in April 1892 and an attempt was made to introduce events for girls, but only one entered (Star 2/4/92). There were no further reports of events for girls until after the Anglo-Boer War.

One of the problems associated with athletic sports all over South Africa before the First World War, and particularly in Johannesburg, was betting. Mention has already been made of the attempts of the committee to prevent betting at the Wanderers Sports in May 1889. Betting was prevalent at the first Caledonian Sports in June 1892, and there was some difference of opinion about it in the Johannesburg press, as this comment from the Star reveals (7/6/92):

A morning contemporary is never tired of writing complainingly of the betting that takes place at Sports at the Wanderers, but to keep pegging away at a class of men who, although they are regarded by the sanctimonious as nothing more nor less than 'legs', generally manage to combine honesty with their calling, seems to me a trifle unfair. Betting at the sports will never be

put down, simply because the public will bet and the management have to cater for the public.

The reporter suggested that the bookmakers should be placed in a special enclosure where they would not cause annoyance. The problem of betting is considered in more detail in Chapter Fourteen.

Tom Parker and the Blignaut brothers, Piet and Phil, were the star performers at the 1893 New Year Meeting, Piet recording a fast 22.3/5 when winning the Pullinger 220 yards trophy (Star 3/1/93). An attempt was made to attract competitors from the Cape, Natal and Free State to the Transvaal by co-ordinating meetings into a short 'season' and negotiating with the railways for special fares which enabled athletes to travel to Viljoen's Drift, the end of the line, at a single fare rate for the return trip (Star 25/3/93). Sports were arranged for the 20th, 22nd and 24th of May, which included Whitsun and the Queen's Birthday. The sports were very successful, especially the Caledonian Sports on the Queen's Birthday which drew a crowd of six thousand (Star 24/5/93). At the first meeting Charlie Jones beat Piet Blignaut in the 120 and 220, and Tom Parker won the 440, 880 and mile. G A Parker, author of South African Sports (1897), won the long jump (Star 20/5/93). Tom Parker beat Phil Blignaut in the 440 at the second meeting, clocking a fast 51 seconds, and B White of Grahamstown won a 3 miles race in 18:15, one of the few races of that distance held before World War One (Star 22/5/93). Parker beat White in the mile on 24 May and also won the pole vault (Star 24/5/93). The Blignaut brothers were also very successful at the President's Birthday Sports in October (Star 10/10/93).

Cycling continued to gain in popularity and the cyclists became more organised. According to Parker (1897, p. 130), a South African Cyclists' Union was formed in 1892, but Hoffman (in

Swaffer, 1914, p. 100) gives the impression it was formed in 1893. The Star mentioned the SACU for the first time in May 1893 (Star 20/5/93) and the new association held S A Cycling Championships at the Wanderers in September 1893. Platnauer was a handicapper (Star 26/8/93; 9/9/93). Cycling was, therefore, ahead of athletics at that stage, but the national association does not appear to have been effective, and Parker refers to "a second and present era" which dated from the formation of the Transvaal Cyclists' Union in February 1897 (Parker, 1897, p. 130). The Cape Colony Amateur Athletic and Cycling Union (CCAA and CU) was formed in Port Elizabeth in 1894 and considered itself the 'national body', which was a valid claim for cycling but not for athletics. The popularity of cycling was boosted by the phenomenal successes of Laurens Meintjes in England and America 1893, where he set up sixteen world records and won the 100 kilometres world championship at the Chicago World Fair. (Hoffmann 1914, p. 100). Meintjes was the first South African to represent the country (not yet politically unified) overseas, and his success had three important consequences:

1. The popularity of cycling increased, attracting spectators to sports meetings. This helped to increase gate money, but also for a while, detracted from the interest in athletics. Centres were also more concerned with providing a good cycling track than a suitable athletic track.
2. Attention was focused on the possibility of sending other sporting teams overseas, which led to the SAAAA team visiting England in 1895.
3. Attention was focused on the need for national controlling bodies, a point made by Meintjes himself in speeches when he returned.

There were those who felt also that Meintjes had a unifying

effect on South Africa and J H Hofmeyr, the Cape Statesman, said (Star 25/11/93): "He has helped to bring about a united South Africa."

and that he had managed to establish the concept of 'South Africanism' better than the politicians.

Meintjes certainly made South African sportsmen realise that they had the ability to compete on equal terms with competitors from other countries and the Star remarked (25/11/93):

...he has for the first time indicated the right of South Africa to a conspicuous place in the world of sport.

When it was learned that Tom Parker intended competing in England there was conviction that he would also be successful (Star 4/12/93), and Abe Bailey said he "hoped they would see not only Tom Parker go to England, but a good many others" (Star 4/12/93). Unfortunately there were no reports of Parker's performances in England.

The upsurge in the popularity of cycling in Johannesburg coincided with an increase in betting and gambling at sports meetings, and the Star (27/12/93) commented: "Athleticism is degenerating into thinly veiled professionalism."

According to Gutsche (1966) the craze for cycling seized the whole town "and even the magnates cycled from their mansions to their offices from 1892 onwards" (p. 59). Ladies bought bicycles and formed a cycling club. According to Gutsche the sports meetings became veritable treasure hunts, and the leading cyclists and athletes were said to have households of silverware. As the economic situation worsened in 1893, gambling and betting seemed to increase until they reached endemic proportions, and



the malpractices lasted well into the twentieth century. Cycling had tremendous appeal and was, "as Frank Connock always pointed out, the fastest thing on wheels, and captivated adolescent imagination" (Gutsche, 1966, p. 69). As young riders vied with each other on the track, foul practices became commonplace. The SA Cycling Union seemed powerless to control the situation.

In 1893 athletics was one of the few major sports in South Africa that did not have a national governing body, although the need for one had been realised in Port Elizabeth, Kimberley, Pietermaritzburg and Durban, and had been suggested by H W Brown, Cumming, Herschenson, Miles, Terry and others. The catalyst that brought about the formation of the SAAAA was a letter received by the Wanderers secretary, C L Andersson, from J Astley-Cooper of England, who was proposing to hold a Pan-Britanic Gathering in London at which all English-Speaking countries would be represented (Star 9/12/93). Astley-Cooper felt that in view of Meintjes' success there was no reason why South Africa should not be represented. He enclosed cuttings from the Times and Daily News which described developments in Canada and Australia, and said (Star 9/12/93):

The prelude to definite progress would be, I think, to form an amateur athletic association for the Cape, and in this you might take a leading part.

Astley-Cooper probably chose to write to the secretary of Wanderers because happenings in Johannesburg were world news, and the success of Meintjes and the immense popularity of sports at the Wanderers had no doubt brought the activities of the club to his notice.

The Star (9/12/93) made the following comment on the letter:



The letter is an interesting one, and as Meintjies's return, covered with honours, has given an impetus to South African sport, this is an opportune time to push forward a South African Athletic Association, which is undoubtedly urgently required.

The Star (9/12/93) also quoted the Toronto Mail:

...throughout Canada the Anglo-Saxon Olympiad will receive the heartiest support. There is no telling what such a union, begun on a basis of games and common race, might grow.

On 27 December the Star devoted its editorial column to the Pan-Britannic Festival, which it likened to the Ancient Greek Olympics. It said that Astley-Cooper had tried the idea some years ago,

...but there was an uncomfortable feeling that a circus proprietor was somehow hardly the man to bring about a great gathering of the English-speaking races.

The Star felt that this time Astley-Cooper would succeed, and continued:

We are beginning more and more to realise the deep political significance of British sport.

Sport today is one of the strongest bonds which keep that amorphous organism the British Empire together.

The Wanderers and Andersson accepted the challenge of forming

the SAAAA, and a letter was sent to all clubs and athletic organisations in South Africa inviting them to a meeting to be held in conjunction with the Wanderers New Year Sports 1894, at which decisions would be taken about sending a team to England, and forming the national association. It is interesting to note that Wanderers were not concerned with cycling perhaps because the SACU had been formed in Johannesburg a few months previously, and perhaps they were worried about the betting, gambling and 'roping'\* that had become so prevalent in cycling. Andersson sent his letter out at the end of December so delegates had very short notice of the meeting. The decision to form the SAAAA was taken at the meeting at Wanderers on 4 January (Star 5/1/94) but in March it was reported that the Pan-Brittanian Festival would only be held in July 1895 (Star 15/3/94). The South African Athletic Championships went ahead as planned on 24 March but it meant reconsidering the decision to send a team to England that year. H W Brown, speaking at a meeting of the SAAAA, said (Star 31/3/94):

...a team should be sent Home this year, without waiting for the Pan-Brittanian Festival, a vague affair which might never come off.

Brown believed that one hundred and fifty pounds would cover the expenses of one man, and that money could easily be raised, even if only three men were sent. Blake supported him, but argued that three hundred pounds a man was "nearer the mark". Hazelhurst thought that it was premature to send athletes in 1894 and they should wait until 1895. If the Pan-Brittanian Festival fell through, they should compete at the English AAA Championships. This last course was agreed to (Star 31/3/94).

The Pan-Brittanian Festival did not take place and a letter from Astley-Cooper announced their cancellation in June 1895 (Star 5/6/95).

---

\* 'roping': deliberately losing races to win money, for payment, or to improve a handicap.

Four athletes, Gradwell, Hunter and the two Blignaut brothers, competed at the AAA Championships and other meetings. A more detailed account of the formation of the SAAAA is given in the next chapter.

The New Year Sports in 1894 were a massive success and the crowd of more than six thousand people must have been a record for a sports meeting in South Africa. There were athletes from several different centres competing but the Border contingent were reported as being "seedy" and did not do well. Several events were designated 'Championships of Transvaal' and Piet and Phil Blignaut were in outstanding form, Piet winning the 100 (10.1/5) and 220, while Phil was third in the 100 and second in the 440. Tom Parker won the 440. A Gerrardi, the 'crack' from King William's Town, ran badly in the 100 and fell in the 220, but Jim Brown confirmed his ability by winning the 880 in the magnificent time of 1:57.3/5, the fastest ever in South Africa. Tom Parker was second, and the winner of the mile, G Mellvill, was third. Henry Nourse, about to be elected the first president of the SAAAA, won the shot (36ft. Oins.) and Piet Blignaut won the long jump (19ft. 5ins.) The crowd was highly amused by an obstacle race in which J W Turner beat G A Parker (Star 6/1/94):

This was the most amusing obstacle race yet seen at the Wanderers, and consisted of a hurdle race for about a quarter of a mile, and 50 yards straight run in. In the straight run the competitors had to pick up a bottle of lemonade, open and drink it, crawl through a barrel and sack sprinkled with blue, etc., after coming out of which they carried a bucket of water on their heads to the winning post, amidst the laughter of the crowd.

The Amajuba Day Sports in February were reported as the first sports of the Wanderers Cycling Club (Star 27/2/94) and, as in Pretoria, the 'uitlanders' were not averse to spending a holiday commemorating the defeat of the British by attending a sports meeting, and the Star commented (27/2/94):

At the same time, it is difficult to avoid a reference to the significance of the fact that today Johannesburg, an English-speaking town, is quietly observing a holiday in commemoration of the most signal and shameful defeat suffered by British arms during this century.

A huge crowd watched the first South African Championships, despite "threatening weather", held on the Queen's Birthday. Gambling was still a problem although, according to the Star (24/3/94), "the books were not so ostentatious and the bawling not so objectionable." The officials and results of these first championships are given in Appendix I. Charlie Jones, Piet and Phil Blignaut, Tom Parker and Melvill were all successful in the athletic events, and J L Johnson won the two cycle races. Almost all the officials and competitors were English-speaking, notable exceptions being Jacob Swart (judge), the Blignaut brothers, and some of the cyclists. The two cycling championships were included although the SACU had held cycling championships the year before. L C Papenfus, second in the 5 miles race, had attended the inaugural SAAA meeting in January. The absence of the Brown family is surprising, especially as they were such keen supporters of the SAAA and Jim had run so well at the New Year Sports a few weeks before.

Enthusiasm for athletic sports reached a new peak at the Caledonian meeting in May. The sports began at 10 a.m. with the entry of the Black Watch to the ground, and an enormous crowd of

over seven thousand, many dressed in Scottish rig-outs, was almost unmanageable. Amongst the officials Sherman was starter and Platnauer the handicapper. Nourse, then president of the SAAAA, won the shot (35ft. 7.1/2ins.), and Piet Blignaut won the long jump and triple jump (Star 14/5/94).

In July 1894 it was announced that a new cycling track was being built at Wanderers because Meintjes had criticised the old one, and had refused to ride in the 100 miles race (Star 20/7/94). Wanderers also clashed with the Wanderers Cycling Club about the use of the track. The cyclists said they had been unfairly treated because they had financed the track but had received no remuneration when it was used by other organisations. A committee was set up to investigate the complaint (Star 21/6/94). Meintjes in the meantime, had moved to Port Elizabeth, and refused to come to the Wanderers to race because he had been "badly treated by Wanderers" on his overseas trip. He had borrowed money and Wanderers had not reimbursed him (Star 31/8/94; 4/10/94). The dispute was settled and Meintjes agreed to supervise the construction of the new track (Star 9/10/94). Meintjes competed at the Wanderers in November and silenced the critics who said he was afraid to meet his challengers by winning the 5 miles event in a new record. The Blignauts and Melvill continued to dominate on the track (Star 17/11/94). Meintjes also won the 25 miles race two days later (Star 24/11/94).

The prospect of a place in the team to England drew athletes from other centres to Johannesburg in 1895. G Coetzee came up from Uitenhage to win the mile at the New Year Sports but the time was slow (5:02) and Melvill could not run. Coetzee went on to win the S A championship mile in 4:53.4/5 (Star 22/3/95). The Blignaut brothers completely dominated the events from 100 yards to 880 yards at the New Year Sports (Star 5/1/95), and each won an event at the S A Championships in March. After the Championships, the Blignauts, Gradwell and Hunter were selected for the team to



England. Abe Bailey and Nourse guaranteed the expenses and Abe Bailey, S Thomson (secretary of the Caledon Society) and G Sonn agreed to look after the team in England. Gradwell, referred to as 'the Grahamstown giant', was highly praised for his exhibition throw of 42ft. 1.1/2ins. in the shot put (Star 23/3/95). This really was a world class performance since 42 feet was not beaten until 1872, and not again until 1882. The best in the world in 1895 was 46ft. lin. (Magnusson et al, 1972. p. 224).

Heavy rain caused the Championships to be postponed for three days and the Star said "the track resembled a miniature lake" (20/3/95). A huge crowd watched the Championships, and crowds were good at all the meetings in 1895, but the Star issued a warning in April (22/4/95): "sports are now being held too frequently, and this might lessen public interest."

The Jameson Raid caused the postponement of the 1896 New Year Sports and during the crisis the Wanderers was used to accommodate women and children (Star 1/1/96; 9/1/96). Many of the 'uitlanders' arrested by the Transvaal Government were connected with athletics, including George Farrar and Andersson (Star 10/1/96), but athletics was soon in full swing again and the postponed New Year Sports were held on 22 January. Only a small crowd attended, however. Melvill and the Blignauts were the outstanding athletes (Star 22/1/96). The Jameson Raid had a very short-lived effect on sport, and it is interesting to note that on 15 January, the English cricketers, who had arrived in Johannesburg, were taken on a visit to the site of the negagement at Doornkop. They were searched by Boer soldiers (Star 15/1/96). The Cycling Club cancelled an outing to Doornkop on 18 January "because of the unsettled situation" (Star 18/1/96).

Wanderers was put to public use again in February when it served as a hospital after the dynamite explosion (Star 20/2/96). Sports were then held regularly up to the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer



In 1896 sports were held at Simmer and Jack and Roodepoort, and in 1897 at Jumpers, New Primrose, New Comet, Geldenhuis and Roodepoort (Star 13/12/97). The Sheba Mine at Barberton also held regular sports (Star 28/11/98). In 1906 the second annual inter-firm sports were held and Robinson Deep retained their title as Gold Fields Champions (Star 9/4/06)

The fixture list approved by the TAAA for 1912 reveals that only two meetings were scheduled for Johannesburg, on Empire Day and Arbor Day. Meetings were also approved for Germiston, Krugersdorp, Randfontein and Pretoria (Star 12/1/12). The Caledonian Society kept their sports going successfully and in 1908 the Star (9/5/08) commented:

Among the many things which Scotsmen of Johannesburg have done well in recent years, not the least is the organisation of an annual sports programme, which does credit to the organisers and to the town. The standard has been so worked up in the fourteen years which have elapsed since the inauguration of the sports, that now the institution is considered of the greatest annual importance not only to Scotsmen who, traditionally, are more than fond of anything which suggests a Highland gathering, but it is held among sportsmen generally to provide a programme entirely representative of the best that is in South African athletics.

In 1909 the Caledonian Sports were marred by a fatal crash in a motor cycle race on the track. Platnauer vociferously condemned motor cycle racing at sports meetings and said it was the reason why he resigned from the SAAA and CA (Transvaal Leader 4/10/09).

public holidays and it had become a custom to dress up, attend sports, and meet other people.

The last sports meeting before the Anglo-Boer War appears to have been the Caledonian Sports on Whit Monday (Star 23/5/99). The British Army entered Johannesburg in May 1900 and sports were held again on Boxing Day 1900 (Johannesburg Gazette 27/12/1900). The next meeting was probably the Wanderers Club Sports on 2 January 1902, and the Star commented (3/1/02):

More like the old times must it have been to the habitues of the Wanderers Ground to see so gay a gathering there yesterday afternoon.

Lord Milner was one of the spectators, while amongst the athletes, Douglas Stupart was prominent, and gave an indication of the success he would achieve. The Wanderers Cycling Club Sports in April were so well attended that the Star remarked (1/4/02):

...that one could hardly realise the lapse of time since such gatherings were a regular feature of the Wanderers under the old regime.

The Star also noted the "new blood" amongst the athletes, such as C H Jones, and W A Blake. The Wanderers CC held sports again on Whit Monday, and included a 5 miles steeplechase. The Star reporter was obviously unaware of the similar event that had been held in 1890:

The programme...contains a new feature of interest which has never before been attempted in connection with such meetings on the Rand, but which promises to lend an additional

attraction to the gathering. This new departure should especially commend itself to members of Harriers Clubs, being a steeplechase, the start and finish of which will take place in the Wanderers enclosure. (Star 21/4/02).

The harrier movement was just beginning to become popular in Johannesburg, as in other parts of South Africa after the Anglo-Boer War. An attempt had been made to form a harrier club in 1898, which received strong support in an article in the Star (15/11/98), but it struggled to attract members and in March 1899 attendance was disappointing (Star 1/3/99). The club, called Pirates Harriers, was led by F Owen-Jones, an ex-British runner who competed successfully at track meetings at the Wanderers and won the S A mile championship (4:43.4/5) in 1898 (Star 26/1/98). Pirates Harriers gained in strength through 1899 and was assisted by Platnauer (Star 4/7/99). Its activities laid the foundation for the rapid growth of cross country running after the War. Pirates Harriers was back in action in 1902 and in March opened their season with a run attended by seventeen athletes (Star 24/3/02). The club had a successful Annual General Meeting in March 1903 (Star 12/3/03), and their season got off to a good start (Star 16/3/03). Its activities then seemed to have been swamped by the 'Walking Craze'. Full details of the 'Walking Craze' in Johannesburg are given in Chapter Thirteen.

In January 1904 Johannesburg Harriers was formed, supported by Platnauer and Levy, and that club became dominant in cross country. Johannesburg Harriers appears to have absorbed Johannesburg AAC and Pirates Harriers, both of which were operating at the time it was formed (Star 25/1/04; 28/1/04; 15/2/04). It was the harrier movement that kept amateur athletics alive in Johannesburg during the ten years before the First World War. The motor car and motor cycle had killed interest in

bicycle racing, and a prolonged period of economic depression added to the problem of attracting the public to sports meetings and this made it difficult to cover the costs of organisation. The decline in public interest was noted in the Wanderers Annual Report in March 1905 and it was reported that the New Year Sports had lost money (Star 1/3/05). References to the lack of sports meetings and the depressed state of the economy and athletics were made several times in the press (Star 9/9/05; 7/11/06; Sporting Star 20/8/10). The condition of the Wanderers tracks, especially the cycling track, deteriorated because of the cost of upkeep, and it was suggested that the Wanderers give up organising sports meetings altogether (Sporting Star 12/11/10). 'Pneumatic', who was worried about the general decline in athletics, accused the harrier clubs of dominating the TAAA, and of not promoting track athletics, which he said was only being kept alive by the annual sports held by the Caledonian Society (Sporting Star 3/9/10). 'Pneumatic' reported that even the mine companies were not holding Christmas and New Year Sports in 1910 (Sporting Star 31/12/10):

The times are changed indeed when we find that throughout the Transvaal only Lydenburg and Blaauwbank have found sufficient public spirit to start the New Year after the time-honoured custom, viz, with a sports meeting.

'Pneumatic' felt that the mine companies had kept athletics going (Sporting Star 3/12/10):

They do their level best every year to keep the game going and I have nothing but praise for the manner in which they do it. To a large extent they keep alive interest in athletics along the Reef.

In 1896 sports were held at Simmer and Jack and Roodepoort, and in 1897 at Jumpers, New Primrose, New Comet, Geldenhuis and Roodepoort (Star 13/12/97). The Sheba Mine at Barberton also held regular sports (William Carbis, Personal Interview; Star 28/11/98). In 1906 the second annual inter-firm sports were held and Robinson Deep retained their title as Gold Fields Champions (Star 9/4/06).

The fixture list approved by the TAAA for 1912 reveals that only two meetings were scheduled for Johannesburg, on Empire Day and Arbor Day. Meetings were also approved for Germiston, Krugersdorp, Randfontein and Pretoria (Star 12/1/12). The Caledonian Society kept their sports going successfully and in 1908 the Star (9/5/08) commented:

Among the many things which Scotsmen of Johannesburg have done well in recent years, not the least is the organisation of an annual sports programme, which does credit to the organisers and to the town. The standard has been so worked up in the fourteen years which have elapsed since the inauguration of the sports, that now the institution is considered of the greatest annual importance not only to Scotsmen who, traditionally, are more than fond of anything which suggests a Highland gathering, but it is held among sportsmen generally to provide a programme entirely representative of the best that is in South African athletics.

In 1909 the Caledonian Sports were marred by a fatal crash in a motor cycle race on the track. Platnauer vociferously condemned motor cycle racing at sports meetings and said it was the reason why he resigned from the SAAA and CA (Transvaal Leader 4/10/14).

There were no reports of Caledonian Sports at the Wanderers from 1910 to 1914, but they could have been held. The Caledonian Sports continued at Pretoria and for a while at Krugersdorp. The West Rand Caledonian Society began holding sports at Krugersdorp in 1903 and the opening of the Krugersdorp Wanderers Ground in 1907 boosted athletics in the town (Star 28/9/07). In March 1910 the Star reported that the Krugersdorp Wanderers Club was actively promoting athletics and that the formation of the West Rand and Witwatersberg School Sports Association promised to bring about a revival in athletics in that area (Star 15/3/10). It would appear that this did not happen because in 1913 it was announced that the West Rand Caledonian Society was abandoning its annual meeting owing to the depressed state of business in Krugersdorp (Sporting Star 13/9/13).

There was a brief upsurge of interest in athletics in 1908 and 1912 caused by the successes of South African athletes at the Olympic Games, but it is significant that Wanderers did not hold a sports meeting as part of the 20th anniversary celebrations (Gutsche, 1966, p. 140). The Boxing Day Sports at which Walker competed were, however, successful and attracted a large crowd. Walker ran his 100 yards heat in 9.2/5 seconds and the 120 yards in 11.2/5 seconds, both world records, but the starting invoked much controversy (Star 26/12/08; 28/12/08). In 1912 a "mammoth meeting" was arranged to honour the Olympic athletes and it was hoped that it would bring a revival in athletics (Star 16/12/12). A revival was not forthcoming, however, as the report to the TAAA in February 1913 indicates (Rand Daily Mail 24/2/13):

We had hoped that the holding of the Olympic Games at Stockholm last year and the success of the Transvaal members of the South African team would rekindle the fire of enthusiasm for athletic sport in this country, but this hope has not been realised so far as the general public has been concerned.



Although amateur athletics in Johannesburg languished in the doldrums between 1904 and 1914, other branches of athletics prospered. The cross country movement went from strength to strength, school athletics was firmly established and professional athletics flourished, so much so that it completely captured public interest for several years. Inter-school athletics began in Johannesburg soon after the Anglo-Boer War. The Johannesburg and Rand Primary School Sports were held in October 1904 (Star 5/10/04) and the famous 'Inter-High' meeting began in September 1905 (Star 28/9/05) when the schools decided to change from cross country to a sports meeting. Inter-school athletics is discussed in more detail in Chapter Sixteen. Professional athletics began in 1899 but only really became popular in 1907. Interest increased with the arrival of the great professional sprinters Donaldson, Holway and Postle and the middle distance runner Tincler. Hefferon turned professional in 1909 and excitement peaked when Reggie Walker also became a professional in 1910. Professional athletics is discussed fully in Chapter Fifteen.

The formation of the South African AAA in Johannesburg in 1894 inhibited the formation of a governing body for the Transvaal for some years, as it was felt to be unnecessary and this was a source of friction as the other centres claimed, probably justifiably, that the national body allied itself too closely with the well-being of athletics in the Transvaal. The men in Johannesburg, on the other hand, complained that Transvaal was the only real supporter of the SAAA, which was also true, because it was in effect their provincial body too (Star 13/5/99). In June 1903 Platnauer sent a letter to all the Transvaal athletic clubs inviting them to attend a meeting to form a TAAA, and in the letter he said that arrangements had been in progress in 1899 to form an association, but the Anglo-Boer War intervened

(Transvaal Leader 25/6/03). The TAAA was duly formed on 8 July (Transvaal Leader 9/7/03), but the first Annual General Meeting was held only in March 1905, and the long delay was explained as follows (Star 10/3/05):

The Transvaal AAA was formed on July 8, 1903, but the support promised at the initial meeting was very tardy in materialising. Meetings were held from time to time, and the ordinary business of affiliating clubs seeking to join the Association, and granting permits to those clubs and sports-promoting bodies holding sports who were not affiliated was transacted. During the period under review, from July 8, 1903, to December 31, 1904, the following clubs were affiliated:

Johannesburg Harriers, Germiston AAC, Geduld Recreation Club, Marico Athletic and Gymkhana Sporting Society; West Rand Caledonian Society; Roodepoort Caledonian Society; Standerton AAC; Wanderers Club; Heidelberg Park Club; Pretoria Harriers; and Klerksdorp AAA.

As far back as October 8, 1903, a sub-committee was appointed to draft rules, but their work was rendered useless by the re-organisation of the SAAA and CA. Another committee was appointed later; the result of their labours you have before you, which you will be asked to consider later on.

The first secretary of the association and the man who had obviously done much of the work was Platnauer himself. C L

Andersson was president (Star 18/3/05). One of the first functions of the new body was to assist with the inaugural Transvaal Cross Country Championships in August 1905, held at Fordsburg (Star 14/8/05). Some Transvaal Championship events were included in the Dingaan's Day Meeting at Pretoria in December (Star 8/12/05), and Test Sports were held in June 1907 to pick a Transvaal team for the S A Championships (Star 17/6/07). The track championship events were held at the Pretoria Dingaan's Day Meeting in 1906 and 1907, but moved to Krugersdorp in 1908 (Star 11/4/08). In 1908 J N Cormack was chairman with Louis Levy secretary, and Transvaal records were officially recognised, compiled by Platnauer (Transvaal Leader 22/1/08).

Of the affiliated clubs listed in 1905, many of them were organisations registered so that they could attract leading athletes to their annual meetings. Athletes competing at unregistered meetings ran the risk of being suspended. The only fully active clubs were Pretoria Harriers, Johannesburg Harriers and Germiston. A track had been opened in Germiston in May 1896 (Star 27/5/98) and the Germiston and Diggers AAC had been formed in November 1897 (Star 4/11/97), joined by all the mines from Heriot to Rietfontein. Although Potchefstroom did not have an affiliated club, a new track was opened there in October 1907 (Star 3/10/07) and Caledonian Sports were also organised there (Star 6/8/07). Meetings were also held there when McArthur was competing (Star 6/10/10).

The early development of athletics in Johannesburg was thus entirely different to other centres. There were no preliminary military sports, pedestrian events or school sports. A powerful multi-sport club, Wanderers, was established almost immediately and, having cycling and tracks available, presented sports meetings on a grand scale, attracting thousands of people. After the Anglo-Boer War, interest in cycling and sports meetings declined, and the depressed state of the economy considerably reduced the

## CHAPTER TWELVE

## CONTROLLING BODIES

NATAL AAA AND NATAL AA AND CA  
 CAPE PROVINCE CAAA AND CU  
 ORCAA AND CU AND OFS AA AND CU  
 RHODESIAN CU AND AA  
 TRANSVAAL AAA  
 SAAAA AND SAAA AND CA  
 SA GENERAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE  
 INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR ATHLETIC FEDERATION

## INTRODUCTION

In the previous chapters it has been shown that in each centre clubs and associations were formed with the object of promoting athletics, establishing rules, solving disputes, controlling betting and other malpractices, holding championships and assisting athletes and teams with travelling inland and overseas.

All centres eventually established a provincial association, but in the Transvaal this came after the formation of the national association, the SAAAA. Rivalry between the various associations was intense and often led to conflict, heightened by communication difficulties caused by the immense distances between the centre and by suspicions inflamed by the political situation. It should be noted that, although the South African AAA was formed in 1894, the country of South Africa only came into being in 1910.

number of sports meetings. Athletics was kept alive by the active group of men who formed Johannesburg Harriers. Thus, although the SAAAA and the TAAA had their headquarters in Johannesburg, track and field athletics was not a flourishing sport in 1914 and it only reached the pre-Anglo-Boer War heights when athletics restarted after the First World War, with Ira Emery the prime-mover (Sporting Star 1/2/19).

Another source of conflict was cycling. Athletics was an established sport when the first cycles appeared but by the end of the nineteenth century cycling had captured the imagination of the public and attracted huge crowds to sports meetings. Disputes were frequent and in 1904 a new association was formed, the SAAA and CA, to control both activities, ironically just at the time when popularity for cycling was rapidly declining with the advent of the motor car and motor cycle.

In previous chapters events leading up to the establishment of the associations were discussed. In this chapter emphasis will be focused on their activities and the relationships between them, and attention will be given to the formation of the S A Olympic Games Committee and South Africa's involvement with the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF).

#### NATAL

Natal was the first province to form an athletic association and at one stage was on the point of forming a national association. The numerous attempts to form the Natal AAA have been described in Chapters Seven and Eight. These were begun by W E Lindsay in Pietermaritzburg in April 1890, by Frank Terry in 1891, and by Joshua Herschenson who actually attempted to form a national association and created quite a stir in Johannesburg in 1892. The idea was rejected in favour of first placing the Natal AAA on a sound footing. The sudden impetus given to the move towards forming a national association caught Natal somewhat by surprise and they sent no representatives to the meeting in Johannesburg in January 1894 called by Andersson, although Pietermaritzburg AC felt it should affiliate (Witness 20/3/94). George Bull became secretary of the Natal AAA which, although virtually a one-man organisation, was recognised by the SAAAA. Durban meanwhile was making rapid progress in athletics. The Durban AAA affiliated to the SAAAA, Durban AC was formed in 1895 and soon there was



dissatisfaction with Bull and an ineffective Natal AAA, so it was decided to call a meeting in Durban to reform the association. Bull surprised by agreeing to support the move, admitting that the 'Maritzburg-based headquarters was defunct. One of the problems was that clubs could affiliate directly to the SAAA, or to the DAAA, so they could see little need for another body until the S A Championships were allocated to Durban in 1899.

Natal athletes had not competed in the early S A Championship meetings at Johannesburg, Kimberley and Grahamstown, and English AAA rules had been observed rather than those of the SAAAA (Mercury 9/12/95). Bull received a letter from the SAAAA in 1895 concerning the rules (Witness 29/5/95), and it instructed him

...to write to all clubs and bodies informing them that they must comply with Rule 19 of the rules of the Association, and that, failing compliance, he insert the advertisements in the papers where the sports take place, and also in the local papers, proclaiming the sports.

In 1896 the meetings in Durban were held under SAAAA rules and 'Umpire' answered a query about the long jump by quoting South African and not English, rules.

The DAAA decided against supporting the appeal for funds to send the team to England in 1898 (Mercury 4/12/97) but agreed to send an athlete and a cyclist to the S A Championships. The 'Maritzburg based Natal AAA was not concerned. The SAAAA became deeply involved in Natal affairs in 1898 when the dispute broke out between the DAAA and the cyclists. Dissatisfaction with the way the SAAAA was handling the dispute led to some agitation to support the CCAA and CU in its conflict with the national association, and Bull was also criticised, particularly by

William A Lawrence who said that the SAAAA only existed inside the Transvaal and that a new Natal AAA was needed (Mercury 13/7/98). 'Sport Enthusiast' (Mercury 21/7/98) accused the SAAAA of being "a name, a mysterious entity, invested with a vague but all-pervading power over South African athleticism," and posed a long list of questions about its power, structure and conduct. 'Umpire' went so far as to say that the SAAA headquarters should be moved to Natal (Mercury 30/3/99).

Platnauer and Greathead were appointed by the SAAAA to investigate the dispute and Platnauer had to face a lot of criticism as the Transvaal representative at the Annual General Meeting of the SAAAA in Durban in 1899. After discussion, however, it was agreed that the headquarters should remain in Johannesburg. At the Annual General Meeting Bull complained that the SAAAA had ignored the Natal AAA in the arrangements for the S A Championships by working directly with the Durban AAA, but admitted that "an Association in Natal had never existed." Morley (secretary of the DAAA) announced that there were plans to form a new Natal AAA (Mercury 20/5/99). The efforts of Bull, Smithers, Taylor and Wallace to form a new and effective Natal Association have been described, and it finally came into being in March 1904. Wallace and Clarke (Natal Cyclists Union) were nominated to attend the Annual General Meeting of the SAAAA in Johannesburg, where it was announced that the national body would change its constitution to admit cyclists (Mercury 6/4/04).

The incorporation of cycling into the national body in 1904 (Star 18/2/04) resulted in another dispute involving cyclists in Natal. The Durban AC organised the Natal Championships under SAAA and CA rules, which did not allow the issue of vouchers as prizes. The cyclists maintained that they were affiliated to the Natal Cycling Union (NCU), which had a clause: "Orders can be given where committees see fit" (Mercury 21/9/04), and the cyclists wanted orders (vouchers). The DAC refused, so twenty cyclists

signed a boycott notice preventing any cyclists competing at the championships (Mercury 21/9/04), and the editorial in the Mercury said (21/9/04): "...latest manifestation of the methods of Durban cyclists will only add to their already bad reputation.

The NCU said that Wallace was deliberately using the situation to confront the cyclists on the voucher system and, since the SAAA and CA only formally came into operation on 1 January 1905, their rules still applied. The whole question of prizes then came under attack and several letters appeared criticising the quality of past prizes (Mercury 22/9/04; 23/9/04). Wallace maintained he could do nothing since the DAC had received a letter in July forbidding the issue of orders and the cyclists were under a misapprehension (Mercury 24/9/04). Fysh (NCU chairman) and Griffin (NCU secretary) admitted that the DAC had acted within its rights but warned that cycling would probably have to be omitted from the championships. The dispute was almost certainly the first issue that the newly-formed SAAA and CA had to contend with and they reacted vigorously by suspending the cyclists pending an investigation by the NCU and confirming that vouchers were absolutely prohibited (Mercury 26/9/04). The Natal Championships were held under SAAA and CA rules, the first meeting to do so and events, such as 5 a-side football match were substituted for cycling. The NCU met and decided that only they, and not the SAAA and CA, had the right to suspend the cyclists but even the Cape Argus condemned that attitude (Mercury 5/10/04). The dispute was discussed at the first Annual General Meeting of the SAAA and CA at Cape Town in December, leading to a general discussion of the coupon (voucher) system, with Natal in favour (W A Tilney and H McCormick) and all the other delegates opposed (Star 31/12/04). The 1906 Championships were granted to Pietermaritzburg, which had kept out of the dispute, provided that the track was completed satisfactorily and that the Natal AAA and the Natal CU resolved their differences and both affiliated to the SAAA and CA. The track was not completed in

time and the championships were held in Johannesburg.

The Natal AAA, which was as yet still not fully functional and had played no role in the dispute, was finally constituted as a viable body in November 1905 at a meeting in Dundee in conjunction with the Natal Championships, at which Dan Taylor was elected president and J T Wallace secretary (Mercury 11/11/05). The NCU delegate, A E Fysch was present and reported to the Annual General Meeting of the NCU that agreement between the two bodies had been reached (Mercury 5/2/06). Meanwhile the SAAA and CA announcement that the S A Championships were going to Cape Town on a date that suited neither the athletes nor the cyclists in Natal, had led to a dispute with the national body about the cost of sending competitors to the championships (Mercury 22/2/06). Platnauer devoted a column in the Transvaal Leader explaining why the SAAA and CA could not reimburse the Natal competitors (23/8/06) and feelings became so inflamed by the refusal of the national body to pay half the costs of the four Natal competitors that Natal threatened to secede (Mercury 16/8/06). The dispute did not prevent Natal sending competitors to the 1906 Championships in Johannesburg in April.

Later in 1906 there was yet another clash between the cyclists and athletes in Natal, which involved the Durban Sports Association (DSA), the Lords Bicycle Club (LBC) and the Durban Football Association (DFA). The DSA had been formed in March 1906 to replace the defunct DAAA and Morley was again secretary (Mercury 9/3/06). The dispute arose because the DFA had made allegations about cyclists "throwing" races and cheating, so the Lords Bicycle Club refused to hold football with their sports (Mercury 25/9/06). The DSA suspended five cyclists who wrote a rude letter to them about the incident (Mercury 18/10/06) which led to the NCU withdrawing from the DSA and the banning of cyclists and cycling officials from the Sons of England Sports (Mercury 25/10/06). A letter from 'Sportsman' accused the DSA of

neglecting the cyclists, and dragged in the Natal AAA, saying it was a 'one-man band' opposed to the Lords Bicycle Club (Mercury 1/11/06). The cyclists asked the athletes to support them in a petition to the Sons of England, requesting that they all be made honorary members for the day of the sports which could then be held for club members only, so removing it from the control of the DSA (Mercury 5/11/06). The NCU discussed the dispute and admitted that Lords, controlled by the DSA, was the only track available, and that cyclists had been guilty of betting, "thrown" races and slow riding. It was agreed that while they resented DFA interference, the cyclists had to eliminate malpractices, and a sub-committee was appointed to investigate the dispute (Mercury 8/11/06). Many different bodies were now involved and, as in 1898, the original issue was in danger of being forgotten. The DSA attempted to out-manoeuve the NCU and the cyclists by arranging their own sports under SAAA and CA rules with the cycle events under the control of the NAAA, which was affiliated to the SAAA and CA (Mercury 10/11/06). Meanwhile the NCU committee reported that misconceptions about the NCU had to be eliminated and they wanted to meet three representatives of the DSA (Mercury 20/11/06). The DSA sports were only moderately successful despite extensive advertising and, when the prize-giving was held, a few days later, the mayor, C Henwood, expressed his concern about the dispute and appealed for unity. Tyzack, the DSA chairman, replied that the DSA was determined to have "pure, honest, straightforward sports" (Mercury 10/12/06; 19/12/06). The dispute dragged on into 1907 and the DSA said the NCU needed officials who would "cut adrift from good riders of ill-repute and quasi-professionals" (Mercury 12/2/07).

Cyclists were banned from using Lords and, at one stage, it appeared that Durban's chance to hold the S A Championships later in 1907 would be jeopardised since the Natal cyclists met in February and requested the NCU to write to cyclists in other centres asking them not to enter the championships. 'Umpire'



appealed to the protagonists to "bury the hatchet" (Mercury 2/3/07), and at an NAAA meeting in March it was agreed that the SAAA and CA should accept the NCU affiliation (Mercury 4/3/07). The NCU met in 'Maritzburg in March and agreed to affiliate to the SAAA and CA (Mercury 25/3/07) and the dispute was finally close to resolution when the Natal AAA and the NCU combined to form the Natal AA and CA in May. The committee elected was: President, Rev J G Aldridge; Vice-President, George Bull; Secretary, H W Griffin (cycling); Treasurer, R S Smithers (Mercury 13/5/07). An interesting rider to the dispute was that in March Fysch had resigned from the NCU and attempted to form a new cycling club in Durban affiliated to the DSA and approved by Aldridge, Henwood and Morley (Mercury 2/3/07; 12/5/07).

The three districts into which Natal had been divided for athletics in 1906 were formally instituted at the meeting in May 1907 and the Southern District (Durban Centre) cleared up any final problems in the dispute. Cyclists reappeared at sports meetings, the NAA and CA affiliated to the SAAA and CA and a team, with an emerald sash for its uniform, was selected for the S A Championships. Thus the holding of the Championships in July 1907 marked the culmination of a long and stormy period of development in Natal that had involved many overlapping clubs and associations.

The decision to split Natal into three fairly autonomous districts, North, South and Midlands, made administration complicated and cumbersome but was probably inevitable. The rivalry between Durban and Pietermaritzburg was still very strong and they were both large centres fairly isolated from each other despite the rail link. Communication with the North (Dundee, Newcastle and Ladysmith) was also difficult and there was always the threat of a Zulu uprising. The rivalry between Johannesburg and Pretoria, similar to that between Pietermaritzburg and Durban, eventually led to two provincial



associations in the Transvaal, and the isolation of Kimberley from the rest of Cape Province led to a separate association there, so the Natal arrangement was understandable.

An interesting incident occurred in 1906 when Heather, the Natal 100 and 220 yards champion, was accused of infringing his amateur status because he had pawned his championship trophy for four pounds (Mercury 27/12/06), but Heather maintained that he had "given it to the broker for safe-keeping over Christmas" (Mercury 29/12/06). The Southern District Committee appealed, there were letters in the press (Mercury 1/1/07) and the issue came before the NAAA, who confirmed the decision (Mercury 4/3/07). A further appeal was rejected by the newly-formed NAA and CA in July 1907 (Mercury 20/7/07), but the story had a happy ending, since Heather, then in Transvaal applied successfully to have the ban lifted in 1908 (Mercury 24/3/08).

Natal again clashed with the SAAA and CA in 1908 over the selection of the Olympic Games team and the exclusion of Reggie Walker. The SAAA and CA appointed Andersson, Nourse and Platnauer to nominate the team for the Olympics. Nourse had also been delegated to form a South African Olympic Games Committee in 1907 (SAAA and CA minutes, 24/10/07; 2/12/07). 'Umpire' had written in favour of sending athletes to the Intermediate Olympics in 1906 when he learned that Australia was sending competitors (Mercury 3/3/06):

"It would be well worth considering sending a South African representative upon some future occasion,..."

Natal was in favour of sending a team in 1908 (SAAA and CA Minutes, 24/10/07), and agreed to send men to the championships (trials) although there was annoyance that the venue had been switched from Johannesburg to Cape Town, increasing the costs (Mercury 20/2/08; Cape Times 2/12/08).

Walker was just beaten by Duffy in the 100 yards, after leading at 70 yards, and won the 220 yards in a record 22.2/5 seconds, although it was reported that he beat the gun (Cape Times 21/4/08). The second day Walker ran the 120 yards (a handicap event) in 12 seconds, also a S A record. The sub-committee met on 1 May and selected a team in order of merit, which meant that since there was money only for five competitors to be sent, several athletes and cyclists, including Walker, who was fifth on the list, were omitted (SAAA and CA minutes, 1/5/08; Star 2/5/08). Natal greeted this decision with incredulity and anger and, as the Cape Times reported (7/5/08) "righteous indignation" and resentment that the Olympic Committee had changed the selections of the SAAA and CA. The Olympic Committee printed a statement pointing out that eight athletes, four cyclists, three tennis players and one fencer had been nominated, and as there was still two hundred pounds required, the team had to be reduced (Star 25/6/08).

'Umpire' wrote an article in the Mercury (5/5/08) listing the arguments in favour of including Walker in the team and claimed that if Walker had lived in Johannesburg he would have been chosen. He also conceded that Natal had not contributed to the funds for the team and suggested that money to send Walker should be collected. The Star reported (6/5/08) that Nourse had received a telegram from Natal and had agreed that Walker would be included if Natal could raise one hundred and twenty-five pounds. The Southern District AAA met on 6 May and after a bitter speech from Wallace attacking, the Olympic Committee and the fund-raising scheme, it was agreed to form a sub-committee to raise the money consisting of Aldridge, Wallace and Tyzack, three of the most influential men in the association (Mercury 7/5/08). Half the amount was collected in two days (Mercury 9/5/08) but since the team was due to leave on the Kinfauns Castle on 13 May, it was agreed that Walker could travel a week later with the

Reverend Richardson (referred to as Reverend Robinson on 22 May 1908 (Mercury 9/5/08). By 11 May the fund for Walker had reached seventy pounds and a concert was arranged by 'Umpire' and 'Qrius' which was attended by the governor and the mayor, boosting the total to ninety pounds on 13 May (Mercury 11/5/08; 13/5/08). The concert was also watched by the Australian Olympic athletes who were en route to London (Star 14/5/08), and they were interested onlookers at trials over 100 and 220 yards in which Walker beat Davidson (Mercury 14/5/08). Walker left to a big send-off on the R M S Briton (Mercury 15/5/08) and his parents wrote a letter of appreciation in the Mercury (16/5/08). After Walker had won the 100 metres Nourse would no doubt have resented being reminded of his comments when the dispute about Walker's omission was at its height (Witness 29/4/08): "Walker, however, is a very youngman, and has lots of time before him..."

How many other athletes down the years were to suffer from similar reckoning?

Walker's win was the signal for a fresh outbreak of criticism of the S A General Olympic Committee and an editorial in the Latest (18/7/08), probably written by Wallace, said the incident had proved the need to eliminate the proxy system of representation in favour of direct representation. The Transvaal Weekly Illustrated noted that "the Natal press is seething with charges against the S A Olympic Committee and the SAAA and CA for not selecting Walker originally as a member of the South African team for England." The Star (21/7/08) said Walker's omission had been the fault of Natal because he had been sent to the championships unfit and Natal had not assisted with fund raising. Platnauer attacked the mayor (Latest 1/8/08), but Natal was not to be intimidated and proposed that the SAAA and CA should hold a bi-annual meeting with direct representation (Latest 17/10/08). 'Qrius' continued to campaign for the change for some months, well into 1909.

'Qrius' was always concerned about the need to assist athletes to travel to meetings and, as the SAAA and CA had been unable to carry out its policy of refunding the expenses of athletes attending the S A Championships because of a lack of funds, he suggested that each centre should accept the responsibility (Latest 10/4/09). He also claimed that the SAAA and CA constitution was unworkable and that the executive should rotate regularly between the different centres (Latest 17/4/08).

Payment of expenses to athletes caused another conflict in 1910. The trouble began when Albion Harriers paid the hotel and railway expenses of Johannesburg athletes competing at their sports. The Sporting Star printed an article alleging that the Natal association had asked for permission for expenses to be paid but the SAAA and CA had refused (7/5/10). The TAAA discussed the matter and, since no action was taken, Otto Schuller, the president, resigned. Another meeting was held and it was decided to reprimand the athletes (Star 13/5/10). The issue developed into a verbal battle between 'Qrius' and Platnauer in the Transvaal Leader, with 'Pneumatic' supporting 'Qrius'. 'Qrius' supported the original motivation, which he probably wrote, and in which it was claimed that the practice of paying expenses was "as old as the hills, not only in this country, but in every other country," and that "to make sports pay nowadays, 'stars' must be induced to compete" (Star 9/5/10). Writing in the Latest, 'Qrius' said that as the public would only attend meetings if visiting athletes were competing, it was essential that clubs be allowed to pay expenses (Latest 21/5/10). 'Qrius' also claimed that the SAAA and CA reply came twenty-one days later, when the athletes were already in Durban. Torqius attended a meeting of the SAAA and CA in June as the Natal representative (so it would appear that direct representation may have been accepted) and when he returned he said he had tried to raise the matter twice and had been told that it would come up under 'General', but it

got so late that it never did (Latest 25/6/10). In July 'Qrius' even suggested that Natal should consider withdrawing from the SAAA and CA (Latest 23/7/10). The expenses issue was hotly debated between Platnauer (Transvaal Leader) and 'Pneumatic' (Star) in October and in 1911 F R Jesse, chairman of the Western Province Centre (CCAA and CU suggested that the rules be changed to allow expenses. 'Qrius' supported this, pointing out that in England the cost of travel was far less than in South Africa because of the distances involved (Latest 28/1/11). 'Pneumatic' had used the same argument against Platnauer, quoting 'Outcast' of the Observer, who was visiting South Africa (Sporting Star 24/9/10):

At Home they can afford to be as strict as they like in the matter of athletes' expenses. They have large populations to deal with in almost every centre, and travelling facilities are speedy and cheap.

Here, to introduce new blood we have to induce a man to leave his work for a week at a stretch to attend one single afternoon's sports, and if our governing bodies have any desire to foster inter-team competitions between the various centres they must have the power to sanction reasonable expenses, so long as these expenses are paid out under proper supervision.

The TAAA recommended that expenses should be paid through the local centre and sent a proposal to the SAAA and CA (Star 13/2/11), and in May the national association agreed to stringent conditions for the payment of expenses (Star 31/5/11). The conditions were:- twice a year; 2nd class rail fare; hotel expenses up to twelve shillings and sixpence per day; 3 days



expenses for a one-day meeting; 5 days expenses for a two-days meeting; the District Association to sanction the payments (Latest 17/6/11).

The S A Championships were held in Durban again in 1911 and the Natal Association was once more criticised for extravagance and failure to show a profit (Latest 9/9/11). 'Qrius' picked up the criticism and was able to use it as material in several issues of the Latest (30/9/11), especially when 'Recorder' of the Sporting Star opposed his ideas (Latest 7/10/11). The coming Olympics and the memory of the Walker incident also provided an opportunity for 'Qrius' to attack the SAAA and CA. He accused them of procrastination in planning for the Games (Latest 21/10/11), and on the issue of selecting the team, said that Natal should have a representative: "it should not be left entirely to a few gentlemen in Johannesburg" (Latest 25/11/11; 23/12/11; 17/2/12; 16/3/12; 20/4/12).

Natal sent a team of seven, five of whom were subsidised, to the S A Championships and Olympic Trials in Cape Town in April 1912. They travelled by boat, stopping overnight at East London and Port Elizabeth, and on the third day they were all sea-sick (Latest 20/4/12). The selections for the Olympics evoked even more criticism than those in 1908. 'Qrius' (Latest 20/4/12) wrote:

Such a surfeit of universal howling has not been heard in the history of sport in this country.

'Qrius' claimed that almost all South African newspapers opposed the selections, but it was mainly confined to Natal and the Cape. Natal were further incensed when Harold Sulin's request to accompany the South African team at his own expense was refused by the S A Olympic Committee (Latest 27/4/12). The Olympic



Committee, however, changed its mind and Sulin was given permission to go, at a cost of one hundred and thirty pounds (Latest 4/5/12). 'Qrius' maintained his campaign to have the S A Olympic Committee reconstituted through 1912 (Latest 21/9/12) and 1913 (Latest 29/3/13), and in July Nourse visited Durban to meet with the Natal AA and CA. He said that the Olympic Committee would probably be re-formed (Latest 19/7/13). He returned again a year later and announced a new scheme whereby the administrator of Natal would nominate a committee from Durban and Pietermaritzburg, which received the approval of 'Qrius' (Latest 18/7/14). Natal and 'Qrius' did not approve, however, of the decision to reinstate George Allsop as secretary of the SAAA and CA. The first World War brought any further interaction to a close.

#### CAPE PROVINCE

The Eastern Province Herald was proud of the fact that Port Elizabeth appeared to be the leading centre for athletics in South Africa (Herald 31/7/82; 19/11/84; 12/10/91), and 'Bayonians' were probably agitated when other centres built tracks and made progress in the 1890s. Each centre wanted to be the best and was usually supported by the local press, the Town Council and local dignitaries. Some centres, including Port Elizabeth, began holding 'S A Championship' events and in 1891 the Diamond Field Advertiser, Kimberley, commented on the tendency and the need for a controlling body similar to that in England. A South African Championship Sports was held as part of the Kimberley Exhibition Festival in 1892, and at accompanying functions H W Brown also urged the formation of a national association. At the Port Elizabeth AAC Annual General Meeting in March 1893,

C G Miles raised the question of an AAA for South Africa on the lines of the AAA, to be affiliated to that association. (E P Herald 24/3/93).

The new committee agreed to take immediate steps but, as we have seen, Wanderers in Johannesburg acted first. A resume of the events discussed in Chapter Five is repeated here but with emphasis on the development leading to the clash between the CCAA and CU and the SAAAA.

Many cyclists, including riders from Johannesburg and Kimberley, visited Port Elizabeth for a Bicycle Sports in July 1893 and at the dinner afterwards, speakers called for the formation of a Cape Colony Cyclists Union, as an association existed in the Transvaal (E P Herald 3/7/93). The association in Transvaal was probably the South African Cycling Union. The popular cycling hero, Laurens Meintjes went to live in Port Elizabeth in December 1893 and at a reception on 5 January 1894, spoke about the Pan-Brittanic Festival and the need for a national association controlling cycling and athletics (E P Herald 8/1/94). That was precisely the time at which the SAAAA was being formed in Johannesburg and it is interesting to note that the Herald carried no reports of the meetings in Johannesburg nor of the letter from Andersson sent to all clubs in South Africa. The PEACC still regarded itself as the "premier institution of its kind in South Africa" (E P Herald 2/10/93). It has been noted in Chapter Four that little progress had been made in Cape Town at that time (Cape Times 30/10/94) but Andersson's letter had at least been published in full in the Cape Times (29/12/93). The Cape Times also published details about the meeting to form the SAAAA and the general meeting, both of which were ignored by the Herald (Cape Times 6/1/94; 2/4/94).

In September 1894, the Cape Times reported that a circular had been received from the PEACC and the P E Bicycle Club proposing the formation of a Cape Colony Athletic and Cycling Union (CCAA

and CU) at a meeting in Port Elizabeth in October (Cape Times 27/9/94). This move almost certainly happened as a result of the developments just discussed. The Cape Times was worried that the new association would be in opposition to the SAAAA and felt that only one association was desirable. Cape Town had already given approval of the SAAAA by sending two delegates to the general meeting at Johannesburg (Cape Times 2/4/94), but there is no report of delegates attending the meeting at Port Elizabeth. The Uitenhage Chronicle reported (11/10/94) that the meeting to form the CCAA and CU was held on 8 October at the Grand Hotel with M M Loubser, the president of the PEACC, in the chair. It was agreed that there would be four centres, based on the principal towns, with the headquarters in Port Elizabeth. Another meeting was held in November to discuss the rules, attended by the following delegates: H Hards (Grahamstown); Crosby (Cradock); A Hargreaves (Colesberg); H Phillips (PEABC); Capt Young and C G Miles (PEAAC); J McCawley (Uitenhage); and T Harvey (secretary) (E P Herald 3/12/94). The rules were approved in January 1895 and took effect from 1 June 1895 (E P Herald 19/1/95).

At the Annual General Meeting of the PEAAC in February 1895 it was announced that the SAAAA had asked the PEAAC to affiliate to them, but this had been decided against (E P Herald 15/2/95), while in Cape Town the Cape Times was urging the formation of a Western Province AAA affiliated to the SAAAA.

The first sports meeting under CCAA and CU rules took place in April 1895 (E P Herald 8/4/95), and the first indications of the inevitable clash with the SAAAA came in May, when the Johannesburg body expressed its annoyance about the formation of the association in Port Elizabeth (E P Herald 22/5/95). The Herald claimed that Port Elizabeth was too far away from Johannesburg to be controlled by the SAAAA and that the Transvaal association had been kept fully informed of developments and could not plead ignorance. Matters were brought to a head when

Colesberg, which had affiliated to the CCAA and CU in preference to Johannesburg because of the heavy betting at Wanderers (E P Herald 16/11/94), announced it was holding a sports meeting under CCAA and CU rules and the SAAAA threatened to ban athletes who participated (E P Herald 22/5/95). The Herald said that Johannesburg should clean up its own affairs before interfering with other centres and, although it admitted that Johannesburg had become an important centre, it should cooperate with old established bodies which organised athletics "without the taint which has attached to them since the Golden City has taken them in hand" (E P Herald 22/5/95).

Noting the formation of the CCAA and CU, the Star had criticised the colonial clubs for not joining the SAAAA and pointed out that the S A Championships should be held in Port Elizabeth. However, this could only happen if clubs in those areas affiliated to the SAAAA and if there was a proper track (Star 26/12/94). The idea of clubs affiliating to a provincial association which, in turn, affiliated to a national body, had not yet been considered, and clubs were affiliated directly to the national association.

The Colesberg problem was discussed by the SAAAA in May and a copy of a letter from the CCAA and CU to Colesberg was read which said that the CCAA and CU was a district body embracing seven clubs. The CCAA and CU did not see the advisability of having colonial sports governed from a foreign state and was quite willing to work with the SAAAA (Star 18/5/95). The SAAAA did not respond favourably to the letter, pointing out that Johannesburg had as many sports meetings in one year as the rest of South Africa put together, and announced the ban.

Later in May Colesberg AC announced it would affiliate to the SAAAA (Star 22/5/95) which elicited a long statement from the CCAA and CU secretary, T Q W Harvey, explaining that the Cape association was of earlier origin than the Transvaal association,

and that it had thirteen clubs and one thousand members. He said the SAAAA needed to do more than arrange championships and send teams to England to gain the confidence of the whole of South Africa, and that the distance from Johannesburg and the heavy betting at the Wanderers were stumbling blocks which had to be overcome (E P Herald 24/5/95).

Captain Young wrote to the Star (5/6/95) pointing out that Port Elizabeth was not satisfied with being a sub-centre of Johannesburg:

Your district is large enough to have its own union and surely the Cape Colony is large enough to have its own also. There should not be the least difficulty in affiliating to each other and working hand-in-hand.

The PEAAC and CC, formed by the amalgamation of the PEAAC and the PEBC, discussed the dispute at its Annual General Meeting and M M Loubser said he had no objection to the headquarters being in Johannesburg provided that each centre was fully represented. He said that Oudtshoorn had joined the CCAA and CU which had fifteen clubs, and commented on the argument that the SAAAA was in Transvaal, a foreign state: "...but that did not enter into consideration with reference to sports" (E P Herald 10/6/95).

After a meeting in July, the SAAAA sent a telegram to the CCAA and CU (Star 2/7/95):

If the Cape Colony Union did not affiliate to the SAAAA, and if the sports were not run under the rules and regulations of that body, they would take immediate steps to prevent athletes belonging to affiliated clubs from competing at their sports, and intimating to



them that all athletes competing at their meetings would be liable to suspension under the rules of the Association.

The sports referred to were scheduled for 6 July in Port Elizabeth and, as might be expected, athletic circles in Port Elizabeth reacted strongly. The E P Herald referred to the "unabashed impertinence" of the SAAAA, accusing it of trying to force its way in where it was not wanted, and said the ultimatum could only lead to an open rupture between the two bodies (E P Herald 3/7/95). It is significant to note that at the SAAAA meeting W V Simkin of Cape Town was present and he informed the meeting that the Cape Town AC was still in existence, that Cape Town hoped to have an athletic ground at Sea Point soon and that he would endeavour to persuade athletic circles in Cape Town to support the SAAAA (Star 2/7/95). The SAAAA thus knew that the CCAA and CU did not have the support of the whole of Cape Colony and felt confident in challenging Port Elizabeth.

Port Elizabeth ignored the telegram and the sports went ahead under CCAA and CU rules, resulting in a notice in the E P Herald (2/8/95) which suspended all the competitors and warned that all competitors in the August meeting would also be suspended. The notice also pointed out the necessity of having only one national association and suggested that Port Elizabeth form a district association affiliated to the SAAAA. The Star accused Port Elizabeth of continually reiterating the absurd remark that "they refused to be governed from a Foreign State" (Star 24/7/95).

Cradock and Graaff-Reinet held meetings in August under CCAA and CU rules (E P Herald 6/8/95; 7/8/95), but in Grahamstown the athletes, concerned with the formation of a new club and the new track at City Lords, had taken little or no interest in the power struggle between Port Elizabeth and Johannesburg (Grahamstown Journal 5/6/94; 19/9/95)). Commenting on the SAAAA ban on



athletes who participated at Port Elizabeth, the Journal said (4/7/95):

We do not know much of this matter; but we never heard that the S.A. towns had united to erect that Association into a 'governing body for the whole of South Africa'.

Athletes from the Fish River Rand AC had already competed in Johannesburg and Gradwell, having established himself as the leading shot putter in South Africa, had been included in the S A team to England. On his return from England Gradwell competed in Grahamstown (Journal 29/10/95) and thus the SAAAA had links with a town in the Eastern Cape that was about to open the best banked cycling track in the country. It should be noted that Queenstown had also affiliated to the SAAAA in preference to the CCAA and CU (Queenstown Free Press 3/9/95).

Although the Port Elizabeth position was logically and pragmatically sound, it can be seen that they were not in a strong bargaining position when Nourse and Andersson travelled to meet CCA and CU officials in the coastal town in October. The meeting was held at the Algoa Hotel on Tuesday 22 October, chaired by Loubser, and present were C G Miles (Grahamstown); J Channner (Uitenhage); A Fettes (Caledonian Society); A Hargreaves (Colesberg); H Phillips (Cradock); and T Harvey. Common-sense prevailed, there was an amicable settlement, and six points were agreed to (E P Herald 23/10/95):

1. A national association was desirable.
2. It should be a union of States or Colonies south of the Zambezi with one or more delegates.
3. The headquarters would be in Johannesburg.

## 4. Functions would be:-

- (a) control of S A Championships;
- (b) management of S A teams overseas;
- (c) the settlement of disputes between affiliated Unions;
- (d) a meeting of the Unions would be called to discuss the SAAAA.

Thus there were concessions on both sides and the outcome of the dispute was positive, since it brought the role and aims of the SAAAA into sharper focus and set the pattern for the development of reasonably autonomous provincial unions within the main association. The way was also open for further progress and development and, although cycling was not included in the agreed format of the national body, the possibility of its inclusion had become feasible and this, of course, happened in 1904 (Star 23/10/95). The CCAA and CU challenge as an equal body with equivalent powers to the SAAAA had been effectively deflected, and the Cape association was then never really a viable body since each centre in Cape Colony developed independently, and the CCAA and CU eventually became an anachronism that died a natural death.

After the reconciliation the SAAAA wrote to all the clubs in the Cape Colony asking them to join the CCAA and CU (E P Herald 3/1/96), but some still preferred to liaise directly with the national body and the CCAA and CU remained an Eastern Province orientated body. When the headquarters of the CCAA and CU was transferred to Cape Town in 1902 it manifested some life for a short while, but the formation of the Eastern Province AA and CU

in 1899 and the fact that a Western Province AAA had been operating effectively since 1895, established the independent position of the centres. The eventual affiliation of each Cape centre independently and direct to the SAAAA was always inevitable after Griqualand West was allowed the privilege in 1896 (E P Herald 9/10/96) because Kimberley objected to affiliating to the CCAA and CU (Star 11/7/96). The SAAAA agreed that Griqualand West would be "under a different head." Port Elizabeth did not object and Cape Town was still confused (Cape Times 21/2/96):

...the Cape Colony AAA and CU is now the recognised body for the governing of athletic and cycle sports in South Africa.

There was further confusion when Harvey, the CCAA and CU secretary reportedly wrote to the Cape Times in March 1896, explaining that he had received a letter from the International Cyclists Association, which recognised the CCAA and CU as the controlling body of cycling in the Cape Colony, and a meeting was being called in April to discuss the holding of S A Cycling Championships and the sending of cyclists overseas (Cape Times 4/3/96). It later transpired that Harvey in fact wrote about Cape Colony Championships, not S A Championships (E P Herald 13/4/96).

Kimberley supported the SAAAA from the outset, and could not see the need for the CCAA and CU (Diamond Fields Advertiser 6/7/95). The Kimberley cyclists would not compete at Cradock in July 1895, because the meeting was under CCAA and CU rules, and the Advertiser confirmed support for the SAAAA in August (Diamond Fields Advertiser 23/8/95). When the circular arrived from Andersson asking Cape clubs to join the CCAA and CU, the Griqualand West AA was formed and the allocation of the S A Championships to Kimberley in 1896 added status to the centre as an independent body. Kimberley athletes also declined invitations

to compete in the CCAA and CU championships in Port Elizabeth in 1896. Griqualand West eventually agreed to join the CCAA and CU in 1905 after the reorganisation of athletics and cycling into the SAAAA and CA in 1904. The other members of the SAAA and CA were not, of course, in favour of each Cape centre being affiliated separately since this would give the Cape greater voting power, and it was only in 1930 that this was granted (SAAA and CA Minutes, 6/4/28; 20/8/30; 22/10/30).

The fluctuating fortunes of athletics in South Africa up to World War One and the inability of the national association to exert full control have been discussed in previous chapters. The sudden rise of Grahamstown to prominence when City Lords was opened and the S A Championships were held there is an example. Port Elizabeth declined in importance towards the end of the nineteenth century and the CCAA and CU became ineffective (Cape Argus 25/6/98; Star 2/9/98). Once Green Point Stadium was opened in Cape Town in 1897, the WPAAA became vociferous in its demands for a greater say in athletics in the Cape Colony and South Africa. The composition of the S A team to England was criticised (Cape Times 20/1/98) and the SAAAA attacked as being an unrepresentative body (Cape Argus 8/6/98). The WPAAA, like the CCAA and CU, was also in favour of a national association governing both athletics and cycling (Cape Argus 9/6/98).

The Argus maintained that affiliation to the SAAAA through the CCAA and CU was unworkable (21/6/98). The S A Championships were offered to Cape Town in 1900, which was interpreted by the Cape Times as the SAAAA offering the olive branch (27/6/1900), and when the CCAA and CU headquarters moved to Cape Town in 1902 there was no more talk of the system being unworkable. Just before the Anglo-Boer War the Star made a scathing attack on Cape Colony athletics over the eligibility of soldiers to compete in amateur meetings, which had been allowed in the Cape (Cape Times 21/11/98). The CCAA and CU wrote to the English AAA which

infuriated the Star (7/10/98). This was an issue that dragged on until just before the First World War.

When the SAAAA was resuscitated in May 1903 after the disruption of the Anglo-Boer War, "It was decided to write to the various amateur athletic associations throughout the country informing them of the resuscitation of the SAAAA and asking them to appoint delegates" (Star 13/5/03). The CCAA and CU, then based in Cape Town, agreed to affiliate, but the WPAAA objected, "because of the anomolous position with regard to motor pacing in racing in South Africa" (Cape Times 28/11/03). In an effort to obtain faster times, the motor pacing of cyclists had become common, making it difficult to find a suitable track for the S A Championships (Latest 28/11/08). The CCAA and CU affiliation was delayed and a special meeting of the SAAAA was held in February 1904 attended by representatives from Western Province, Eastern Province and Border, at which the following points were agreed upon:

1. Better understanding between the CCAA and CU and the SAAAA was necessary.
2. The SAAAA would take over cycling.
3. There would be equal representation for all the Colonies.

This meant that Transvaal had to form an Association independent of the SAAAA, and the Cape finally had their way on cycling. Nourse, Hilner, Andersson, Furze and Platnauer were appointed to implement the decision (Star 18/2/04) and the SAAA and CA came into being.

The Anglo-Boer War had severely disrupted athletics in Cape Town when the Green Point Stadium was taken over as a prisoner-of-war camp. The S A Championships were cancelled (1900-1904), so the

allocation of the first post-war championships under the rules of the new association to Cape Town delighted Capetonians. The championships were successful, with all provinces represented. Just before the championships a dispute arose between the WPAAA and the CCAA and CU. The latter body agreed that Port Elizabeth should stage the Cape Colony Championships, but the WPAAA objected, saying the notice was too short, and no Cape Town athletes travelled to compete (Cape Times 19/10/04). The WPAAA threatened to appeal to the SAAA and CA, but the matter was allowed to wait until the Annual General Meeting of the WPAAA in January where it was raised again. The Cape Times criticised the WPAAA and said that there were "a few moving spirits in the ranks of the W P Centre who, it would seem, are bent on making a split in the athletic world in South Africa, and it would be to the benefit of that particular world were their removal from office to take place immediately" (Cape Times 31/1/05). The Annual General Meeting of the CCAA and CU was held shortly after and the secretary, G C Starkey, resigned (Cape Times 25/2/05). Although the SAAA and CA upheld the action of the CCAA and CU, it chastised it for the tardy advertising of the Cape Championships (Cape Times 1/4/05).

The need for Cape Colony Championships diminished with the re-introduction of the S A Championships and they were discontinued in 1905. Centres could not afford to finance competitors to both meetings (Cape Times 29/6/05) and it was felt that the Cape athletes should attend the S A Championships as a team with distinctive colours and proper accommodation (Cape Times 15/2/06). Strenuous efforts were made to send a representative team to the S A Championships in 1906 but a special fund-raising sports at Cape Town was a failure (Cape Times 12/3/06). A fairly large team of 20 athletes and officials with L A Cox as manager was, however, eventually sent, the athletes from the various centres meeting at Norval's Pont, and they stayed together at Long's Hotel, Johannesburg. Their uniform was white with dark



green facing. The journey entailed two nights on the tram and a special saloon was provided for the team. The Cape Times (22/3/06) commented:

The opening of the new railway to the Rand via Kimberley and Klerksdorp has solved a difficult problem.

The Cape would probably not have sent such a large team had they known that the SAAAA would only pay out half the expenses, whereas the constitution said it should be the full amount (Cape Times 21/8/06). Natal and the Cape both disputed the decision, especially since it had also happened in 1904/1905 (Cape Times 31/12/04).

The CCAA and CU Championships were revived again in 1907 and held at Queenstown. An argument occurred again about the championships to which athletes should be sent and eventually the WPAA and CU sent fifteen athletes to Queenstown (Cape Times 19/2/07; 23/2/07; 30/4/07). The CCAA and CU sent three athletes to the S A Championships at Durban as only fifty pounds was available (Cape Times 7/6/07; 21/6/07). After the S A Championships it was announced that a team would be sent to the 1908 Olympic Games in London (Cape Times 12/6/07), and the CCAA and CU opposed the decision because it thought the expense was too much and the athletes were not good enough (Cape Times 2/10/07). This issue caused a conflict with the SAAA and CA. The Cape Times accused the national body of wanting to spend money on a few Transvaal 'cracks', but could not pay the full expenses of competitors to the S A Championships as the constitution stipulated (Cape Times 22/1/08). Feelings were somewhat mollified in Cape Town when it was learned that they were once again to stage the S A Championships (and Olympic Trials), a decision that upset Natal (Cape Times 21/2/08; Mercury 20/2/08). The Friend also expressed surprise at the championships going to Cape Town, pointing out

that the CCAA and CU was the only body that had opposed sending a team to London (Friend 9/3/08). After the Cape, the ORC, and Natal had censured the SAAA and CA for failing to serve notice of the Annual General Meeting held in conjunction with the championships, all agreed to support the Olympic team (Cape Times 20/4/08).

The expenses of athletes to the S A Championships concerned the CCAA and CU yet again in January 1909 (Cape Times 23/1/09), and at the Annual General Meeting in February it was agreed not to send athletes to the next championships (Cape Times 27/2/09). The WPAA and CA eventually sent five cyclists (Cape Times 2/4/09). At the Annual General Meeting of the SAAA and CA it was agreed that in future the expenses of four athletes from each area would be paid (Star 12/4/09), which decided the WPAA and CA that they could afford to send athletes to the CCAA and CU Championships at Queenstown (Star 24/4/09). Queenstown was one of the few towns where the Cape Championships made a profit.

The SAAA and CA introduced new rules in 1910, which were criticised by the CCAA and CU: some were referred to as ridiculous (Cape Times 26/2/10). Cape Town also felt that Allsop was neglecting his duties as secretary of the SAAA and CA because of his involvement with the visiting English cricketers (Cape Times 13/1/10). Only a few Cape Town athletes went to the S A Championships at Pretoria in 1910, and the Cape Times gave no space to the Annual General Meeting of the SAAA and CA that year, nor in 1911. It should be noted that much of the WPAA and CA policy at that time was determined by L A Cox, like Wallace in Durban. He was sports editor of the Cape Times and on the provincial executive and so was very influential from 1906 onwards.

Cape Town was again the venue for the S A Championships and Olympic Trials in 1912, but the impression was gained from the

reports that enthusiasm was not very high, and Cape officials were unhappy about more money being spent on an Olympic team (Cape Times 31/1/12; 2/2/12). The CCAA and CU said the money would be better spent bringing a team out from England (Cape Times 20/12/11), yet when it was announced that the SAAA and CA had made plans to bring out the English club Polytechnic Harriers, the WPAA and CA opposed this, saying a representative British team should be brought (Cape Times 7/12/12). Platnauer wrote a reply to this, published in the Cape Times (10/12/12), and the WPAA and CU eventually guaranteed fifty pounds towards the tour (Cape Times 1/2/13). The CCAA and CU met to discuss the tour and after a long discussion decided not to support it (Cape Times 4/2/13). The Polytechnic Club tour was cancelled (SAAA and CA Minutes, 13/2/13), and the SAAA and CA attempted to procure an English AAA team in the spring of 1913 (SAAA and CA Minutes, 13/2/13), but the AAA said they could make no financial contribution to the tour, nor could they assist a team from South Africa to England (SAAA and CA minutes, 7/4/13). The Cape Times expressed the view that the only feasible tour would be by the English universities in their long vacation. This in fact showed far-sighted judgement since the AAA tour was eventually called off because athletes were not available to travel in October, November and December, and the first tours to South Africa, in 1923 and 1929, were by English university teams.

Signs that the CCAA and CU executive had begun to realise that it was a superfluous body and that the various centres in the Cape should be autonomous were evident in 1913 when they admitted that each centre had athletes who should be sent to the S A Championships, but the executive could not fund them on an income of 12 guineas per year (Cape Times 4/4/13). It was agreed that the centres should be given five pounds each and should send their own teams (Cape Times 5/4/13).

Conflict between Cape Town and the SAAA and CA continued right

up to the outbreak of World War One. The Cape Times (8/5/13) objected to learning about the proposed English tour from the Sporting Star, and not from the SAAA and CA. The late arrival of minutes was criticised and the Cape Times accused the national body of using "slipshod, dilatory, arbitrary methods" (27/5/13). Criticism flared up again when the provincial guarantees were announced, and the Cape Times, under the headline "WHO CONTROLS THE CAPE?", objected to the SAAA and CA determining the amount required from each Cape Colony centre (10/7/13). The Cape Times said the SAAA and CA was "the most hopelessly incompetent body of sporting legislators that one has ever come in touch with."

The expenses issue also arose again in 1913 when 'Recorder' of the Sporting Star made a bitter attack on Queenstown and the Cape because Transvaal athletes had allegedly received expenses without permission when they competed at Queenstown. As 'Recorder' was a TAAA official, the Cape Times (10/7/13) reacted strongly, and evoked support from 'Qrius' writing in the Latest (16/8/13). The Cape Times attacked the TAAA on the expenses issue again on 29 July, but admitted that the SAAA and CA had problems in obtaining a touring team, especially in view of the "unsettled state of the country." The tour by the English AAA was cancelled, and in 1914 the WPAA and CU suggested, almost certainly by Cox, that an Australian team should be invited (Cape Times 3/2/14), a proposal that was attacked by 'Recorder' in the Star (Cape Times 13/2/14). The proposal, however, generated much interest around the country, 'Qrius' claiming it had been a pet project of his since 1906 (Latest 14/2/14), and the SAAA and CA approved also, agreeing to invite an Australian team provided the guarantee did not exceed one thousand, four hundred and five pounds (SAAA and CA minutes, 6/4/14). According to the Cape Times (14/5/14) the invitation "created enthusiasm in Australia" but, once again, there was a conflict when the SAAA and CA allocated only five meetings to the Cape, so at the Annual General Meeting of the national body, the Cape withdrew its guarantee of five hundred

pounds (SAAA and CA minutes, 29/5/14). Cox also claimed that the SAAA and CA was not doing enough to promote the tour (Cape Times 10/6/14). A compromise was reached when the SAAA and CA agreed to six meetings in the Cape (SAAA and CA Minutes, 30/6/14), but problems arose again when E Marks, secretary of the Australian AAA, said there was confusion about who was actually organising the tour (Cape Times 15/7/14), and the Transvaal announced it could not take four meetings, so would the Cape take an extra two (Cape Times 22/7/14). This naturally inflamed feelings (Cape Times 31/7/14), but before the mess could be untangled the First World War began and all the tour arrangements were cancelled.

Relationships between Cape Town and Johannesburg were not amicable up to World War One. They were, however, dynamic, whereas the Griqualand West and Border areas were very passive. There was little heard of Eastern Province either until 1914, when the S A Championships were held in Port Elizabeth and a major row erupted over the assault on St Norman during the 3 miles walk. The EPAA and CU was so incensed it refused to accept an invitation to hold a meeting for the Australian touring team, "by way of protest against the manner in which this centre had been treated by the SAAA in connection with the recent S A Championships" (EPAA and CU minutes, 27/7/14).

#### ORANGE FREE STATE

The initial moves to form the Orange River Colony AA and CU were made in July 1903 and the association was founded in January 1904 (ORCAA and CU minutes, 23/1/04). The constitution was based on that of the CCAA and CU (ORCAA and CU minutes, 6/2/04), and Platnauer was nominated to represent the union on the national body.

The ORCAA and CU was not an active body in the early years of its existence and in 1907 the Friend (1/1/07) commented: "Athletics



have been almost a dead letter, due mainly to laxity on the part of the governing body."

Platnauer proposed that the S A Championships should be held in Bloemfontein in 1909 (SAAA and CA minutes, 31/10/08), and when it was pointed out that Bloemfontein could not stage the cycling events because there was no track, he suggested that the championships be split, with the cycling in the Transvaal. This proposal was rejected. Platnauer resigned as the ORC representative soon afterwards over a dispute about the motor cycle pacing of cyclists, which he opposed. The issue was later resolved and Platnauer was reinstated (Friend 30/10/08; SAAA and CA minutes, 20/11/08).

The S A Championships were allocated to the Free State in 1910, but in February the Friend reported that Bloemfontein had again lost the chance of staging them because athletics was "in a parlous state" (Friend 10/2/10). The reasons given were the influence of rinking (roller skating); the exodus of so many of the leading athletes; the depression; and poor press coverage. Writing in the Friend in 1911 (13/12/11) 'Onlooker' commented:

Is it not time that something was done to assist the local governing body of athletics in the Province.

The Orange Free State and Basutoland AA and CU met in 1912, but there was no improvement, and the body was virtually dormant until after World War One (OFS and BAA and CU minutes, 19/6/19).

#### RHODESIA (ZIMBABWE) AND MOZAMBIQUE

Details of the origin and development of athletics in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), are given in "The Story of Rhodesian Sport (Thompson, 1976). According to Thompson the Bulawayo Athletic



Club was formed in 1896 and was affiliated to the Transvaal Athletic Union until 1901, when a Rhodesian centre was formed with the Reverend J G Aldridge chairman. Aldridge was later president of the Natal AA and CA.

The first mention of Rhodesia reported in South Africa was in the Star (2/12/97, when it was noted that a letter had been received by the SAAAA from the Queen's Club, Bulawayo, about two athletes filling in entry forms incorrectly. In 1898 the Star reported (25/1/98) that Bulawayo AC, Bulawayo Queen's Club, and Salisbury AAC were affiliated to the SAAAA. Since the TAAAA was formed only in 1903, it seems that the SAAAA was the body referred to by Thompson. The Star also reported that several sports meetings had been held in Bulawayo at which money prizes had been given, and that competitors would be suspended (26/1/98). An appeal was made on the grounds that the meetings were not held under SAAAA rules (Star 2/3/98) but the outcome was not reported.

At the Annual General Meeting of the SAAA and CA in 1906 it was reported that Rhodesia had not affiliated with the new body (Star 17/4/06), although Andersson and Platnauer had met Sir W H Milton on that issue (SAAA and CA minutes, 20/2/06). The next report of contact was in 1907 when it was reported that a letter had been received from Rhodesia (SAAA and CA minutes, 13/12/07). According to a cutting in L M Levy's scrapbook, Rhodesia claimed not to be part of the South African Association, and the SAAA and CA replied that Rhodesia had been affiliated since 1891, but the new body had left the SAAAA without notification. (This was probably in 1901.) The SAAA and CA claimed jurisdiction over "the whole of South Africa, of which Rhodesia was an integral part", but they had no objection to their entering into a separate agreement with the English associations.

In 1913 the SAAA and CA received a letter from the Rhodesian CU

and AAA stating that they were "not at present prepared to affiliate to the SAAA and CA", but wanted to enter into a working agreement similar to that which had existed between Rhodesia and England since 1902. The agreement was mainly concerned with amateurs and reciprocity, and the SAAA and CA resolved that rules should be exchanged between the two bodies before any decision was taken (SAAA and CA minutes, 5/12/13). There was no further contact before World War One.

Lourenco Marques conducted sports under SAAA and CU rules in 1906 (Star 17/4/06), and in 1913 Beira ASC wrote to the SAAA and CA enquiring about affiliation. They were advised either to form a Mozambique Association or affiliate to Rhodesia (SAAA and CA minutes, 3/11/13).

#### TRANSVAAL

C L Andersson anticipated the need for a provincial body in the Transvaal when he announced in 1890 that he had started a registration office for all clubs in the Republic where they could register their colours (Star 26/4/90). There were no further developments.

In 1903 Platnauer sent a letter to all Transvaal clubs explaining that the Anglo-Boer War had prevented the formation of a Transvaal District Association in 1899, but one was imperative as the SAAAA could not be expected to run Transvaal affairs (Pretoria News 25/6/03). Platnauer was elected secretary of the TAAA with Andersson president and Levy assistant secretary. There were 12 clubs affiliated in 1905 (Star 10/3/05), and 26 by 1908 (Star 31/3/08). Many of the Transvaal administrators were involved in several organisations and Andersson, Platnauer and Levy were also active in the SAAA and CA, the S A Olympic Games Association, the Wanderers and Johannesburg Harriers. The friction between Johannesburg on one hand and the Cape and Natal

on the other was often because the Transvaal bodies appeared to be all one and the same thing.

Internal conflict developed in the Transvaal in 1908 over a new amateur rule announced by the SAAA and CA. Both the TCU and the TAAA maintained that the new rule could not be implemented as it had not been passed at a general meeting of the SAAA and CA, and at the TAAA meeting there was a heated argument between the chairman, Leo Rogaly and the secretary, A Morrison, which led to the latter resigning (Star 9/10/08; 28/10/08). At the SAAA and CA monthly meeting in October Nourse explained that notices had been sent out about the change and the reason for the introduction of the rule adopted from the English AAA, was to prevent Reggie Walker competing against the professional Arthur Postle (Star 31/10/08). Morrison's resignation was not accepted by the TAAA (Star 13/11/08).

The question of overlap between the TAAA and the SAAA and CA was discussed at the Annual General Meeting of the national body in April 1909. Delegates wanted to know why the SAAA and CA organised the Championships when they were held in Johannesburg (Star 12/4/09). This led to a change, and in June it was agreed that the championships would be the sole responsibility of the Province or Colony (Star 25/6/09).

Midway through 1909 the cyclists objected to the new amateur rule. At that time there were reports from Britain about a conflict between the AAA and the NCU (National Cyclists Union) (Star 30/4/09), which may have precipitated the protest in South Africa. The TCU were not in favour of the new rule and their chairman, J D Celliers, addressing the SAAA and CA in June 1909, said that the cyclists wanted to abide by the same rules as the English NCU, under which Walker and Postle could have raced against each other. Nourse replied that the SAAA and CA would adopt the AAA and the NCU rules: "Whatever is allowed in England

must be allowed in South Africa" (Star 25/6/09). This was agreed.

Later in 1909 attempts were made to obtain some uniformity of the amateur laws amongst the various sporting bodies in the Transvaal. Nourse chaired a meeting attended by representatives of athletics, cycling, gymnastics, rugby, boxing, lawn tennis and swimming at which George Twomey, the TAAA representative, was appointed secretary and instructed to write to other bodies elsewhere to obtain information (Star 6/7/09). At the September meeting of the TAAA it was reported that the Lawn Tennis Association had withdrawn from the reciprocity agreement and the discussion revealed that the amateur situation was chaotic and that the TAAA had little power to influence it (Star 10/9/09).

The TCU, the TAAA and the SAAA and CA were involved in another dispute in 1910 which became very complicated and concerned amateurism again, relationships between athletes and cyclists, and impaired relationships between Johannesburg and Pretoria. The initial incident occurred at the Caledonian Sports in Pretoria on 31 May when a cyclist refused to leave the track and was suspended by the TCU (Pretoria News 23/6/09; Star 10/7/09). The TCU action was upheld by the TAAA and prolonged argument ensued with letters to the press and threats of withdrawal from various clubs and organisations. Otto Schuller, who had taken over as TAAA president when Leo Rogaly resigned in April 1909 (Star 8/4/09), travelled to Pretoria in December in an attempt to resolve the problem, which by then had also developed into a clash between Johannesburg and Pretoria (Pretoria News 13/12/09). At the TCU meeting in February 1910 a letter was read from James Magowen, secretary of the Pretoria Caledonian Society, which said that:

The Pretoria Caledonian Society originally intended 'to disclaim entirely your authority'. Fortunately (the word is used

advisedly) a communication from Captain Weatherall, chairman of the Pretoria centre, TAAA, was placed before the meeting... (Star 17/2/10).

Weatherall pointed out that eight months had passed, several controlling bodies had become involved, it had assumed ridiculous proportions and the Caledonian Society should close the incident. The TCU agreed to remove the suspension and the Caledonian Society continued its affiliation (Star 17/2/10). The TAAA was not entirely happy with the outcome but, as 'Pneumatic' pointed out, the TCU was affiliated directly to the SAAA and CA and could operate independently of the TAAA (Star 21/3/10).

Hardly had the Pretoria dispute been settled when the Albion Harriers dispute over expenses occurred, previously discussed. Schuller temporarily resigned over the issue but later agreed that expenses, paid through the local centre, should be allowed. He also recommended that the TAAA and the TCU should merge (Star 14/2/11), but this was eventually rejected (Star 15/11/12).

The TAAA, being closely connected with the SAAA and CA had less cause for criticism of the Olympic team selections than the other provinces, but disputed the pre-selection of McArthur in 1912 (Star 22/3/12). There was a difference of opinion over Coloured spectators at sports meetings. Wanderers had resisted this several times (Gutsche, 1966) but in 1912 the TAAA proposed that Coloureds should be admitted to sports meetings (Star 14/6/12; 5/11/12). Opinion was divided in the SAAA and CA and it was announced that the "time was not yet ripe" (Star 5/11/12). Gutsche (1966, p. 128) reports that the S A Olympic Games Committee brought pressure to bear on Wanderers who again rejected the proposal.

When the First World War began, Otto Schuller wanted to resign as



president of the TAAA because of his German name, but was asked to reconsider, especially as he had been born in England and had served in the British Army (Transvaal AAA minutes 12/6/15). Schuller eventually did resign, although he stayed on the executive (Transvaal AAA minutes 17/9/15).

#### THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

There have been many references to the SAAAA and the SAAA and CA, and the developments in the various centres that led to the establishment of the SAAAA in 1894. Amongst these were the speeches by H W Brown, the moves in Port Elizabeth, the visit of Pitman to Johannesburg, the S A Championships Sports at Kimberley, the efforts of the Natal AAA, the successes of Meintjies overseas, the developments in cycling and other sports and the correspondence with Astley-Cooper. The interaction between the SAAAA (and the SAAA and CA) and the provincial bodies has also been discussed. In this section, matters particularly pertinent to the national association and its development will be considered, but topics such as expenses, finance, tours and the Olympic Games, and amateurism are discussed elsewhere.

Although the need for a national body had often been discussed, Herschensonn (various spellings appeared but Herschensonn is the form that will be used in this thesis) in Pietermaritzburg was the first person to actually attempt to form such an association, and the Star, Johannesburg supported his efforts (22/2/92):

We have received from Mr J Herschensohnn Jnr.  
Hon. Sec. 'pro tem' a copy of the draft rules  
of the proposed South African Amateur Athletic  
Association.

The Star felt the association would be a great boon to athletics,



and that the rules were sound and difficult to improve upon as they were based on those of the English AAA. The Transvaal Observer also approved of the new body (Witness 9/3/91).

The movement which has been started in Natal for the purpose of forming an Amateur Athletic Association should receive the support and encouragement of every club or individual interested in the cause of athletic sport. The want of such an association has been severely felt, and one or two attempts have previously been made towards the desired end, but without tangible result owing principally to the small population and absence of speedy communication. These draw-backs are gradually disappearing, but it is still open to doubt whether South Africa is sufficiently ripe to ensure the successful working and operation of the proposed association. However, it will do no harm to make the attempt, and to those who have taken up the matter all praise is due for their efforts in the cause of sport.

The Standard and Diggers News also praised and encouraged the efforts in Pietermaritzburg (14/2/92), while in contrast to the support from the Transvaal, 'Rapier' of the Witness scorned the idea (Witness 4/5/92).

The Natal AAA, as was indicated in Chapter Seven, decided not to go ahead with the formation of an SAAAA, and it was eventually Wanderers that took the initiative. The letter that Andersson sent out to all clubs in South Africa read (Cape Times 29/12/93):

Dear Sir, Various communications having been received from time to time from J Astley-

Cooper, of London, inquiring what steps are being taken for the representation of South Africa at the 'Pan-Brittanic' (sic) Contest to be held in London in July 1894, I have been requested to address you by letter, and to inform you that a public meeting will be held on Thursday, 4th January, 1894, at eight p.m. at the Wanderers Pavilion (which has been offered for the purpose), to which all interested are cordially invited. Secretaries of athletic clubs are kindly requested to nominate representatives to attend this meeting, and to communicate their views (by wire if necessary) to the undersigned, who will lay them before the above meeting. It is proposed, at the same time, to take this opportunity of forming a South African Amateur Athletic Association, which should take the above-mentioned scheme in hand, as well as fill a long neglected want in South African sport - amateur athletics being the only branch of sport that has hitherto had no representative or governing body. The urgency and necessity for speedy action must be the excuse for calling the meeting at such short notice. All communications addressed to me will be handed to the secretary appointed at the meeting.

Cadwallader and Simkins, two of the leading Cape Town administrators, were in England with the S A Cricket Team, and the arrival of the letter at a time when many people were on holiday, prevented representatives from some other areas attending. The Queenstown Free Fress supported the new association but it was hardly mentioned in Cape Town, Port

Elizabeth, Grahamstown, East London, Durban, Pietermaritzburg or Pretoria. It was virtually ignored. There were also almost no reports in newspapers outside Johannesburg on the first general meeting. Earlier in 1893 there had been a report in the Mercury (8/6/93) that Australia and New Zealand were sending teams to a Brittanic Festival in England, and that Sir Thomas Uppington would organise "representative team from the Cape, Natal and sister states", but this item was not reported elsewhere and there were no further reports in Natal.

When the provisional council of the SAAAA announced that a general meeting to decide on policy and adopt rules would be held in conjunction with the S A Championships in March 1894, the Transvaal Advertiser printed a scathing attack on the new body, saying it was "mixing up sport and business with a vengeance", and the rules should be adopted first. It also criticised Johannesburg for assuming the "right to regulate the whole of matters sporting for the rest of South Africa", but admitted that such a body was necessary and could succeed if the general meeting was fully representative (Transvaal Advertiser 9/2/94). The Transvaal Advertiser later appeared to have accepted the SAAAA and in August 1894 printed details of a circular sent out by the new body which pointed out that after 31 December all athletic sports meetings had to be held under SAAAA rules. The Advertiser advised secretaries to contact the SAAAA secretary, F Hilner, to obtain copies of the rules (29/8/94).

The SAAAA was in a precarious financial position in 1898 and an urgent special general meeting was called (Star 30/8/98). The Transvaal claimed it was the only district supporting the national body, that the other districts just appointed delegates and did not even bother to pay fees. It was suggested that the headquarters should move around with the S A Championships, but Nourse argued that the English AAA headquarters were permanently in London. Andersson announced he was resigning, and Hilner and

Sheppard claimed the districts did not support them. Athletes had been sent overseas and the money promised had not been forthcoming (Star 1/8/98). Nourse advanced one hundred pounds to assist the finances of Griebenow, the cyclist overseas, and it was agreed that Allsop would be asked to become secretary. George Allsop agreed and was appointed in September (13/9/98). Primarily a cricket man and secretary of Wanderers, Allsop suffered criticism for neglecting athletics but remained as secretary up to World War One, except for the periods he was away with the S A cricket team when C Harvey (1904), A R B Palmer (1906) and S J Pitts (1912) acted in his place.

The SAAAA did not operate during the Anglo-Boer War since the members were either on active service or had left Johannesburg (Gutsche, 1966, p. 107). A meeting was called in Frank Hilner's office in May 1903 for the purpose of resuscitating the SAAAA (Star 22/3/02; 13/5/03), attended by Solomon, Hilner, Furze, Platnauer, Nourse and Allsop. The problem of cycling arose again and the CCAA and CU affiliation was delayed. This issue had been aired in Cape Town newspapers just before the war began and had aroused comment in Johannesburg (Star 6/9/98; 18/5/99). The SAAAA agreed to the incorporation of cycling and the first championships under the SAAA and CA were held on 31 December 1904 and 2 January 1905 in Cape Town.

The SAAAA affiliated to the English AAA in 1895 (Star 16/1/95) and maintained the link until 1910 when there was conflict in England between the AAA and the NCU, which decided the SAAA and CA to withdraw its affiliation (Cape Times 26/7/10).

#### THE S A OLYMPIC GAMES ASSOCIATION

The Star printed an article on 28 February 1895 about the revival of the Olympic Games, and in April 1896, in an eloquent editorial on the festival, said that despite the political turmoil South

Africa should consider sending athletes to compete in Athens (Star 11/4/96). The Cape Times carried a report on the Interim Games to be held at Athens in 1906, noting that Julius Jeppe, the Consul-General for Greece, had received an invitation and had suggested that the Cape Colony form a committee and send entries. The Cape Times felt that although the Olympics were something to aim at, South African athletes were not yet good enough (Cape Times 4/1/06). Yet according to Van der Merwe (1978, p. 29) three South Africans actually competed in the marathon in the 1904 Olympic Games at St Louis (one white and two black) where they had been working at the time.

'Umpire' also wrote about the 1906 Games in the Natal Mercury (3/3/06) and, noting that some Australians were competing, had suggested South Africa consider sending athletes in the future. The Pretoria News also reported on the 1906 Olympics, probably because J N Cormack, captain of Pretoria Harriers, went to compete in the marathon. The Pretoria News (5/6/06) said he finished 10th or 12th and the Cape Times (15/3/08) said he was 14th. Vincent Duncker, a South African studying in Germany, was third in the 110 metres hurdles. According to Van der Merwe he was claimed by the Germans while he was studying engineering in Saxony (Van der Merwe, 1978, p. 34). The Grahamstown Journal was the first newspaper to carry a report on the 1908 London Olympic Games (28/11/06):

It is to be sincerely hoped in the interests of Sport in this country that it will be possible to send some of our fliers at all events, as they will be enabled to try conclusions with the best athletes in the world, including the pick of America.

The SAAA and CA agreed to write for details of Olympic Games early in 1907 when Platnauer said athletes should be sent. Nourse



asked if there were any of suitable calibre and Platnauer cited Phillips, Duffy, Landers, Hefferon, Du Bary, Stupart, de la Harpe, Nolte, Millar and McInnes (Pretoria News 1/2/07; Transvaal Leader 1/2/07). The enquiry brought a reply from the British Olympic Association requesting Dr Jameson, prime minister of Cape Colony, to form a South African Olympic Games Committee, and a copy of the letter was sent to the SAAA and CA. Nourse met with Jameson, who delegated his powers to Nourse and the committee was formed on 3 January 1908 (SAAA and CA minutes, 24/10/07; 2/12/07; Star 4/1/08; Mercury 6/1/08).

'Qrius' had written an article in support of sending athletes to the Olympic Games in the brochure he produced in July 1907 for the S A Championships in Durban (Wallace, 1907, pp. 2-5) and said this would have already happened if it had not been for the Jameson Raid in 1896, the Anglo-Boer War in 1900 and the depression in 1904. 'Qrius' agreed with Platnauer that there were athletes who could succeed, and offered information he had collected about athletes to the SAAA and CA to help them decide about sending a team.

Platnauer toured England with Allsop and the South African cricketers in 1907, and was delegated by the SAAA and CA to negotiate with the English AAA about financial assistance for the South African athletes (Cape Times 26/4/07). The SAAA and CA received a programme of events from the secretary of the British Olympic Games Committee in September 1907, asking for suggestions and entries (Mercury 7/9/07), and it was agreed that all the provincial centres would be circulated for their comments and entries. The SAAA and CA formed a sub-committee to consider sending a team in October, consisting of Andersson, Nourse, Platnauer and T Palmer (SAAA and CA Minutes, 24/10/07). All provinces were in favour of sending a team except the CCAA and CU (Cape Times 2/10/07), although the Cape Times (Cox) was in favour (21/6/07). Later the Cape Times also opposed the sending of a



team (17/1/08; 22/1/08). Platnauer wrote a long article (Transvaal Leader 13/11/07) supporting the team, and the decision of the Australian AAA to cancel their proposed visit to South Africa in order to send a team to London must also have influenced decisions in South Africa (Star 6/7/07).

Those present at the formation meeting of the S A Olympic Games Committee in Frank Hilner's office on 3 January 1908 were: C Andersson, H J Lamb (S A Tennis Union), J Reid (S A Cricket Union), A G Harris (S A Fencing Association), L Wertheim (S A Gymnastic Union), G Seeton (Transvaal Lacrosse Association), and Henry Nourse (chairman). It was agreed that the committee should be fully representative and the chairman should not be wedded to any one particular sport. The various governments in South Africa would be approached for financial assistance (Star 4/1/08).

The CCAA and CU withdrew its opposition to sending a team and the S A General Olympic Committee (SAGOC) announced that three thousand pounds was required to send a team of 25 (13 shottists, 10 athletes and cyclists and 4 tennis players) (Star 13/3/08; Cape Times 16/3/08). It was soon reported that the Cape\* could not raise the five hundred pounds asked of them, nor Natal the two hundred and fifty pounds asked of them (Cape Times 27/2/08).

Arrangements, however, went ahead, and a London Committee to represent South African interests was formed, consisting of J B Taylor, G Imroth and S H Farrar. They were asked to appoint a team manager and trainer to look after the team in England (Transvaal Leader 16/2/08).

The selection of the team, the performance of the team, and the reception of the team when it returned were all items that led to disputes. The dissatisfaction in Natal over the omission of Walker has already been covered. Other protests are dealt with in the section on tours.

---

\* Eastern Province agreed to contribute five pounds "taking into consideration the importance of the occasion" (EPAA & CU minutes 12/3/08).

A team was sent to the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm and once again there was much dissension and criticism. 'Qrius' said that there was procrastination and haphazard planning, and that fund raising should have started already (Latest 21/10/11). George Allsop, then secretary of the SAGOC sent out subscription lists in November 1911 (Star 21/9/11; Cape Times 8/11/11). The CCAA and CU opposed participation (Cape Times 20/12/11). The decision to send a team was made in November 1911, the size to be determined by the funds available, and Sidney Farrar was asked to form a London Committee. Captain Weatherall, back in England, was asked to manage the team (Star 12/1/12). 'Qrius' opposed the appointment of Weatherall, and said the manager should be T J Greenwood, who wrote as 'Pneumatic' for the Star, and who had returned to England in August 1911 (Latest 26/8/11).

It was announced that five thousand pounds was needed for a team of 20 and Abe Bailey contributed one hundred pounds (Star 13/1/12; Friend 15/1/12), but the Cape still thought it was a waste of money (Cape Times 31/1/12). The SAAA and CA agreed to donate fifty pounds towards the fund provided McArthur was nominated for the marathon, and the SAGOC agreed to that (Star 15/3/12). Fund raising efforts were not successful and the team had to adopt such an austere regime that it became known as the 'Bread and Milk Team' (Emery, 1955; Van der Merwe, 1978, p. 76. Keartland, personal interview). The SAGOC agreed to a proposal by Platnauer that (Star 24/5/12):

Weatherall to interview representatives from other nations to ascertain extent of government support to other teams. Information to be embodied in a report to be sent to all Ministers and members of the house.

In addition to Weatherall, who was general manager, Keartland

accompanied the team as coach and trainer. He wrote to the SAGOC offering his services and his letter was passed on to the SAAA and CA. Kearthland was assisting Walker at the time, and it was felt that Walker's presence would assist the team in England (Transvaal Leader 11/3/12). Ted Duffy and others opposed Kearthland's appointment, and wrote to 'Qrius', claiming that a local man such as McCrystal, Grady or Lumsden should be appointed (Latest 2/3/12). George Tincler the professional who assisted Landers also applied for the position (Latest 17/2/12).

'Qrius' criticised the selections for the team, as did newspapers in the Cape (Cape Times 8/4/12; 10/4/12; Latest 20/4/12). Remembering the incidents in 1908, the SAGOC instructed the Swedish Olympic Committee to consider only South African entries made through them (Star 19/2/12). 'Qrius' continued his criticism of the SAGOC after the Games, and appealed for a special Olympic Fund to be established (Latest 20/7/12).

Comments on the need to prepare for the 1916 Olympic Games began to appear in 1913 (Pretoria News 15/3/13; Latest 29/3/13). Otto Schuller criticised South Africa's approach to the Olympics, saying it was too haphazard - "we'll worry through somehow" - and that a scheme was needed "to develop athletics in the schools" (Cape Times 8/5/13). Schuller also "submitted papers relating to the Olympic Games 1916 showing what other countries were doing in the matter of fostering athletics and preparing for the Games" (SAAA and CA minutes, 9/6/13). There was also a long article in the Sporting Star (30/8/13) pointing out the importance of the Olympic Games in the world of sport and the need to approach the South African Government and the Provincial Councils for financial assistance. 'Qrius' described what was happening in England and asked what South Africa was doing (Latest 19/7/13). A South African Olympic Committee was formed in June 1914, with Nourse chairman and S J Pitts secretary (SAAA and CA minutes, 30/6/14) and, at a meeting in July, it was agreed to send a

deputation to the Prime Minister, and to approach Provincial Administrators for funds (E P Herald 2/7/14).

#### THE INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR ATHLETIC FEDERATION

According to Lovesey (1979, p. 56): "One important outcome of the 1912 Olympics was the Congress of Stockholm on 17 July that drafted rules for an International Amateur Athletic Federation."

South Africa was not unaware of the need for a body to control international athletics and the SAAA and CA had received a letter from the Australian AAU in 1908 which suggested a world amateur athletic federation should be formed (Star 29/8/08). South African athletes and officials at the 1908 and 1912 Olympics had certainly heard of the moves to form an international body, and South Africa had also been invited to send athletes to a Festival at Crystal Palace in London to be held in conjunction with the coronation of King George V (Latest 14/1/11), but decided against it (Pretoria News 29/3/11).

The SAAA and CA received a letter from the Svenska Idrettsforbundet, Goteberg, Sweden, in March 1911 inviting South Africa to send a representative to a meeting to be held in the summer of 1911 at which an international club for light athletics would be established. It also advised that a further meeting would be held after the 1912 Games when the constitution would be ratified (Star 18/3/11). South Africa's reply, dated 1st April 1911, was as follows (IAAF files):

Replying to your favour of the 22nd February,  
I am instructed by my Committee to express  
sympathy with the objects of the Sports Union,  
and shall be very glad to have further  
particulars as to date of Meeting, etc.

My committee are considering the appointment of representatives to attend the Meeting; but they will do this on the understanding that it in no way clashes with the objects of the Olympic Games.

G Allsop. Secretary.

In April 1913 the SAAA and CA considered a letter from the IAAF Provisional Committee which reported on the Stockholm meeting held on 17 July 1912, and which informed them of the proposed First Congress to be held in Berlin on 5 June 1913 (SAAA and CA minutes, 7/4/13). At a meeting on 9 June it was agreed to ask Sidney Farrar to represent South Africa at the Congress, which was postponed to August (SAAA and CA minutes, 9/6/13). Farrar was unable to go to Berlin and in October he wrote informing the SAAA and CA that he had asked Captain Weatherall to attend in his place (SAAA and CA minutes, 3/11/13). Captain Weatherall submitted a report with details of the constitution and rules, and he recommended that South Africa join. In June 1914 Sidney Farrar wrote to the SAAA and CA to advise them that Captain Weatherall should represent South Africa at the IAAF Congress in Lyons and the Olympic Committee Meeting in Paris. It would cost thirty pounds, of which Farrar offered to contribute ten pounds (SAAA and CA minutes, 30/6/14). At the SAAA and CA meeting on 30 June a discussion developed about the heavy expenses incurred by having a representative at IAAF and Olympic meetings and Nourse said that there was little need for a special South African representative as Britain was well-represented and could "voice the views of South Africa if asked to do so." This was agreed to, and Farrar was informed (SAAA and CA minutes, 30/6/14). Weatherall thus attended only the IAAF Congress at Lyons and the SAAA and CA formally affiliated to the IAAF for a fee of five pounds and became recognised as a founder member (Le Roux, 1984, p. 14).

VOLUME TWO

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Long distance running and the 'Walking Craze'

Cross country running	339 - 360
The 'Walking Craze'	360 - 365
The 'Marathon Craze'	365 - 374

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

The problems of amateurism

Introduction	375 - 377
Early developments	377 - 384
Prize money and prizes	384 - 393
Betting	393 - 402
Expenses	402 - 405
Officials	406 - 408
Reciprocity	408 - 409

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

Professional athletics

Track and field	410 - 433
Professional walking	434 - 441

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

Minority groups

Women	442 - 446
Blacks	446 - 457
Afrikaners	457 - 461
Juniors and schools	462 - 473
Walking	474 - 481

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

Influencing factors

Public and half-holidays	482 - 488
War	488 - 495
Tours	495 - 507
Economics and finance	508 - 513

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

Coaching and training

514 - 530

CHAPTER NINETEEN

The men

E J L Platnauer	531 - 538
J T Wallace	538 - 543
H S Nourse	543 - 549



## VOLUME TWO

### CHAPTER THIRTEEN

#### Long distance running and the 'Walking Craze'

Cross country running	339 - 360
The 'Walking Craze'	360 - 365
The 'Marathon Craze'	365 - 374

### CHAPTER FOURTEEN

#### The problems of amateurism

Introduction	375 - 377
Early developments	377 - 384
Prize money and prizes	384 - 393
Betting	393 - 402
Expenses	402 - 405
Officials	406 - 408
Reciprocity	408 - 409

### CHAPTER FIFTEEN

#### Professional athletics

Track and field	410 - 433
Professional walking	434 - 441

### CHAPTER SIXTEEN

#### Minority groups

Women	442 - 446
Blacks	446 - 457
Afrikaners	457 - 461
Juniors and schools	462 - 473
Walking	474 - 481

### CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

#### Influencing factors

Public and half-holidays	482 - 488
War	488 - 495
Tours	495 - 507
Economics and finance	508 - 513

### CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

#### Coaching and training

514 - 530

### CHAPTER NINETEEN

#### The men

E J L Platnauer	531 - 538
J T Wallace	538 - 543
H S Nourse	543 - 549

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

## LONG DISTANCE RUNNING AND THE WALKING CRAZE

Cross country running, road running including marathons and the 'Go-As-You-Please' events require a separate chapter since they formed a significant percentage of the athletic activity in the period of study. They were usually held away from the athletic stadiums at different times to sports meetings, and they tended to be ignored by the athletic organisers and administrators. The activities were more athlete-orientated than spectator-orientated and so did not bring in gate money, and administrators tended to allow the athletes involved to control their own affairs, which is probably why South African associations for road running and cross country running were eventually established.

## CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

The 'harrier' movement developed in England in the nineteenth century, as this account by Lovesey (1979, p. 169) indicates:

In the 1820's, foot steeplechases, usually between local landmarks, were staged in the Scottish Lowlands, and soon spread to the English North and Midlands. By 1834 the sport was known in the public schools, with hare and hounds, a form of paperchase, adding an extra dimension. The credit for initiating cross country at club level is given to Walter Rye, the waspish correspondent of the Sporting Gazette. He organised a run in 1867 for Thames Rowing Club, which led, the following year, to the founding of Thames Hare and Hounds. After that clubs proliferated...

## CHAPTER TWENTY

### Conclusions and recommendations

Introduction	550
Conclusions	550 - 555
Recommendations	555 - 556

### TABLES

1. The organization of sport in England	13
2. The first list of English AAA records 1887	20

### ILLUSTRATIONS

Queenstown Hospital Sports - 100 yards start	128(a)
Pretoria Harriers. Social Gathering and Smoking Concert 1904	256(a)
PEAAC Cross Country Handicap 1886	341(a)
Transvaal Cross Country Championships 1912, and Pretoria Harriers fixture list 1905	355(a)

### APPENDICES

Appendix A : Abbreviations	557
Appendix B : English AAA rules 1880	558 - 559
Appendix C : Results of 6th Regiment Sports 1847	560
Appendix D : David S Barrable's editorial 1868	561
Appendix E : Advertisements	562 - 568
Appendix F : Cape Town AC first sports 1875	569
Appendix G : Queenstown Hospital Sports 1888: the balance sheet	570
Appendix H : Dates of first sports	571
Appendix I : First S A Championships results 1894	572
Appendix J : Poem on cross country running, <u>Star</u> 1898	573
Appendix K : 'Walking Craze' walks 1903	574
Appendix L : Results of S A athletes competing over- seas	575 - 584
Appendix M : Biographical sketches of prominent men	585 - 595

REFERENCES	596 - 603
------------	-----------

BIBLIOGRAPHY	604 - 609
--------------	-----------

The writer, an ex-member of Horsham Blue Star Harriers, believes that the harrier movement was successful because no expensive equipment was required, the English climate and countryside was ideal, it did not need a special stadium or coach, it could take place after dark in lighted streets and it had connections with hunting.

Having seen the influence that the British had on athletics in South Africa, it was surprising to find how long it was before this typically English activity was established. The first South African cross country championships were not held until 1948.

In South Africa cross country running first appeared in the Eastern Cape and Natal. The Queenstown Free Press (22/6/83) reported that at the meeting held to form the Queenstown AAC in 1883, it was announced that Wednesday paperchases would be arranged "but of course not to interfere with the present Football Club." There were no further reports of these runs. The Wasps, Durban, also ventured into cross country running and announced that a run would be held on 22 March 1884 (Mercury 18/3/84). The course was from "Wasps' ground to Currie's fountains, then to grandstand, on to Umgeni Road via Carter's, and then a road race to club ground." The run was reportedly a fiasco, and it was announced that the one scheduled for 29 March was therefore cancelled, and that a soccer match would be substituted (Mercury 29/3/84). The only other mention of cross country in Natal in the nineteenth century was a report by 'Meteor' on races in Australia (Witness 16/12/96).

The early attempts to promote cross country in Border were more successful. In June 1884 the Daily Dispatch printed a notice

announcing, "An open handicap cross country run", organised by East London Athletic Club over a distance "of about six miles" on 5 July (Dispatch 11/6/84). The report on the race said (Dispatch 9/7/84):

A great concourse of people assembled outside the Phoenix Hotel to witness the first cross country run of the East London Athletic Club.

There were 13 runners, and the course was:

Along Oxford Street, over the brick fields at the North-end, along the veld to the Cambridge road, across the railway near Colonel Griffiths' house, along the road home to East London, crossing the railway again at the top of Oxford Street and finishing at the Phoenix Hotel. (Dispatch 9/7/84).

The King William's Town Athletic and Gymnastic Club held a paperchase in September 1885 and there were some two dozen 'hounds' who had to catch the 'hares', Messrs Crozier and Dobson (Dispatch 26/9/85). The first cross country race in Port Elizabeth (not reported by the E P Herald) was organised by the PEACC in 1886 (PEAAC Minutes, 31/3/86; 3/4/86). It began at the track in St George's Park, passed the Olympic football field to the top of Target Kloof, passed the Government Plantation, crossed Cape Road, went around the Port Elizabeth Turf Race Course and back to St George's Park. The distance was about 6 miles and, of the 6 men that started, 4 finished.

Cross country in Cape Town also began at that time and on 15 April 1886, the Cape Times carried an article about 'Harriers' and the value of cross country running. It said that:

PROSPERITY SHED

1st Cross Country Race

April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1886

Race started from "William's" Course  
 at 4.15 pm - Wind off land, cool  
 afternoon -  
 Patch men gave 5 minutes start to J. Harvey  
 who did not start - the next man being  
 J. Lane & H. G. 4 minutes start - kept  
 rather & held lead to Race Course - Little  
 5.10 pm - R. Johnson started 3.15 pm & took  
 second position following - A. Rolfe - H. A. Chase  
 10 minutes start was overtaken by J. Williams  
 15 minutes start at Hallack's fence - Sherman  
 & Little Lane then left & nearest competition  
 being Williams & Lane at Bush at top of  
 2nd hill where at Hallack fence -  
 Williams & Lane at top of Race Course  
 having Johnson straight - Chase & Harvey running  
 second place Johnson & Lane 3rd Rolfe fourth - Sherman  
 fifth till the 2nd race - passed Rolfe & just  
 passed Johnson on 2nd hill - Williams being at  
 200 yds past 2nd hill last round - Chase at top of  
 2nd hill & Williams back -  
 Order of Race J. Williams 1<sup>st</sup> time 35.17 3/4  
 H. A. Chase 2<sup>nd</sup> 33.17 3/4  
 H. A. Sherman 3<sup>rd</sup> 36  
 R. Johnson 4<sup>th</sup>  
 J. Lane & H. G. 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

The report in the PEAC minute book describing the first cross country race organised by the club on 3/4/1886.



....a club of harriers was established in the suburbs some time ago, its runs were rarely heard of.

The article referred to the race in Port Elizabeth and urged, "Why does not the metropolis do likewise." The club referred to was Norham Harriers, Rondebosch, and on 17 June held a moonlight run (Cape Times 17/6/86). Wynberg Rover Cricket Club formed the Wynberg Harrier Club in April 1890 to occupy the men in the winter months (Cape Times 18/4/90) and their first run was arranged from Rondebosch on 30 April "on the arrival of the 4.10 train" (Cape Times 29/4/90).

Cross country running seemed to be popular in Pretoria in the 1890s and in 1893 there were references to a cross country club (Transvaal Advertiser 24/7/93). There were no further reports until after the Anglo-Boer War. The first mention of cross country in Johannesburg was in June 1890 (Star 2/6/90):

A proposition has also been made to hold a cross country run of eight or ten miles, a sport so popular in England, and as we have several long distance runners here, there should be no lack of entries.

A steeplechase was included at the Wanderers Whitsun Sports just before this and may have prompted the above remarks. The competitors left Wanderers on a course that took them around the residences of Abe Bailey and the Landdrost (Star 27/5/90). There were no further developments reported, and four years later an article in the Star (5/12/94) reported that cross country was unknown in Johannesburg, and continued:

The English winter season is devoted to cross country running. Cross country running in

England is promoted by clubs known as harrier clubs. The increase of the numbers of these clubs has been of rapid growth, and now almost every village boasts of its harrier club.

There is no reason why cross country running should not flourish here.

Once let cross country running find a firm footing, and it will be found that distance running, at and over a mile, will improve, and good fields will turn out for races over this distance.

There was, however, another four year gap before the next reference, which was an appeal in 'Sporting Notes' in the Star (15/11/98):

One does not need to be particularly well-versed in athletics to realise the muscle-producing, health-giving results of cross country running. At Home this is a capital winter sport for young men sound in wind and limb, and visitors to South Africa cannot understand how it is that we have no harrier clubs on this side of the water.

This was not strictly correct since harrier clubs were operating in Cape Town. The writer continued:

It is true we have no winter to speak of, nor many obstacles in the shape of hedges and ditches, which add to the excitement and pleasure of a run at Home. In place of lofty hedges and wide ditches, there is, however,

the barbed wire fence, and the muddy spruit which require just as careful negotiating, and there is the same jovial comradeship, and high spirits to wind up with after a well-sustained run.

The writer also pointed out that Australian clubs had been cross country running for some years and that there were several old harriers from overseas in Johannesburg. In support of this appeal, 'old enthusiast' sent in a poem about the joys of cross country running (see Appendix J) on which the Star commented (15/11/98): "It is a case of the more difficulty and weariness, the more enjoyment."

Their exhortations were successful and it was reported in March 1899 that a harriers club was holding weekly runs, although the attendance had not lived up to the enthusiasm shown at the meeting when the club was formed (Star 1/3/99). The club was probably Pirates Harriers. A meeting of this club was reported in May 1899, chaired by F Owen-Jones, an ex-English middle distance runner (Star 4/5/99), who had won the S A 880 yards championships in 1895. Pirates Harriers ran from Wanderers and in June there was talk of arranging a paperchase and other fixtures (Star 7/6/99). The first paperchase was on Sunday 18 June from the Hotel Dudley, Main Street (Star 15/6/99), and the first outlying run was on Sunday 2 July from Fordsburg to Maraisburg. Platnauer took the athletes' clothes to the finish by train (Star 4/7/99). The Anglo-Boer War brought further developments to an end. In September Pirates Harriers announced that their weekly runs had been postponed because of the prevailing uneasiness (Star 28/9/99). According to Platnauer (1908) Pirates Harriers was the leading athletic club in the Transvaal in 1898-99 and the first club to take up the harrier movement in South Africa. It was strange that Platnauer did not mention the activities of Pioneer Harriers in Cape Town, especially since he was in Cape Town

during the Anglo-Boer War and should have been aware of them.

Pioneer Harriers was formed in June 1898. In April a letter had appeared in the Cape Times 29/4/98) from 'Activity' of Port Elizabeth, and after discussing sport in general it continued:

There is another sport conspicuous by its absence. I refer to harrying. Anyone who has indulged in this sport must treasure the delights of a cross country run, and though this country, with its miles on miles of level veld does not afford many facilities for change in the runs, yet with a judicious captain and one who knew the ground, a harrier club ought to prosper here.

Two months later Cape Town Football Club organised a cross country race at Newlands, on a "bright night", and F H Collings emerged as the winner (Cape Argus 2/6/98). On 17 June the Cape Argus reported that the latest idea was to form a harriers club, and the club started operating in July (Cape Argus 8/7/98):

The Pioneer Harriers Club will meet in front of Standard Bank on Saturday at 2.30 for weekly cross country runs.

This was probably the first club to hold regular runs successfully and progress was encouraging (Cape Argus 11/7/98): "...every hope of a W.P. Cross Country Championships being inaugurated."

The harrier movement caught on and in September the Cape Argus (29/9/98) reported:

The athletic spirit has spread to the very boys in the suburbs, and almost everywhere during the last few fine nights batches of

lads might be seen running and putting in any amount of good training.

Just before the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War the activities of another club were reported. Greenpoint C and AC arranged a paperchase in July 1899 starting from Greenmarket Square (Cape Argus 13/7/99).

The Anglo-Boer War effectively delayed any further development of cross country running in South Africa and by the end of the century, the sport was still in its infancy. Parker (1897) makes no mention of the harrier movement, and cross country only blossomed once the outcome of the war had been decided. The man who was most closely associated with the successful establishment of harrier clubs and the promotion of cross country was E J L Platnauer, and he could truly be called the 'father' of the sport in South Africa.

Platnauer left Johannesburg for Cape Town in the Anglo-Boer War and became sports editor of the Cape Times. He soon became involved in athletics and on 21 February 1901 published an article about the slump in athletics and the need for cross country running. He wrote another article in April (Cape Times 12/4/01) and a few days later announced his plan to form a harrier club (Cape Times 24/4/01). Platnauer was the prime mover in the formation of the club on 26 April 1901, which was called Spartan Harriers, a club which was, and still, is extremely successful. Platnauer chaired the first meeting and was elected president, with L M Levy treasurer (Spartan Harriers Minutes, 24/4/01). Addressing the meeting Platnauer said that the aims of the club were to promote athletics generally and to foster cross country running, "a sport almost entirely neglected in South Africa." Spartan Harriers' opening run was on 16 May 1901 over

3.1/2 miles of muddy roads (Cape Times 17/5/01). D Petty was the captain and pacemaker and S Freedman, a sprinter, the 'whipper-in'.

Spartan Harriers held regular twice-weekly runs and soon had a membership of over 40 (L M Levy, scrapbook). The Cape Times (Platnauer) reported all the runs, and on one occasion the runners were chastised because they were ahead of the pace (i.e. the lead runner) (Cape Times 6/6/01). All the usual English harrier activities were included, such as paperchases, sealed handicaps, yacht handicaps (in which runners set off at intervals, as opposed to sealed handicaps where they all start together and handicaps are subtracted afterwards) and recognition for attendance. They ran bona fide cross country courses in the traditional English style:

Crossing the Black River some of the runners had to be pulled across the stream with a long whip-stick on account of the swift-running stream. (Cape Times 8/7/01).

A 10 miles steeplechase was held at the Kenilworth Race Course on 19 October for the S H Adams trophy on a seven-lap course with 49 hurdles (3ft. 6ins.) and 21 walls to surmount. The winner was Fred Collings (1:05:50.1/5) who had won the Football Club event in 1898 (Cape Times 21/10/01. Collings won the first inter-club race in May 1904 (Cape Times 25/5/04), as well as the first Western Province Cross Country Championship in September 1906 (Cape Times 10/9/06), and can justifiably claim to be the first champion cross country runner in South Africa.

In the scrapbooks of Louis Levy and Charlie Bailey there were cuttings which appear to have come from a magazine, S A Review, and this was the comment of 'A Correspondent' (22/11/01):



Never in the annals of Cape Colony sport has such success attended the efforts of a newly formed Club as in the case of the 'Spartans', who, in their brief six months' existence, have introduced the real distance running, so popular in England, hitherto an unknown sport here. (C Bailey, scrapbook)

Another cutting read:

Success has attended the efforts of the cross country men...I hope they will push the sport along and demonstrate the fact that the Cycling Clubs are wholly inadequate to the needs of local athletes as a sole source of exercise and rational recreation. (L M Levy, scrapbook)

Spartan Harriers also promoted athletics and in March 1902 the secretary, Tom Widdowson, and Levy organised a successful sports meeting at Green Point (Cape Times 10/3/02).

Platnauer was involved in the formation of another harrier club in Cape Town, Mountain Harriers. In May 1902 a report in the Cape Times (21/5/02) said that another harrier club was needed in the Wynberg/Kenilworth area and A A White, an ex-Cork City Harrier, member of Spartans, called a meeting chaired by Platnauer (Cape Times 23/5/02). The new club was named Mountain Harriers (Cape Times 30/5/02), and both clubs held regular runs through the winter of 1902. Mountain Harriers also held a sports meeting on Boxing Day (Cape Times 27/12/02).

In 1903 Spartan Harriers organised a 50 miles walk at the time the 'Walking Craze' was sweeping South Africa following the publicity given to the London to Brighton Stock exchange Walk

(Cape Times 29/6/03; 14/8/03), and the success of this event and other walks, and the popularity of the harriers movement led to the formation of more clubs in Cape Town, which were mentioned in the Cape Times: Victoria AC, Wanderers C and AC, Maitland AC, Central HC, Green and Sea Point Harriers, Spes Bona, YMCA HC. They all held runs but many of them did not last long.

The popularity of cross country attracted the attention of the CCAA and CU who agreed to recommend the holding of an S A Cross Country Championship (Cape Times 29/6/03). Unfortunately, this item was not followed up, although the CCAA and CU did draft rules to govern cross country and they envisaged a three tier structure similar to track and field: Western Province Championships, Cape Colony Championships and S A Championships (Cape Times 21/12/03). Mountain Harriers staged an 'open' cross country in July 1906 in which Hefferon, Collins and Mole were prominent, and it was felt at the time that it could be the forerunner of an annual national championship (Cape Times 23/7/06).

The first Western Province Championship was held at Kenilworth racecourse on 8 September 1906, but it was not the first in South Africa since the Transvaal had held a championship on 12 August 1905. Just before the W P Championship another club was formed in Cape Town and, unlike those mentioned above, it grew in strength and eventually rivalled Spartans. It was Celtic Harriers, conceived by the Catholic Society, an organisation which felt, perhaps influenced by the 'muscular christian' concept, that it had neglected sport. A meeting was called on 14 August 1906 at which Charlie Robertson was elected secretary and the uniform decided upon as white with green facings (Cape Times 21/8/06). Although Celtics did not contest the first Western Province Championships, they made rapid progress.

The 1907 winter season opened with a combined club run (Cape

Times 20/4/07), then interest waned. First Green and Sea Point Harriers, then Mountain Harriers disappeared (Cape Times 21/8/07), although Celtics continued to prosper and at the second Western Province Championships in September 1907 they finished a close second to Spartans (Cape Times 9/9/07). Celtic Harriers made Long Street Swimming Bath their headquarters and ran from there to Sea Point and back. The first captain was R H Heaney, and the first man to win the provincial championship was Servie Brown in 1908 (Stent, 1975, pp. 85-95), the year Celtics drew with Spartans at 42 points each (Cape Times 14/9/08). Had the present day rules to decide ties been in operation. In the event of a tie, the position of the last scoring man in each team decides the tie. In this case, Celtics 12th and Spartans 14th, Celtics would have won, but as it was this was only accomplished in 1911 (Cape Times 11/9/11).

Cross country retained its popularity, although both Spartans (Cape Times 24/6/13) and Celtics (Cape Times 8/7/13) had disappointing turn-outs for runs in 1913, and 'Hustler' said the championship would be "wide open" (Cape Times 8/7/13). Both clubs made revivals and Spartans went on to win the championship, but Celtics were relegated to 4th place by the Royal Engineers (Simonstown) and the City C and AC, coached by Jock Edwards, an ex-Scottish athlete (Cape Times 15/7/13). Thus, when World War One began, cross country running was well established and thriving in Western Province.

Other areas in Cape Colony were less successful. In King William's Town the harriers section of the Gymnastic Club was active in 1903 (Cape Mercury 2/3/03), and East London Harriers held runs twice a week in 1905 (Daily Dispatch 20/6/05). The Institute Harriers, Port Elizabeth, invited athletes and footballers to their runs in 1906 (E P Herald 19/5/06). Their president, M M Loubser, was also president of the PEAA and CC. The active club in Port Elizabeth in 1908 was Rovers AA and CC

(E P Herald 23/8/08; 21/9/08; 5/10/08) and the E P Herald remarked (26/10/08): "Saturday afternoon road racing is taking quite a popular hold on the public." Yet another club, Southwell AC, held a 5 miles race in January 1909 at Mount Pleasant (E P Herald 30/1/09). Athletics reached a low ebb in 1910 (E P Herald 1/1/10; 6/2/11), but an attempt to revive the PEAA and CC was made in 1911 (E P Herald 16/2/11) and the club arranged races on the Cape Road (E P Herald 10/4/11). Cross country was not fostered, however, and the sport had not been established by the time World War One began, a sad state for the town that had once led athletic development in South Africa. There was also apathy in Grahamstown and the runs arranged by Albany C and AC in 1906 were poorly attended (Grocott's Mail 31/1/06). Albion Harriers was formed in 1908 but there were no reports of the club's activities (Grahamstown Journal 4/5/08).

In the Free State a harriers club was formed in Bloemfontein in 1903 with some 50 members (Friend 26/2/03) and it was announced that "a run will take place on moonlight nights twice a week" (Friend 13/3/03). Packs for fast, medium, slow and junior runners were arranged, and it was suggested that the runs would be "a great benefit to football players." H W Brown took the chair at the inaugural meeting and Brady of Grey College asked if boys from the school could take part as they had a team. The first race held by the club was the Naval Hill Race in May, for a trophy donated by H W Brown, who was on hand as an official to see it won by Hefferon (33:55). Twelve athletes ran and Hefferon was then a Trooper in the Police (Friend 26/5/03). Hefferon also won a 10 miles championship organised by Harriers in July in 1:03:01 (Friend 30/7/03), and retained the title in 1904 but was not allowed to receive the Blackwood Shield, perhaps because he was in the Police (Friend 28/7/04). Len Richardson was second by 12 seconds and the Friend remarked: "He should prove something hot in the mile."

According to a letter from "An old Salford Harrier" (Friend 15/10/04) Bloemfontein Harriers was modelled on the English club: "Even their year book, which in its way is unique for South Africa, they have copied from the Salford Harriers' year book." At the Annual General Meeting of Bloemfontein Harriers in March 1905 it was reported that 45 runs had been held during the previous 12 months (Friend 1/4/05). A lot of support for cross country running was given by the sports editor of the Friend, A McHardy, a Scotsman who wrote under the name 'Juggins', but both athletics and cross country declined between 1906 and 1914. Bloemfontein Harriers made a recovery in 1910, and runs were held through the winter from the YMCA (Friend 16/3/10), then there was another slump in interest (Friend 13/12/11), despite an appeal by 'Onlooker' in the Friend (8/3/12).

A harriers club was formed by the Pirates Club, Kimberley, in June 1907 and weekly runs were arranged (Diamond Field News 24/6/07), but there were no other references to cross country.

A meeting to form a harriers club was held at the YMCA, Pietermaritzburg, in April 1903, chaired by H W Griffin (Witness 1/5/03). It was agreed to run once a week. W Chandler, an ex-English Polytechnic Harrier, led the first run, and the 'Whipper-in' was S Gowland, ex-Vale Harriers, Newcastle-on-Tyne (Witness 15/5/03). The club was called City Harriers (Witness 27/6/03). Nothing more was reported until 1909 when cross country running became very popular. In Durban, Albion Harriers was formed in 1906, and at the first Annual General Meeting in January 1907 it was noted that paperchases had not been successful in 1906 because they had been held on Saturday afternoons and had clashed with football (Mercury 15/1/07). In 1907 runs were held on Wednesday evenings from Albert Park (Mercury 17/8/07), and in 1908 it was announced that a "test cross country run" would be arranged as athletes had asked for it (Mercury 4/3/08), but there was no report of the event.



Cross country running in Natal began to flourish only in 1909, by which time it was well established in Western Province and Transvaal. In March 1909 the Witness noted that F J Spencer had arrived in Pietermaritzburg. Spencer began running with Alfred Shrubbs, the great English athlete, in Sussex in 1894, and was a founder member of Horsham Blue Star Harriers before moving with Shrubbs to South London Harriers. When Spencer arrived in Pietermaritzburg he was 30 years old, and he lived up to his reputation by winning the first Natal Cross Country Championship, organised by Durban Athletic Club on 16 October 1909, some 2.1/2 minutes ahead of the second man, A Marie, a Frenchman running for Durban AC (Latest 16/10/09). Spencer's time for the 10 miles course on Durban race-course was 66:04 and Pietermaritzburg, with 13 points, easily beat Albion Harriers, 42 points, whilst Durban AC failed to choose a team. The Houghting Shield was presented for this event by the ex-mayor of Durban.

The sudden decision to hold a Natal championship was probably taken when news was received in June 1909 that there were moves in Johannesburg to organise an Inter-Colonial Cross Country Race at Turffontein Racecourse (Latest 19/6/09). The Latest had not been encouraging about cross country in Natal when it received a letter from E Berridge asking why Durban did not have cross country or have any hare and hounds runs instead of marathons, and replied that DAC were holding fortnightly evening runs, that it was too hot for cross country in Natal and that football and lacrosse provided counter-attractions (Latest 19/6/09). Fortunately Durban Athletic Club thought otherwise.

In spite of the success of the championship race in 1909 cross country was not popular in 1910, and 'Qrius' remarked on the number of road and cross country events organised at the Cape (Latest 3/9/10). Interest increased again as the champion race approached and the teams prepared. Durban AC athletes were



assisted by the professional runner George Tincler, while in Pietermaritzburg it was reported that training had been regular, and some of the military personnel were available (Latest 26/11/10). In view of the earlier comments about the Natal heat, the decision to hold the race on 3 December was surprising. Tincler's training assisted Josh Landers to a win over Spencer, with Drum-Major Chandler (Pietermaritzburg) 3rd, and Arthur Newton 4th. Pietermaritzburg retained the Houghting Shield (16 points) and Durban AC were second (29 points) (Latest 10/12/10). There was no report of the event being held in 1911, and it was reported as cancelled in 1912 (Latest 25/1/13). The Houghting Shield was lost (Latest 15/2/13) but was found in 1921, and the Latest said it had been contested only in 1909 and 1910, and appealed for it to be reintroduced (Latest 10/9/21). The Natal Cross Country Championships began again in October 1922 (Latest 21/10/22).

It was noted earlier that Transvaal was the first province to hold a provincial cross country championship in August 1905. Pirates Harriers resumed cross country runs in Johannesburg in March 1902 after the cessation of hostilities (Star 24/3/02), and had an active winter season, reportedly visiting Pretoria (Star 13/9/02). A Chiappini was captain, C Harvey secretary, and Louis Levy on the committee (Star 12/3/03). In 1903 Platnauer returned to Johannesburg to be sports editor of the Transvaal Leader and instead of supporting Pirates, a club he assisted before the war, he decided to form a new club, Johannesburg Harriers. A meeting was held in January 1904, at which Levy was elected secretary and C Ingmere captain, ex-Polytechnic Harriers, England. The colours, black with amber facings, the badge a running buck, and the mottoe "Fleet and Free", were all almost identical to those of the English Midland's Club, Birchfield Harriers, and it is significant to note that Platnauer came from that area (Star 28/1/04). With Platnauer's support the new club went from strength to strength and in March 1905 it was reported that the

club was a power in the town. Its headquarters were at the Dudley Hotel, Main Street (Star 7/3/05). Pirates Harriers withdrew from cross country running in 1904 (Pretoria News 11/6/04).

Louis Levy was organising secretary of the first Transvaal Championships at Fordsburg on 12 August over an 8 miles course, and Platnauer was a judge. D Bennie of Pretoria won the event and Pretoria Harriers (26 points) easily beat Johannesburg Harriers (66 points) (Star 14/8/05). Bennie received a gold medal donated by Sir George Farrar (Johannesburg Harriers Minutes, 1907). The second Transvaal Championships were held in Pretoria in August 1906, and K K McArthur, running for Johannesburg Harriers, was first home, leading his team to victory (31 points) over Pretoria (49 points) (Pretoria News 19/8/06; Star 20/8/06). Pretoria regained the team title over a rough, rocky course in Johannesburg in 1907 that took runners through Brixton, Auckland Park, Newlands, New Clare Station, Langlaagte and Mayfair (Star 2/9/07), and in 1908 in Pretoria McArthur won again, then representing Pretoria, beating D Garrick of the Army Service Corps, who won in 1907, and J N Cormack (Pretoria News 31/8/08). Johannesburg Harriers had a "period of laxity" in 1907 and 1908 (Star 5/4/10).

Pretoria Harriers was formed in 1904. A letter from A J Barker in the Pretoria News (19/1/04) announced that a meeting to form the club would be held at the Transvaal Hotel on 29 January. G E Kitson presided over 40 men who elected J N Cormack captain (Pretoria News 30/1/04). Runs were held each Monday from the swimming pool (Pretoria News 8/2/04) and, writing in the Pretoria News (18/2/04), 'Olympian' gave his views on correct technique - the heel should not touch the ground for the first 4 miles. He also disapproved of young runners failing to concentrate: "Now and again several of them could be heard exchanging greeting", and stressed the need for consistent, scientific and systematic training. Pretoria Harriers became a lively, progressive club,



The Transvaal Cross Country Championships, 1912. M J Adendorff leading H Mildenhall and H Stotesbury into the Caledonian Ground.

#### FIXTURE LIST, SEASON 1905.

Date.	Day.	Time.	Place.	Event.
Feb. 17	Fri.	8 p.m.	Gymnasium, Schoeman Street.	Opening Run.
21	Tue.	8 p.m.	" "	Moonlight Run.
25	Sat.	5 p.m.	" "	Easy Run.
Mar. 4	Sat.	5 p.m.	" "	Easy Run.
11	Sat.	5 p.m.	" "	Steady Run.
15	Wed.	8-15 p.m.	" "	Evening Run.
18	Sat.	5-15 p.m.	C.S.A.R. Berez Park	Friendly Run.
22	Wed.	8-15 p.m.	Gymnasium, Schoeman Street.	Moonlight Run.
26	Sun.	10-30 a.m.	Hotel Dudley, Johannesburg.	Friendly Inter-Club Run with Jo'burg Harriers
Apr. 1	Sat.	5-15 p.m.	C.S.A.R. Berez Park.	Paper Chase.
5	Wed.	5-30 p.m.	Gymnasium, Schoeman Street.	Steady Run.
8	Sat.	5 p.m.	R.A.M.C. Military Hospital.	Team Race, Captain vs. Vice-Captain.
15	Sat.	4 p.m.	Pretoria Club Corner.	Social Walk to Wonderboom.
15	Sat.	5 p.m.	Wonderboom Hotel.	Easy Run.
15	Sat.	7 p.m.	" "	Social Evening.
19	Wed.	8-15 p.m.	Gymnasium, Schoeman Street.	Moonlight Run.
29	Sat.	4 p.m.	Imperial Hotel Corner.	Social Walk to Fountains
29	Sat.	5 p.m.	Fountains Hotel.	Run
29	Sat.	7 p.m.	" "	Social Evening
May. 3	Wed.	5-30 p.m.	Gymnasium, Schoeman Street.	Run
6	Sat.	4-30 p.m.	" "	Friendly Inter-Club Run with Jo'burg Harriers.
6	Sat.	8 p.m.	" "	Gymnastic Display
13	Sat.	5-15 p.m.	C.S.A.R. Berez Park.	Friendly Run
17	Wed.	8-15 p.m.	Gymnasium, Schoeman Street.	Moonlight Run
20	Sat.	4 p.m.	Arcadia Bridge.	Social Walk to the Military Hospital
20	Sat.	5 p.m.	R.A.M.C. Military Hospital.	Friendly Run
20	Sat.	7 p.m.	" "	Social Evening
27	Sat.	5 p.m.	Fountains Hotel.	Paper Chase

ALL RUNS TAKE PLACE WET OR DRY

The Pretoria Harriers fixture list, 1905.

arranging runs, social evenings, 'bus outings, and in November formed a gymnastic section under D Ferguson, a Scottish International, who conducted sessions in ball-punching, boxing, jumping and free gymnastics (Pretoria News 15/3/04; 17/3/04; 3/11/04). The club also wrote to all other South African clubs asking them if they would participate in an inter-club championship in 1905 (Transvaal Leader 23/4/04), and this probably led to the joint request from Pretoria and Johannesburg for the Transvaal Championships (Pretoria News 28/7/05). The two clubs co-operated closely and met each other for friendly runs and social occasions (Pretoria News 15/3/04).

When it was formed, Pretoria Harriers adopted 'Bye-Laws' for cross country which provide further insight into the disciplined approach adopted and referred to above (Pretoria Harriers Minutes, 29/1/04):

1. In all chases, the hares will have six minutes start, and must be out forty five minutes, or they will be considered as caught. The hares must have (leave?) a trail at least every seven yards, and a false trail not to be more than three hundred yards.

2. The Captain (or in his absence the Vice-Captain) shall have power to appoint a Pace or Leader, who shall have control during the run, and shall be assisted by another member called the Whip. No members shall run in advance of the Pace. The Whip must indicate to the Pace or Leader when he is travelling too fast, when he shall moderate his speed.

3. A coloured sash provided by the Club shall be worn by the Pacemaker, so as to enable him to be recognised.

4. If the hares are sighted within catchable distance, the Pacemaker should line up the pack, so that all commence the chase on equal terms. The Pacemaker will also line up the pack not more

than a mile, or less than a quarter of a mile, from home for the race in.

Cormack won the first club championship in October 1904, but was not mentioned again until he ran the Athens Marathon in 1906. In 1907 he again won the club championship (Pretoria News 23/9/07). Bennie won the club championship in 1905 and 1906, and a junior race for boys 14-18 years was also held (Pretoria Harriers minutes, 14/10/05; 22/9/06; 29/9/06). For the 1907 Transvaal Championships each runner was issued with a duplicated training letter that advised a "six week training period with plenty of walking and at least three runs a week" (Pretoria Harriers minutes, 31/8/07).

The harrier movement was strong in 1906. In addition to Johannesburg and Pretoria, Benoni Harriers had been formed by H Larkins, ex-Herne Hill Harriers and Kent AC, and Platnauer said cross country was maintaining athletics in South Africa (Transvaal Leader 13/6/06). The Johannesburg and Benoni clubs met in a friendly outing in July and held a social evening afterwards (Transvaal Leader 3/7/06). There was a decline in the popularity of cross country running in 1908 and in the Pretoria Harriers minute book, commenting on the Transvaal Championships, it said: "a regrettable feature of the turn-out was the absence of young and colonial runners."

At the Annual General Meeting of the SAAA and CA in 1909 Cormack suggested the holding of an inter-provincial cross country championship (SAAA and CA minutes, 12/4/09) and the idea was investigated (Star 14/5/09) but shelved because of the expense involved (Star 25/11/09).

The TAAA changed the date of the 1909 Transvaal Championships without consulting Pretoria, and they decided not to enter a team, but would allow individuals to compete (Pretoria News



25/6/09). The rule which allowed athletes (like McArthur) to run for the club of their choice was also changed in 1909, and a 'First Claim' clause was introduced, based on the English AAA rule - "...the club which can show the longest unbroken period of present membership has first claim" (Star 11/6/09). Pretoria eventually did enter a team but dropped to third place behind Johannesburg Harriers and a new club, Turffontein Harriers (Star 26/7/09), almost certainly because two of their leading runners, Inglis and Cormack had been suspended by the TCU pending the outcome of the dispute between the Pretoria Caledonian Society and the cyclists (Pretoria News 26/7/09). McArthur beat J Harmse for the individual title.

Platnauer consistently encouraged athletes to run cross country to build fitness (Transvaal Leader 20/5/09) and in July remarked on "...the great revival of cross country running which has followed in the wake of the Marathon rage" (Transvaal Leader 20/7/09). In addition to Turffontein Harriers, Ophirton Harriers and Wanderers Harriers were also mentioned in 1909 (Transvaal Leader 26/4/09), and Maldwyn Edmund was praised for raising the membership of Johannesburg Harriers from 20 to 150 within ten months (Transvaal Leader 26/7/09). Both Pretoria Harriers and Johannesburg Harriers had become involved with athletic sports meetings by this time, and had added "and Athletic Club" to their names (Transvaal Leader 1/9/09) (see Chapters Ten and Eleven).

The annual report of the Johannesburg Harriers and Athletic Club (JH and AC) presented at the Annual General Meeting in February 1910 said that the club had "gone ahead by leaps and bounds", and there was even talk of obtaining George Tincler as a professional coach (Transvaal Leader 5/2/10). To foster the sport it was resolved to visit as many other Transvaal towns as possible (Star 26/4/10). Gitsham and Johannesburg Harriers won the Transvaal Championship in 1910 and 1911 (Pretoria News 29/8/10; Star 21/8/11), and in 1912 the Star reported (14/5/12):



This season the Johannesburg Harriers are having exceptionally large turns-out, (sic) owing probably to the impetus given all forms of sport by the holding of the Olympic Games.

Pretoria Harriers, smarting from their defeats in 1910 and 1911, came back triumphantly to place six men in the first seven and also supplied the individual winner, M J Adendorff (Pretoria News 19/8/12). Track and field might well have been moribund but cross country was thriving (Pretoria News 4/12/12).

The friendly rivalry between Johannesburg and Pretoria was maintained up to World War One and their social activities indicate the popularity of cross country while athletic sports meetings were struggling for survival. In June 1913 Johannesburg Harriers visited Pretoria for the weekend. Following a paperchase on Saturday, the athletes had a dinner and visited the theatre. On Sunday morning there was a soccer match after which they went sight-seeing (Pretoria News 16/6/13). Pretoria Harriers went to Johannesburg in July, in the middle of the strike and industrial unrest. The two clubs ran over the championship course and afterwards had dinner and visited the Empire Theatre. Soccer on Sunday morning followed by boating on Craighall Lake rounded off the visit (Pretoria News 22/7/13). These social exchanges continued in 1914 (Pretoria News 8/6/14; 14/7/14). There were also moves to establish permanent cross country courses in Pretoria and Johannesburg (TAAA minutes, 13/2/13).

The harrier movement had two other outcomes worthy of mention. Transvaal schools began cross country running in 1902 and in October St John's College met Marist Brothers in a race attended by a large crowd that included Lord Milner and Lord Brooke. According to the Star (2/10/02) the course was 4 miles long, although Burger (in Lawson, 1968, p. 379) claims it was 8 miles,

and St John's won easily, a victory repeated in 1903, when four schools participated (Star 9/10/03) and in 1904. In 1905 cross country was discontinued in favour of athletic sports (Star 28/9/05 : see Chapter Sixteen). The second outcome was Army Cross Country Championships. Captain Weatherall's successful introduction of Army Championships in track and field have already been described (Chapter Ten). His efforts were continued by Major Cantan who introduced a cross country championship in October 1910, from Irene to Roberts Heights, which was won by Lance-Corporal Darlington of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, who also won the team prize (Pretoria News 30/9/10; 5/10/10; Transvaal Leader 6/10/10).

#### THE WALKING CRAZE

The 'Walking Craze' reached South Africa in 1903 following the publicity given to the London to Brighton Stock Exchange Walk in England, and it is given a special section here because it was a phenomenon separate from track walking, race-walking and pedestrianism, although these overlapped to some extent. However it did involve people in long distance running, especially in the 'Go-As-You-Please' events.

Pedestrianism died out in the 1890s after the contests between Barrow, Hancock, Sutherland, Walshe and Mellet. Mellet continued to walk and had a long and successful career, dominating the walking scene in South Africa before the Anglo-Boer War, and competing successfully in England in 1897 (see Chapter Fifteen). Mellet caught the tail-end of the English 'Go-As-You-Please' craze (Cape Argus 15/12/80; Sporting Life 26/7/97), which had echoes in South Africa in the '80s (Cape Argus ;10/6/81; Diamond Field News 8/7/84).

Commenting on the London Stock Exchange walk held on May Day 1903, the Cape Times (25/9/03) said:

The Promoters of the London Stock Exchange Walk to Brighton had little idea how that event would influence the whole sporting world. Since the famous race on May Day there has been a great revival of long-distance road walking, and almost every section of sportsmen had their contest.

In June 1903 Spartan Harriers announced that in view of the interest in the numerous walks in England, they would promote a local event on 13 August from the Town Hall to the 25th milestone on the Somerset-Strand Road and back (Cape Times 29/6/03). The distance was 50 miles to approximate the distance from London to Brighton. The response was overwhelming, and 80 people entered, of whom about 60 actually walked. A fine rain made conditions underfoot appalling. The organiser, Tom Widdowson, also walked, and an interesting feature was that 200 cups of Bovril were drunk. It was won by W A Millar (9:23:29.2/5) A full account of the race was given in the Cape Times (14/8/03), and W H Lipsett gave an insight into the daunting conditions (poor roads, no attendants) in the Cape Times in 1933 (16/12/13).

The impact of the race was dramatic. Others were immediately arranged by such organisations as the Chemist Store Boys, the Railway Workers and the Early Closing Shop Assistants. This last event was described in detail by Charlie Bailey (Cape Times 24/9/03; 25/9/03). Bailey came to South Africa from London in 1903 supposedly dying of tuberculosis, and after a physical training programme prescribed by a friend he entered a walk, did well, and joined Spartan Harriers. His health continued to improve and he became a leading member of the club and was responsible for the establishment of the Spartan Harriers 50 miles walk from Cape Town to Simonstown and back in 1922. He lived to a ripe old age (personal interview, 1978). Although the

Spartan's walk was the first big one, eleven Stock Exchange clerks had walked around Table Mountain in July (Star 11/7/03).

The Johannesburg Stock Exchange arranged a 'Go-As-You-Please' from Johannesburg to Pretoria on 15 July. Viscount Miller set thirty-seven competitors off from Hospital Hill at 8:01 a.m. before a massive crowd. Many followed the race on bicycles, in cabs, in motor-cars, and Harris and Company presented a 20 guineas silver cup. Over twenty thousand pounds was reportedly wagered on the result, and a special train was arranged to bring the competitors back to Johannesburg. The winner, V Exton, finished in 5:55:0.2/5 and like Millar in Cape Town, drank champagne on the way, a custom that was popular even with marathon runners (Transvaal Advertiser 15/7/03). The report in the Transvaal Leader (16/7/03) gives some indication of the conditions:

Here (Orange Grove) we called a halt, and here paused a great cloud of witnesses on horseback, on foot, on cycles, in carts, brakes, Cape carts, wagonettes, traps, trolleys, and sundry motor cars that had taken the dust bath with evident relish, and lay to by the roadside gently chuckling at the infernal smother they had helped to make.

The road there had been watered for a couple of hundred yards by the innkeeper, and the reporter said, "Into this welcome oasis of shady coolness the 'peds' sprinted out of the wilderness of dirt." As in Cape Town other races were immediately organised: Banks (Johannesburg to Roodepoort and back); CSAR Stores Department (Johannesburg to Germiston); Land and Estate Agents (Krugersdorp to Johannesburg); CSAR (Johannesburg to Pretoria); Civil Service (Johannesburg to Pretoria); Pretoria Go-As-You-Please; Rand Daily Mail; Veterans 25 miles.

The Pretoria Race on 26 August was dubbed the 'Skoff Stakes' because:

...a public-spirited restaurant keeper came forward with the offer to provide the winner with three months board free of charge, the second with two months, and the third with one months board on the same advantageous conditions. (Star 28/8/03).

First was Cormack, and Bennie was second (Transvaal Advertiser 26/8/03).

The CSAR 'Go-As-You-Please' from Johannesburg to Pretoria on 30 August attracted a field of over 100 and the race was followed by a cavalcade of pedestrians, horsemen and cyclists. A motor-car was chartered to convey coats and other clothing to Pretoria but failed to arrive, so a mule car

...was commandeered, but it was neither luxurious nor comfortable, and in addition the mules failed to overtake the competitors and the occupants of the trolley ceased to perform their legitimate duties, and were converted into distributors of hospital comforts to the panting pedestrians when they were overtaken. Having passed halfway, the trolley was converted into an ambulance, but the patients could not be envied their comforts. (Star 31/8/03).

Neilson won in 5:31:48. The rules were:

1. Open to all CSAR employees.

2. Competitors may run, trot or walk, but are disqualified should they receive any help in the way of holding on to bicycles, wagons, carts, animals, etc., or riding thereon for any part of the route.

3. Competitors may go in any costume they please and will be required to carry a number on their chest and back. (Star 1/8/03).

In October a meeting of all the organisers of 'Go-As-You-Please' events was called and it was agreed to hold a team event on 16 December from Pretoria to Johannesburg (Star 16/10/03). The race was spoiled because the leading men took a wrong turning at the Cantonements near the start. CSAR were declared the winners (Star 16/12/03). The race marked the end of the 'Walking Craze'.

During the latter half of 1903 almost every town in South Africa held either a walk or a 'Go-As-You-Please'. (See Appendix K for details.) The events in Natal require description. The first walk was from Durban to Isipingo and back on 12 September 1903, rather late in the year. The race was organised by the editor of The Prince and as the prize included a cake, that event and all subsequent races were known as 'Cake Walks'. Accompanying the notice of the race was an article by 'CB' entitled "Walking: How to Train for It", which dealt primarily with diet and the use of purgatives (Mercury 9/9/03). The mayor, the police-chief, Greenacre and other Durban dignitaries were present to watch the 147 competitors, and the race was won by Lee Harvey (Mercury 14/9/03). A spate of 'Cake Walks' followed including one for ladies at Verulam won by a Miss Hutson (Mercury 5/10/03). A letter from 'Old Sweat' suggested a walk for the unemployed with free meals, which 'Umpire' and 'Man in the Moon' undertook to organise (Mercury 8/10/03), but 'Stone Broke' objected, and a letter from 'CGS' said the race would expose people to ridicule



so it was cancelled (Mercury 10/10/03; 21/10/03). In Pietermaritzburg there was talk of organising a walk from the city to Durban, but nothing materialised, and the normal 'Cake Walks' were arranged, most of them from October to December. The last was an Electricians Walk in January (Witness 25/1/04).

Some firms exploited the 'Walking Craze' for advertising. The report on the Bovril drinking in the Cape Town walk was noticed and on 9 October an advertisement for Bovril appeared in the Star quoting the winner, W H Millar: "Bovril proved a great help to me, especially on the return journey."

On 10 October the Natal Mercury carried an advertisement for Dr William's Pink Pills, claiming that they enabled older people to participate in the walks, and cured rheumatism and gout. The Bovril advertisement also appeared in the Mercury (5/10/03). Some newspapers printed special articles on walking. An article entitled "How to Walk" by E F Broad, winner of the London to Brighton race, was published but the Diamond Field News (15/7/03), and the Grahamstown Journal (5/8/03) reprinted an extremely amusing article on walking by H C Crouch from the English Daily Mail.

The 'Walking Craze' brought people into athletics and promoted the harrier movement. It encouraged the participation of women in athletics and gave support to the 'early closing day' campaign. Although it only lasted six months, the 'Walking Craze' helped to re-establish athletics as a popular sport after the Anglo-Boer War.

#### THE MARATHON CRAZE

On 11 April 1896 the Star printed an editorial on the Olympic Games which advised, "Despite present political turmoil, South Africa should contemplate the proceedings." South Africa was

still experiencing the disruptive effects of the Jameson Raid on social and sporting activities, and the SAAAA was still struggling to establish itself so in fact the 1896 Olympic Games passed with little comment in South Africa. In 1900 and 1904 South Africans were too involved with the Anglo-Boer War and its aftermath to worry about the Olympics, but the events at London during the 1908 Games received widespread coverage in every South African newspaper.

The interest in endurance activities, fostered by the 'Walking Craze' and the harrier movement focused attention on the marathon, and in 1907 the Cape Times (21/6/07) printed a long article on the 1908 Games and Hefferon's expressed desire to run the marathon. Spartan Harriers maintained their reputation for being abreast of the times by announcing that they would hold a marathon in August in preparation for the Games, and this was almost certainly the first official marathon in South Africa (Cape Times 15/8/07). It was on 15 August over a 26 miles course. (26 miles was then considered the official distance. The extra 385 yards was only added at London in 1908 so that the race finished opposite the Royal Box.) Sixteen competitors battled the windy, dusty conditions, the problem of dust aggravated by accompanying cyclists. Even the officials had to cycle as four cars promised for the occasion by the Automobile Club failed to arrive. Most athletes were inexperienced and started too fast, but C T Childs was less impetuous. He took the lead at Lakeside and then encountered problems with the crowds from Salt River Road to the Altona Hotel. The officials had the same problem and, from Mowbray, Childs and the officials had to force their way through to the finish. Childs' time was 3:12:55, and fifth was Charlie Bailey in 3:38:03. All the favourites, such as Lipsett, Collings, and O'Connor of Bloemfontein, failed to finish (Cape Times 16/8/07).

Not to be outdone by their rivals, Celtic Harriers also arranged

a marathon, over the same course, on 30 September, and several athletes tried it again. Conditions were similar, hot and dusty with large crowds, and a cyclist, James Lambrechts, beat all the athletes and Childs' time, finishing in 3:10:32. He also had to fight his way at the finish (Cape Times 1/10/07).

Early in 1908 the TAAA decided to eliminate the 4 miles race from their championships in favour of a marathon and since the championships were in Krugersdorp, it was agreed that the race should start at the General Post Office in Johannesburg and finish at the Krugersdorp Sports Ground, a distance of 20 miles (Star 21/1/08). This decision was later changed (Star 18/2/08) and the race was run in the opposite direction to select an Olympic candidate. According to the Pretoria News (6/4/08) the race was held in wretched weather over dusty, rutted roads, K K McArthur winning in 2:20:30 from J M Baker and J N Cormack, 13.1/2 minutes ahead of the field (Transvaal Leader 6/4/08). Photographs provide evidence of the appalling road surface and even if that is not taken into consideration, McArthur's run was still equivalent to a marathon under 3 hours.

In February in Bloemfontein, local enthusiasts announced that as the ORCAA and CU was 'dead' they were organising a marathon (Friend 10/2/08) and in order to create interest, arranged for Hefferon to run against a two-man relay team. Hefferon attempted a 25 miles training run in March but had to stop after 21 miles (2:18:00) as his shoes had filled with sand and his feet were sore. He claimed he stopped for breakfast and lost 15 minutes, and was convinced he could run 25 miles in 2.1/2 hours (Friend 3/3/08). The actual race, scheduled for 13 March, was cancelled since there were only 3 competitors, so Hefferon ran a 25 miles time trial in heavy wind on the Mazel's Poort Road, and despite the dust and leg cramps, recorded 2:56:00 (Friend 14/3/08). This was 5 weeks before the official Olympic trial at Cape Town.

The decision to hold a marathon at the S A Championships in Cape Town was made at an SAAA and CA executive meeting on 13 March 1908 (SAAA and CA minutes), so athletes had little time to prepare, and Hefferon had already run his 25 miles time-trial when the decision was announced. McArthur won his 20 miles event two weeks before the S A Championships. When the distance of the race was announced as 26.1/4 miles, Collings and James Lellie protested, saying it should be 25 miles (Cape Times 9/4/08; 11/4/08). The editor of the Cape Times explained that the distance conformed with the distance of the race to be held in London. However, the officials changed it to 25 miles on the Durban Road (Cape Times 13/4/08).

The race was run at 3.00 p.m. on the afternoon of 22 April in torrid heat. The competitors were hampered by the inevitable dust, petrol fumes and loose surface of the roads, what the SAAA and CA minutes (22/4/08) referred to as "terrible conditions". One 'trap' (horse and cart) drove 10 yards ahead of McArthur from Goodwood to the finish and would not give way. The first 10 miles was fast, as Hefferon and McArthur fought for the lead. McArthur led at 11.1/4 miles and reached the turn in 1:18:44. True to the custom of the times, he drank champagne at the Early Morning Market and eventually won in a slow 3:18:27. The return journey thus took two hours and six miles from the finish he ran a mile split in eleven minutes, compared with 6:08 minutes at the same point going out. J Lambrechts was second, J W Connor third, and Lipsett fourth. Hefferon, who had forced the suicidal pace over the first 10 miles, dropped out, but was picked for the Olympic Team on the strength of his wins in the mile and 4 miles, while McArthur was omitted. In retrospect, there is no doubt that McArthur was most unfortunate not to have been picked to run at London.

Most South African newspapers carried long reports about the

exploits of Walker and Hefferon at the Olympic Games and they returned as heroes. A great reception was arranged for Hefferon in Bloemfontein at which he was presented with an illuminated address (Star 3/9/08; Friend 9/9/08). Full details of the Olympic race have been given by van der Merwe (1978). At the reception in Bloemfontein, Hefferon claimed that he lost the race because he stopped to drink champagne, that he lost six pounds in weight during the race, and that he had received 135 letters and 350 telegrams, including proposals of marriage (Star 3/9/08). Hefferon also said that he erred by forcing the pace, "when not severely pressed." Before sailing from Southampton, Hefferon competed in a 10 miles road race on 15 August, and the local athletes decided to form a club in his honour which they called Hefferon Harriers (Star 17/8/08).

The dramatic finish to the Olympic marathon started a 'Marathon Fever' around the world. Shrubbs, Longboat, Dorando and Hayes met in a series of sponsored races in which large amounts of money were involved (Pretoria News 6/1/09; Friend 29/1/09; Cape Times 30/1/09; Hopkins, 1966, pp. 40-41). South Africans were also influenced by the media coverage and in July 1909 Platnauer wrote of (Transvaal Leader 20/7/09): "...the great revival of cross country running which was followed in the wake of the marathon rage."

Some South Africans competed in a professional marathon held over the Olympic route in London on 10 October sponsored by the Evening News. They were Charlie Meekoms, Walter Ewins, Richard Ford and a prominent amateur who ran under the pseudonym of 'James Walsh' (Pretoria News 10/10/08). None were placed (Pretoria News 12/10/08; Latest 26/9/08).

According to the Star (14/9/08) the criticism of McArthur's omission from the S A Olympic team led to Hefferon issuing a challenge to McArthur to race any distance from 1 mile to 26



miles, and an event was arranged in Durban, but McArthur declined to run (Star 26/9/08). McArthur agreed to meet Hefferon in a 5 miles cross country race at Wanderers on Boxing Day 1908, and despite being given a 35 seconds start was beaten by Hefferon and did not finish (Friend 26/12/08; Star 28/12/08).

The Durban 15 miles 'Marathon', arranged for the clash between McArthur and Hefferon, went ahead without them on 7 November 1908 and was won by J A Ramos of East London in 1:40:04.2/5 (Latest 7/11/08). Several other towns held so-called 'Marathons', which were usually shorter than the Olympic distance. Harrismith was reported to be 'Marathon Mad' after an event there on 7 October (Star 8/10/08; Witness 19/10/08), and a 16 miles 'Marathon' was held at Elandsplaagte near Ladysmith on Boxing Day (Witness 30/12/08). The YMCA organised a marathon in Pietermaritzburg on 20 March 1909 that aroused much interest (Witness 22/3/09), and the Natal Royal Regiment held a 14 miles 'marathon' on 3 April (Witness 6/4/09). Albany Harriers, Grahamstown, were reported to be holding a marathon in May (Grahamstown Journal 21/5/09).

The real 'Marathon Craze' in South Africa was not, however, part of the amateur scene. Rufe Naylor, the Australian promoter of professional athletics at 'The Stadium' in Johannesburg decided that if professional marathons were making money in England and America, they could do so in South Africa, and he arranged an event from Krugersdorp to Johannesburg. The Star said the 'marathon craze has at last extended to this country' (11/1/09). The winner received a cup, a gold medal and 40 sovereigns, and the last 9 miles were run on 'The Stadium' track of 7 laps to the mile. 'The Stadium' was officially opened on 13 February (Star 15/2/09), and the marathon was held on 18 March. Large crowds watched the event, including many thousands of Chinese, which made it very difficult for the two leading athletes, Wilson and Card (pseudonyms) to reach 'The Stadium'. The Star reported (19/3/09):



...the wonder is that they reached the place alive, as cyclists were falling over each other in their path.

Wilson (Arthur Preston, ex-Dalton Harriers, and a miner at Rietfontein) won in 3:10:24. Over 6000 thousand people packed 'The Stadium' to see the finish. The Transvaal Leader called it the "Race of the Century" (13/3/09).

A second professional marathon was held on 24 April 1909 from Boksburg to Johannesburg with the last 10 miles on 'The Stadium' track, and Wilson again won in 2:59:01 (Star 26/4/09). Hefferon turned professional in July 1909 (Star 22/7/09) but, as 'Qrius' said in the Latest (24/7/09), he should have done it six months earlier when marathon running was booming, and Hefferon ran only one professional marathon, in 1910 (Star 14/3/10).

McArthur had been preparing himself for marathons in Johannesburg and Durban, but was denied the opportunity of meeting Hefferon when the latter turned professional, so they clashed only in the 1908 trials event. McArthur won the Wanderers Marathon in 3:03:54 on 4 September, which started at Zuurfontein and finished with 9 miles on the track. Other runners were J M Baker, J Harmse and L W Richardson. Most newspapers referred to McArthur's time as a S A record and it does appear to be the fastest time set by an amateur in South Africa up until then (Transvaal Leader 6/9/09; Latest 11/9/09). McArthur also won the Latest Marathon held in Durban on 23 October, and there was much controversy over his time of 2:44:36. The race started at 2.00 p.m. from the Old Town Hall and thousands lined the route and packed the Lords ground to see the last two miles on the track. Nineteen ran a rough, dusty and hilly course and "McArthur finished fresh and walked off the ground smoking" (Star 25/10/09). The natural reaction to the time was that the course was short, but the

organisers said it had been carefully measured from maps and plans in the Public Works Department. Two motor cyclists measured the course and found it to be 1 mile 16 yards short (Star 26/10/09), and a motor car measured it 1 mile 800 yards short, but in 1911 Dr R D Howden said he had ordered a special new speedometer from the manufacturers of the new De Dion car in London, guaranteed to be accurate, and he had measured the course three times and it was correct (Latest 23/10/09; 11/11/11). Ramos was second in 3:10:51, a time that seems reasonable when compared with his other performances. McArthur's performance re-opened the controversy about his omission from the 1908 Olympic team, most newspapers agreeing that he should have gone (Latest 23/10/09; Pretoria News 3/11/09; Star 29/10/09).

A third professional marathon was held from Boksburg to Johannesburg ('The Stadium') on 10 November, but Hefferon and Wilson did not run and it was won by Card in a slow 4:10:00 (Star 11/9/09). In 1910 a lot of publicity preceded a professional marathon featuring Hefferon and Wilson, the Star carrying previews and interviews (3/3/10; 5/3/10). The race was run wholly in 'The Stadium', 183.1/2 laps, before a good crowd of over 5000 people. Considering the mental pressure of running a marathon on a 7 laps to the mile track, Hefferon's winning time of 3:07:40 was commendable (Star 14/3/09; Transvaal Weekly Illustrated 19/3/10).

Interest in marathon running continued in 1910, although the 'Marathon Craze' can be considered as ending in 1909. Marathon running became part of the South African athletic scene and was no longer considered a novelty event. Ramos won the marathon held in conjunction with the Camps Bay Gala on 5 February 1910, and his winning time of 3:22:19 suggests that the measurement of the Durban course was not too far amiss (Cape Times 7/2/10). Three days later a marathon for Coloured athletes was held over the same course and won by W R Henry in a respectable 3:38:17 (Cape

Times 9/2/10). McArthur cleared up many of the doubts about his Durban time in November 1910 by winning the Cape Argus Marathon in Cape Town in 2:42:58 (Cape Times 7/11/10), reported in the Star and the Rand Daily Mail, one would think incorrectly, as 2:32:58 (Star 7/11/10; Rand Daily Mail 8/11/10).

The 'Marathon Craze' created an interest in long distance running that was reinforced by McArthur and Gitsham coming first and second at the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm and continued by Arthur Newton and a long list of South African distance runners. Newton's performance in the Comrades Marathon were recognised throughout the world.

The road from Pietermaritzburg to Durban seems to have held a particular fascination, even in the nineteenth century. As early as 1876 a Lieutenant Bradshaw of the 13th Regiment walked from Fort Napier, Pietermaritzburg, to Durban in 13 hours 37 minutes (Witness 22/6/76). There appear to have been no further attempts until 1910, when George Lucas Blaver completed the distance in 11:08, a time checked by Herbert (Pietermaritzburg), and Wallace and Taylor (Durban). The twenty-two year old had reportedly done it untrained some months previously (Latest 27/8/10), and then wrote to the Natal AAA (Southern District) asking for officials for an official time (Natal AA and CA minutes, 11/8/10). This feat drew a letter from 'Walker, London', who said the distance was almost the same as the London to Brighton Walk, and there should be regular event sponsored by the Latest with medals for those finishing in standard time (Latest 10/9/10). 'Sportsman' wrote in to say that the idea was a good one but the route was too strenuous (Latest 17/9/10). A week later James McCulloch walked the distance in wet conditions in 11:05, and it was announced that there would be a challenge race for a trophy in six weeks time (Latest 24/9/10). 'Qrius' supported the idea but said they should wait for cooler weather, but interest had been aroused and Blaver said he would race under certain conditions

(Latest 1/10/10). T S Taylor, a former Natal walking champion asked to be included (Latest 8/10/10). Unfortunately there was no report of the race taking place, and the next mention of somebody tackling the distance was in May 1914 when it was reported that G P Schmidt had run it in 9:58 (Latest 9/5/14). Two days later Private Atwell (Straffordshire Regiment), ran it in 9:50 (Latest 9/5/14). 'Qrius' then suggested that there should be a 'Go-As-You-Please' over the route, with a trophy. The Natal Witness attempted to organise a race from Pietermaritzburg to Drummond and back (52 miles), but the SAAA and CA objected, saying it was too long (Latest 4/7/14; SAAA and CA minutes, 30/6/14). After the war Vic Clapham initiated the Comrade's Marathon with a letter to the Latest (8/1/21).

## CHAPTER FOURTEEN

## THE PROBLEMS OF AMATEURISM

In the early years of the nineteenth century there was no distinction between amateurs and professionals in South Africa. Everybody competed together, money prizes were commonly given, and there were no clubs or other controlling bodies. In Chapter One a brief reference was made as to how the concept of amateurism and professionalism developed in Britain, and having established the overwhelming influence the British had on the development of athletics in South Africa, it is necessary to consider what happened in Britain in more detail.

Professionalism in athletics began in Greece in the sixth century B C and, according to McIntosh (1963), "It was not long before athletics became both a full-time occupation and a means of livelihood for some men" (p. 177). A professional then, was determined by pecuniary and temporal considerations. In nineteenth century England complications arose when the social class factor was introduced and "the word amateur was used to reinforce the word gentleman" (McIntosh, 1963, p. 178). The concern of the English upper classes for their amateur status began in Elizabethan times (Brailsford, 1969, p. 32) and reached a peak in Victorian and Edwardian England. Unlike Ancient Greece, pecuniary considerations were not the main concern in the first half of the eighteenth century in England, when sport was beginning to develop, it was rather the upper class concern for the preservation of the "gentleman amateur." The concept that developed was that the person who had time and money to play sport and games for pleasure had loftier ideals than those who pursued activities to make money. Thus, the upper class patronage of cricketers and athletes developed and, although the

aristocracy also took part in these events, a clear distinction was maintained that had nothing to do with the money at stake (Brailsford, 1969, p. 210). As it was the lower classes that began to play to earn their living, so the concept of professional took on the meaning of lower class, uncultured and mercenary.

As first the middle classes, and then the working classes became more and more involved in sport in the nineteenth century, the English upper classes tried to protect themselves by passing laws, so in 1866 the Amateur Athletic Club adopted the rule of the Henly Regatta Committee that excluded from amateur competition not only professional watermen, but anyone "who is a mechanic, artisan or labourer, or engaged in menial activity" (Mandell, 1984, p. 153). As the growth of sport continued, the concept of amateur and gentleman separated, and governing bodies became more concerned with pecuniary considerations than with class distinctions, and the English AAA abandoned the clause restricting mechanics, labourers and artisans in 1881 (McIntosh, 1963, p. 179). Unfortunately, each governing body of sport dealt with the amateur problem in its own way and, despite efforts to achieve uniformity and reciprocity, these were not successful and differences between sports exist even today. As McIntosh says (1963, p. 175):

The words amateur and professional are used to mean just what each wants them to mean, and, as there is not one master but many, some curious anomalies have arisen.

The amateur status question is still very much a problem at present and, in their report on English sport in 1960, the Wolfenden Committee (1960, p. 65) said that they had the problem brought to their attention repeatedly. They admitted that they could not agree on how the problems could be



solved (p. 71).

It was this confused and chaotic concept of amateurism that was exported to South Africa. As each wave of immigrants arrived they had different concepts as changes were made in England. Their concepts were conditioned by their social class, and this problem was complicated in South Africa by associating race and colour with social class. The discovery of diamonds and gold brought thousands of young men to Kimberley and Johannesburg whose very way of life was a gamble, and who saw no harm in betting on anything, least of all on foot-races. This caused enormous problems, especially in Johannesburg, and for years the SAAAA (and later the SAAA and CA) struggled to control betting at sports meetings.

McIntosh (1963, pp. 180-182) said that nineteenth century legislators saw three dangers:

1. That the payment of players would lead to unethical practices.
2. Professionals would outclass amateurs, and amateurs would stop playing.
3. Sportsmanship and fair play would decline.

In this chapter the developing concepts of amateurism and the attempts by legislators to cope with the dangers listed above will be described, including the control of betting, competing for prize money and the payment of expenses. The next chapter is concerned with professional athletics.

#### Early developments

There were no reports of any restrictions on athletic events in

South Africa in the first half of the nineteenth century. There was a distinction made between the professionals like 'Professor' Diamond, who earned their livelihood through athletics, and those who competed in their leisure time, but there were no rules against their competing in the same events against each other. Money prizes were often offered, and this was not considered to classify an athlete as a professional. Betting was also an accepted practice and many of the early pedestrian events had a wager at stake. There did not appear to be any restriction on people competing because of their occupation, as in England, and the reason may have been that all whites considered themselves in a social class above the blacks, who were usually catered for by the holding of a special race.

One of the first attempts to impose amateur rules was at Pietermaritzburg in 1873, when the organising committee of the annual sports included events on the programme called Trial Stakes, and announced (Natal Witness 24/6/73):

The Trial Stakes are open to everyone who has never run for public money in a race open to all-comers.

This was a move to encourage novices and to develop a group of athletes not concerned with prize money and is interesting because it did not exclude soldiers who had won cash prizes at regimental sports, which were not open to all-comers. The regulations were extended to the whole sports in 1879 (Witness 18/10/70).

No man may take part in the sports unless he was able to prove to the satisfaction of the committee that he was not a professional.

The committee's definition of professional was conveniently left

unstated.

In Durban concern about amateurism was evidenced in 1883 when the Natal Wasps announced that their April sports would be open only to all bona fide amateurs who were members of any Football, Cricket or other Athletic Club (Natal Mercury 19/3/83). The rule probably caused problems because for the next sports in September, the Wasps announced (Mercury 24/7/83):

Members of football and other athletic clubs within the colony who are considered not strictly amateurs will be considered amateurs at this meeting.

It was probably found that many of the leading athletes had received cash prizes in the past and would be eliminated by the previous rule.

In the Cape Colony the Port Elizabeth AAC was almost certainly the first controlling body to impose amateur rules and, at their Annual General Meeting on 5 October 1881 (PEAAC minutes), a proposal by George Farrar was accepted:

Prior to the formation of the P E Athletic Club (there being no similar institution in the colony) no doubt races for money prizes, and matches for money stakes or bets frequently occurred, but the committee of the P E Athletic Club consider that had there been any athletic clubs, and properly managed meetings in the colony, it is probable that such races, or at least some of them, would not have taken place. Taking this into consideration, and to save further dispute, they resolved 'That on and after October 8th,

1881, any person taking part in races for money prizes, or in matches for money stakes or bets, or competing with any one who has taken part in such races or matches, shall be debarred from entering in any of the meetings of the P E Athletic Club and any held under their supervision'. And after some discussion this motion was carried.

One of the first athletes to fall foul of the new rule was the great sprinter Rolland, who was discussed on 26 April 1882, and suspended from the Club at the Annual General Meeting on 28 August 1882. It was also agreed to write to the English AAA for rules (PEAC minutes). Another athlete, Doyle, presented a problem in 1884 when it was learned that he had disposed of his prizes, and it was agreed to write to the London Athletic Club (LAC) for a decision (PEAC minutes, 27/10/84). The PEAC did not, of course have immediate success in applying their new amateur rules and in 1892 there was a notice in the E P Herald (30/3/93) about races for money, cash, and cheques. Again it was threatened that anyone racing for money would be debarred from PEAAC Meetings, and that races must be according to the AAA of Great Britain.

In East London the problem of prize money arose in 1886. A local argument developed about prizes at the Cape Mounted Police Sports, and a letter was sent to the English magazine, Field, which replied that money prizes made people at sports professionals, whether they were members of a regiment or not (Dispatch 31/7/86). Betting and money prizes had been commonplace in Queenstown until the Athletic Club was formed in 1883. At the foundation meeting it was agreed that amateur rules must in future be enforced, and that a letter would be sent 'home' to obtain rules:

Most stringent rules have been lately passed by the AAA, but in this colony, where there have been no Athletic Clubs and no properly

instituted meetings, some margin must be allowed, and this rule must be made to date from the formation of the club. (Queenstown Free Press 23/6/83).

Such a ruling was really essential, since the leading Queenstown athletes such as Rolland, Larter and the Brown family had all regularly infringed the amateur rules. The newspaper continued (Queenstown Free Press 23/6/83):

Any person competing in an open competition for public money or gate money, or with professionals for a prize, public money, or gate money, or shall, for means of livelihood, teach or assist in any pursuit of athletic exercises, shall be debarred from entering any of the meetings of the Queenstown Amateur Athletic Club or any other held under their supervision

David Barrable, editor of the Queenstown Free Press, was a strong and well-informed supporter of amateur athletics, as was noted in the chapter on the development of the sport in the Border area. Once again it can be seen how powerful such individuals were in shaping development. Barrable was knowledgeable, he had access to developments in England, he was a well-respected member of the community and he exercised exclusive control of the only media outlet at that time, the newspaper. It is significant that the teaching issue was raised, which was not mentioned in other centres, and suggests that Barrable tried to follow closely the amateur rules being developed in England. This is confirmed by his comments in 1886 on "the modern definition of an amateur", which he found "to be particular obnoxious." The offending

portion read: "...or is a mechanic, artisan, or labourer." Barrable felt that this should not be included (Queenstown Free Press 22/10/86). According to Lovesey (1979, p. 22) these words were added to the Amateur Athletic Club, London, rules in 1867, and were dropped when the English AAA was formed in 1880. It is difficult to assess which rules Barrable referred to, pre or post 1880.

The Witness, Pietermaritzburg, discussed the question of amateurism in 1884, and quoted the English AAA (Witness 9/4/84), and when a Natal AAA was formed (one of the many attempts) in August 1885, the following rules defining an amateur were adopted.

- i Never competed for a money prize or a staked bet, with or against a professional for any prize, or who has never taught, pursued, or assisted in the practice of athletic exercises as a means of obtaining a livelihood.
- ii No value prize, such as a cheque on a tradesman, must be offered.
- iii No prize in a handicap greater than ten pounds.
- iv Prizes of greater value than five pounds must be engraved.
- v Open betting not allowed.
- vi All Natal athletes considered amateurs up to date of formation. (Witness 24/8/85).

As in Queenstown, this last clause was necessary because almost all the athletes had broken the other rules, and the problems of betting, cheques on tradesmen, competing against professionals, and teaching lingered on for many years.



In Cape Town the first Caledonian Sports and Highland Games in 1882 were advertised as being open to amateurs (Cape Argus 27/3/82) and at the second attempt to form an athletic club in Cape Town one of the stated aims was: "...to preserve the purity of athletic contests here free from the 'professional' element..." (Cape Argus 16/11/82).

In 1886 the Cape Times noted that the Port Elizabeth AAC Sports were restricted to amateurs and wondered what the definition was, saying (13/7/86):

By the way, so many of our Colonial definitions are so Heathen-Chinee like in their peculiarity that we should like to know what the rule of the PEAAC is on this subject.

The first references to amateurism in Johannesburg appeared in 1892. The attempt by Herschenson in Pietermaritzburg to form an S A Athletic Association was fully reported by the Star (18/11/91; 22/2/92) and it was felt that this would eliminate abuses in the sport. J Swart, founder member of Wanderers, also had a comment in connection with prizes. Geo. Farrar had bought prizes for the Wanderers Sports in England, and Swart felt that the athletes should run for honour, not for prizes: "We are amateurs, not professionals" (Star 27/2/92).

When the SAAAA was finally formed in Johannesburg in 1894, the Star (21/2/94) published the rules and laws and noted that an amateur was defined thus:

An amateur is one who has never knowingly competed for prize-money or a staked bet, or

with or against a professional for any prize, who has never taught, pursued, or assisted in the practice of athletic exercises as a means of obtaining a livelihood.

Competitors who are champions of their districts will have their expenses provided by the Association when having to travel a distance exceeding 100 miles to take part in the Association's sports.

Formulating such a rule was one thing but implementing it was quite different, and the issues pinpointed in the rule, prize-money, betting, competing against professionals and the payment of expenses posed continually re-curring problems that were not solved in the period under discussion. 'Qrius', in 1910, came to similar conclusions to the Wolfenden Committee in 1960, and would be particularly relevant today; that there was no such thing as an amateur, it was "a priceless pearl of unsophisticated merit" (Latest 5/2/10).

From the above survey it can be seen that since the move to more stringent amateur rules was occurring in England, the concepts filtered through to South Africa and were gradually imposed there. The particular aspects of amateurism will now be considered.

#### PRIZE MONEY AND PRIZES

The wheel has turned full circle in South Africa. Prize-money was acceptable in the mid-nineteenth century. As the legislators passed rules to prevent the corruption and contamination of sport in the Victorian and Edwardian period, prize money was banned. In recent years it has again become acceptable as the distinction between amateurs and professionals has become blurred. The

problem facing the legislators was complicated by the military, both in England and South Africa as soldiers regularly received money prizes at regimental sports, and also competed in 'amateur' meetings.

The Daily Dispatch, 31 July 1886, reported that there had been a dispute about cash prizes at the Cape Mounted Police Sports, and it was agreed to write to Field, a British magazine. See p.120 above). The issue also arose at Cape Town and, at a meeting of the Cape Town AAC in October 1893, R Firminger, the secretary, said that amateur athletes should not run against soldiers, but other members said soldiers should not be debarred if they could prove they were amateurs. It was suggested that since there was no national body and the English AAA rules were not available, the English AAA should be approached for a ruling (Cape Times 27/10/93). The Cape Town AAC became defunct soon afterwards and the issue was not mentioned again until 1897 when W E Tyler, secretary of the City AAC protested about Private Warwick (King's Royal Rifles) who dead-heated in the mile (4:48.2/5) with Private Hill at the Scottish Sports in April (Cape Times 12/4/97). A letter was published on 14 April pointing out that there had been correspondence between the PEAAC and WPAAA about Warwick, and that the other competitors were not concerned that he was a professional. Warwick's entry for the meeting held to mark the opening of Green Point track was refused (Cape Times 4/10/97), and the organising club was, significantly, the City C and AC.

When it was learned that the Cape Colony AA and CU Championships would be in Cape Town in 1898, the Argus received several letters querying the amateur status of the soldiers entered, so it would appear that other competitors were concerned, and it appears that some athletes were disqualified (Cape Times 3/10/98). The English AAA was contacted and they replied that soldiers who won money prizes at regimental sports were not eligible for AAA events (Cape Times 21/11/98). The Star (7/10/98) made a scathing attack

on the CCAA and CU for allowing the participation of the soldiers.

The Anglo-Boer War exacerbated the problem as the number of British soldiers was increased enormously and many took part in local sports meetings. 'Pneumatic', writing in the Star (23/3/02) said:

The soldier-athlete is just now engaging the attention of sports-promoting bodies. There is no more thorough-going sportsman the world over than 'Tommy Atkins', but as he has been in the habit of competing for money prizes at regimental sports, the question of his status as an amateur has to be determined.

'Pneumatic' noted that Wanderers AAC had included separate events for "soldiers and police in uniform", and had barred soldiers from competing in the regular events. He said the national body would have to deal with the problem.

At Pretoria in 1906, Cutts (King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry) won a 100 yards race for twenty-five pounds a side, yet was allowed to compete in the TAAA Championships against Bertie Phillips, and there were often inconsistencies of that nature (Pretoria News 9/12/06; 17/12/06).

The issue flared up again in 1910 and 'Qrius' gave the impression that he accepted the principle of soldiers receiving cash prizes and still remaining amateurs. He said that he himself had competed against such men, and that it was accepted by the CAAA and CU (Latest 1/10/10). Platnauer was opposed to it, as he was to anything that remotely hinted at professionalism (Transvaal Leader 7/12/10; 24/3/11). He was upset when 'Pneumatic' (Tom Greenwood) persuaded the SAAA and CA to allow

soldiers to receive cash prizes, a decision made easier by the South African withdrawal of its affiliation to the English AAA (Sporting Star 3/12/10). It was not the end of the matter, and it was still contentious after World War One (SAAA and CA minutes, 9/5/23).

Money prizes were forbidden by the SAAAA and the SAAA and CA and by the provincial associations, but there was still the question of prizes and, they too, were a contentious issue. The 1904 SAAA and CA rule book had no less than eight rules governing the award of prizes, and the upper limit of value was set at eight guineas. Although amateurs were supposed to be competing for the love of the game, rather than for material award, 'pot-hunting' was common, and athletes loved to be photographed with their trophies. Jacob Swart (Wanderers founder member) became concerned about 'pot-hunting' in 1892 and said that athletes should run for honour, not for prizes, and felt that the entry fee for an event should be 10% of the prize money, whereas in Johannesburg the entry fee was often only two shillings and sixpence for a prize of ten pounds (Star 27/2/92).

At its very first meeting in 1880, the Port Elizabeth AAC concerned itself with prizes, limiting each man to not more than two (PEAAC minutes, 30/8/80). In the Border area a dispute arose in 1888 because the East London hurdler Puzey applied for membership of the King William's Town AC just before their annual sports and was refused. It was alleged that had the application arrived after the sports it would have been accepted, and the KWTAAC was accused of making itself a private organisation in which the members wanted to keep the trophies for themselves (Daily Dispatch 16/5/88).

Early sports meetings were followed by special evening prize-giving functions, of an evening, often several days after the sports, and such functions were considered important, with



speeches and musical entertainment. The winning of trophies became very important and it was the normal practice for an important local dignitary to donate a valuable trophy for a special event. The motivating power of such trophies was great and remained important even after the Second World War. The Fettes Bowl in Port Elizabeth, the 440 and 880 yard trophies at Queenstown, the Houghting Trophy for Natal cross country and many, many others, spurred on a great number of young athletes. As Professor Lewis said in Cape Town in 1898, "Some trophies acquired a great historic value and became an object which men strived to win" (Cape Times 20/1/98). When Grahamstown athletes won prizes in Port Elizabeth in 1892 they were put on display at Brooks and Company, Emporium, for all to see (Grahamstown Journal 31/4/92) and the valuable collection of South African Championship Trophies were always displayed in the town in which the meeting was held.

The emphasis on the importance of prizes led to disputes, and conflict about the value and adequacy of prizes constantly occurred throughout the period. At the Wanderers Second Annual New Year Sports in 1891 the Star (3/1/91) said that the costly trophies had failed to attract entrants, yet at the Easter Sports three months later the prizes were considered inadequate (Star 4/4/91). In Bloemfontein the Friend (3/11/91) reported that there was a nation-wide controversy about the value of prizes, and that a Mr Coutts was suing the Pietermaritzburg Cycling Club because they advertised a twenty shillings cup as being worth twenty pounds. Wanderers asked George Farrar to purchase prizes for their sports in England (Star 27/2/97) and in East London in 1896 the E L Standard and Border Gazette (11/9/96) commented: "Fifty pounds is a ridiculously small amount to supply prizes for an athletic meeting in a town such as East London." After some agitation the amount was increased (Standard 2/10/96). At Pietermaritzburg in 1900 'A Military Critic' wrote to the Witness saying that three pounds was far too little for the value of a prize, and in



England it was eight pounds (Witness 12/10/1900). 'Civilian Critic' replied that Natal prizes were of good value but could be improved (Witness 19/10/1900). Correspondence on this topic lasted for some time (Witness 26/10/1900; 29/10/1900; 10/11/1900; 15/11/1900; 17/11/1900).

A cutting from S A Review written by 'The Bird' just after the turn of the century and pasted into Louis Levy's scrapbook while he was still in Cape Town read as follows:

It is an open secret that one of the reasons there are so few entries for sports now is that men simply won't spend money on training and then turn out and run for some article which a respectable toy-shop would be ashamed to display.

When Platnauer was in Cape Town he also criticised the prizes awarded there, saying that they should be useful and athletes should know what they were beforehand (Cape Times 26/6/01). He also wanted the values advertised and persuaded Spartan Harriers to do so at their sports, despite opposition from CCAA and CU officials, maintaining that it helped combat professionalism (Cape Times 8/2/02).

In 1903 there was a boycott of Wanderers New Year Sports because the athletes considered the prizes inadequate compared to those offered at Kimberley, Port Elizabeth and Pretoria (Transvaal Leader 3/1/03). This dispute led to the formation of Johannesburg AAC, which operated for a short while prior to the formation of Johannesburg Harriers (Star 5/2/03).

A clipping from the Rand Daily Mail (about 1905) in Louis Levy's scrapbook, written by Levy himself, said:

A prominent sportsman some few nights back was heard to ask how much longer the meretricious glitter of the electro-plated article is going to fascinate our athletic legislators.

There can be no doubt as to the desires of the competing class on this subject. The competitors are thoroughly disgusted with the system of awarding them gaudily constructed cruets and pie-dishes as mementoes of their skill. To observe the blind obstinacy with which sports promoters constantly shower these articles on successful athletes, one becomes imbued with the idea that the givers have mistaken their function. For in their despair the athlete eventually considers it his only salvation to marry somebody and to get a little use out of his pie-plate. The efforts made to keep amateurs to the rigid principles which they are expected to hold are not assisted by the present system of promiscuous distribution of gaudy electro-plate.

It is clearly apparent that although, athletes and officials eschewed the award of money prizes, material reward was still important. It remained important, and is still important today. 'Sport Lover' of Bloemfontein had to admit that (Friend 4/11/10):

The athletes of Bloemfontein are all pot-hunters. You can't get them out unless you have got good prizes up.

The athletes have been spoiled. There has been too much prize-giving, and of far too valuable prizes. Prizes should be mementoes, only of historical value.

Pot-hunting remained a problem, and in 1914 the SAAA and CA agreed on a three months residence rule to prevent athletes joining a club just to win a trophy (E P Herald 29/5/14).

Although cash prizes were forbidden by the rules, athletes and cyclists, especially the latter, constantly agitated for a system almost the equivalent of receiving money: the issue of vouchers which could be exchanged at the shops of local tradesmen. Platnauer even supported the system (Cape Times 23/1/03). In spite of recently passed NAAA laws forbidding vouchers (Witness 24/8/85) they were issued at Pietermaritzburg in 1885 (Witness 28/9/85). In 1904 the Natal cyclists demanded vouchers, and boycotted the Natal Championships, which led to the prolonged dispute discussed in Chapter Eight. The SAAA and CA were unable to reach a decision on the topic (Cape Times 31/12/06). In 1906 the Cape Times printed a long report from Natal which explained how the "coupon-system" had bedevilled athletics and cycling there (Cape Times 28/12/06) and it was discussed at the Annual General Meeting of the Natal AAA in December 1906 (Witness 29/12/06). The "coupon-system" was eventually discontinued when the Natal Cycling Union agreed to affiliate to the SAAA and CA in March 1907.

It must be stressed again that the issues discussed above affected all athletes and not just a few star performers. Almost without exception, unless it was a championship meeting, all events at sports meetings were handicaps, so every competitor had an equal chance of winning, and this system lasted until well after World War Two. It was an effective way of providing competition for athletes of different abilities, and before the introduction of numerous age-group events it enabled young and old, stars and novices, to compete together. A standard was set,

based on the South African champion, and each athlete's handicap was calculated on his past performances, which had to be submitted on the entry form. Athletes regarded their handicaps in much the same way as golfers do today, and there was much prestige attached to being the 'scratch' man. The handicapper was, of course, a man of great power held in awe and surrounded by an aura of mystery. He obviously had to be skilled. Platnauer was considered to be one of the best handicappers in South Africa and was brought to Grahamstown two days before the S A Championships in 1897 to handicap the athletes for the prize meeting that traditionally followed the championships and which frequently attracted more athletes and more spectators than the championships themselves (Latest 18/7/14). Athletes, like golfers, often tried to beat the system, nursing handicaps until there was the chance of winning a big prize. A picture of athletes lined up on the handicap grid appears in Gutsche (1966, p. 106).

An argument about handicapping led to the TAAA ruling that no floating trophies could be given for handicap events (Star 10/2/05) and Platnauer wrote at length on the faults with the South African system and argued that handicaps should be based on the S A record. He said the English system was unworkable, and a conference of handicappers was needed (Cape Times 22/10/05) A few years later 'Qrius' also wrote on the need for a uniform handicapping system (Latest 8/10/10; 15/10/10). Complaints about handicapping were as unreliable then as they are today

Only once (at the Kimberley Exhibition Sports 1892) throughout the two days racing had the scratch man a look-in for victory, and then he would never have seen first place had he not raced at a pace such as never before has been known in South Africa. (Queenstown Free Press 25/10/92).

Other examples were at Pretoria (Star 11/10/94), East London (Daily Dispatch 20/5/05) and Paarl (Cape Times 26/12/13). This section on handicapping is closed with an anecdote about Reggie Walker, then a professional, in 1912. He was persuaded by a friend to race at Old Bow Running Ground, London, in disguise, and dressed up in long shorts and an old vest. He was recognised, and instead of receiving 15 yards start as a novice, he was placed 15 yards behind the field, and a fence had to be removed to accomodate him.

It was, they thought, all good clean fun, but an astute onlooker, Charlie Ransome, timed Walker, so that when he raced at Manchester all the long odds had been taken, and Walker's only gain was the prize money of one hundred and fifty pounds (Cape Argus 15/11/39).

#### BETTING

The problem of betting on athletic events involved legislators in a long campaign that was only partially successful, especially in Johannesburg, where gambling was a way of life. It was particularly rampant at the Wanderers and was a constant source of embarrassment to the SAAAA (and SAAA and CA) who were accused of trying to control South Africa but could not solve the situation on their own doorstep.

Large scale betting began at horse-racing meetings in England in the eighteenth century, which is where handicapping also originated (Mandell, 1984, p. 143). According to Mandell, betting was practised by the Greeks, American Indians, Egyptians and Romans. Mandell (1984, p. 143) wrote:

But betting as it developed in pre-industrial English society is something without

comparable forerunners. English wagering may be evidence of a view of the world which prepared the ground for other English innovations that have received great attention from social historians.

Mandell (1984) claimed that in earlier civilizations, success was attributed to religious rituals being correctly performed whereas the eighteenth century Englishman believed that his knowledge and appraisal of horses or runners was more objective and superior to that of his counter wagering opponents. "The English wagerer was more like a capitalist speculator (Mandell, p. 144). Mandell believed that the English commercial classes, the first capitalists, were in fact gamblers and their backing of probabilities on a large scale became part of the English way of life. Soon there were wagers on any sensational, unusual or risky task (Mandell, pp. 144-145). Brailsford (1969, p. 213) claims that it was the need to protect the heavy financial investments of gamblers that led to the introduction of rules and regulations in sport and games. These were the attitudes that the English brought to South Africa, and the fortune hunters on the diamond fields of Kimberley and the gold fields of Johannesburg were gamblers of unrivalled enthusiasm.

Many of the early athletic events in South Africa, as has already been noted, were of the pedestrian type in which two men competed against one another for a wager, and onlookers made side bets. One of the first references to organised betting at a sports meeting was in Kimberley in 1884 (Diamond Field News 16/4/84):

The U and O tables seemed to do a roaring trade in spite of the hard time, and the betting on the races, at times, was fast and furious.



U and O refers to 'under and over', a term used for the bookmakers (Star 27/5/89).

Heavy betting was a feature of the professional pedestrian events involving Hancock, Mellet, McCrystal and others, and again when professional athletics was at its height between 1908 and 1913. Legislators were, however, only worried about betting on amateurs, although the Star (6/6/92) felt that the problem would not be solved:

a morning contemporary is never tired of writing complainingly of the betting that takes place at sports at the Wanderers, but to keep pegging away at a class of men who, although they are regarded by the sanctimonious as nothing more or less than 'legs', generally managed to combine honesty with their calling, seems to me a trifle unfair. Betting at the sports will never be put down, simply because the public will bet, and the management have to cater for the public.

The Wanderers committee were perturbed about the betting, however, and announced that they would try to curb it at their three-day sports festival in May 1893 (Star 9/5/93; Gutsche, 1986, p. 63).

The Executive Committee of the Club have signified their intention to restrict betting as much as possible, though it would be impossible in such a cosmopolitan community as this to do entirely away with it, for we have men in our midst who would gamble on anything under the sun, from mine shares to rats, and

if they cannot do as they wish in the matter of betting at any sports they attend, there would soon be a diminution in the attendance at such sports.

This report confirms what Mandell (1984, pp. 144-145) claimed (see above) and also underlines the predicament that the organisers of sports meetings were in: please the legislators or please the crowds. The efforts were not effective, and in October a letter from 'Olympus' (Star 13/10/93) complained about the betting and accused the committee of talking a lot and putting up notices, but not doing anything. He felt the betting had been condoned. This point of view is supported by a report in the Diggers News soon after the festival (SAAA result book, 1893-94).

Much was made of the manifesto from the committee that gambling in every shape and form was going to be stamped out with an iron heel, but the canker, if canker it can be termed, was there all the same, though the blatant tones of the bookie were no longer there to offend the ear, which was probably all the committee aimed at.

These attempts to curb betting by the Wanderers Committee had been precipitated by this report on the New Years meeting 1893 (SAAA Record Book, 1893-94):

The betting men were very much in evidence, in fact caused a most intolerable nuisance, swindling and trickery was rampant, and many were the complaints of the public. One trick was to lay against one man, and when they saw that this man was winning, to alter the initials in the books, and then tell the

punter that he had backed another runner of the same name. Another impudent piece of swindling was to ascertain that certain competitors were not competing, and then to lay against him. Something must be done to either stop betting altogether, or legitimise it, and turn those pencillers who are not admitted as members of Tattersall's, the only recognised betting club in Johannesburg, off the ground.

History has shown that the SAAAA adopted the former course and attempted to stop betting, albeit not very vigorously at first, and betting took place at the first S A Championships in 1894, although the Star (24/3/94) reported that the "books" were not so ostentatious and the bawling not so objectionable. In retrospect, the latter course might well have been the better policy. Betting was still a problem at the S A Championships in Port Elizabeth in 1914 (EPCCAA and CU minutes, 27/7/14).

One of the reasons why legislators opposed betting so determinedly was because of the malpractices that it encouraged in athletics, a problem in horse-racing even today, a reason indicated by McIntosh (1963: pp. 180 - 182). There was certainly evidence of this in South Africa, and in 1895 the Star adopted a different approach to the issue, perhaps because of the influence of the newly-formed SAAAA, and in a report on the Wanderers New Year Sports in 1895 (5/1/95), attacked betting vigorously. The Star posed the question: "Is the moral status of the sport improving?" and concluded that it was not, because of the heavy betting and the large amounts of money being offered to men to lose races - up to two hundred pounds. Athletes were being 'got at' in the dressing rooms, and the SAAAA was urged to act sternly and decisively. It is difficult to know whether the newspapers at the time were expressing public opinion or trying

to change it, but it does appear as if Johannesburg was becoming more respectable, more influenced by Victorian and Puritan values, and that as a more settled population of workers, rather than 'get-rich-quick' prospectors became the majority of citizens, so the opposition to betting in athletics increased.

As in England, 'ringing in' (holding oneself back in order to lose a race), 'roping' (disguising one's form to conserve a generous handicap) and 'running to the book' (promoters conspiring to fix the handicapping unfairly) (Lovesey, 1979, p. 15), were common malpractices. Athletes deliberately lost races to maintain a favourable handicap or because they had been paid by backers with heavy bets on somebody else. This instance was reported in the Star (18/11/94):

Frank Davis's running, too, was, to say the least of it, unsatisfactory. He simply trotted at the finish of his heat, and then was only beaten by two yards. Had he made an effort he could have been second, if he had not actually won. Probably he did not want to show too good form, in view of the handicaps on Wednesday, but in that case why have run at all? This will not do.

'Roping' and other malpractices were attacked in a report on the Booyesen and Ophirton AC Sports held in July 1896, which the Star (20/7/96) said: "...discredits this particular form of sport at almost every gathering of the kind."

B Mellet and J D F Smith were suspended for life by the SAAAA for 'roping' in 1896 (Star 14/8/96) but the problem was not easily overcome and in 1898 the Pretoria News, reporting on the first meeting of the newly-formed Germiston and Diggers AAC (4/6/98) noted that open collaboration between bookies and runners had

become a recognised element of Rand sporting events. Writing in the Cape Times (23/1/03) Platnauer said that athletes bet on other athletes, then assisted them to win.

At the Annual General Meeting of the SAAAA in 1898 the secretary reported that the committee was pleased to announce that there was a healthier tone in South African athletics; that malpractices had been met by stringent measures; and that betting was declining (Star 27/1/98). This revealed some wishful thinking, because four months later betting was still prevalent at the Caledonian Sports (Star 31/5/98) and in October the same year R Walleth protested that W H Brown was involved in bribery and betting and had jostled him. Both were suspended, along with two other athletes, and the Star (12/10/98) remarked:

...though as yet we are not aware of a single instance in which a bookmaker has been ejected from the grounds, though at every meeting they are to be found laying or taking odds, as thick as bees.

It was becoming obvious that the authorities were avoiding tackling the problem of the bookmakers and were occasionally making an example of an individual athlete, probably because they were afraid of displeasing the crowd. This is borne out by further comment in the Star (12/10/98), which reported that the Cycling Section of Wanderers had excluded flat racing from their sports because of the bookmakers, and that many athletes "against whom no suspicion of their 'bona fides' has ever been raised" were disappointed. The committee said that stringent measures were needed.

The problem was discussed by the SAAAA in November and the appeals by the suspended athletes rejected. According to the Star, Australian athletes were coming to South Africa to take

advantage of the lax enforcement of the rules (9/11/98):

South Africa was evidently regarded as a happy hunting ground for sharps, and it is just as well the impression has been dispelled.

An incident involving one of the Australians occurred at the S A Championships in 1898, when H Morkel and G B Johnstone dead-heated in the 120 yards hurdles in 15.3/5 seconds, a new world record - actually a world best performance, as world records were not recognised until the formation of the TAAF in 1913. Johnstone won a run-off in 15.1/5, and this focused attention on him and a query was received from Cape Town (Star 27/1/98; 31/1/98). Johnstone had been disqualified in Cape Town in 1897 for competing under an assumed name (Cape Times 12/4/97), and he was suspended by the SAAAA in February (Star 12/2/98). Still undaunted, Johnstone was discovered trying to enter a sports meeting in Port Elizabeth in April under the name E F Webster (Eastern Province Herald 4/4/98).

It seemed that towards the end of the century some sections of the public were becoming concerned about the malpractices in sport. A "Mother of Seven Sons" wrote to the Mercury objecting to the participation of Ben Francis in Pietermaritzburg in 1898 because he had boxed as a professional. The SAAAA ruled that the infringement was before the association had been formed so they would not act. Francis later began cycling and there were further protests and much confusion before the issue was settled (Mercury 16/9/98; 3/10/98).

'Umpire' reported that "bookmakers were busy on the track" at the Durban Corporation Sports in August 1901 (Mercury 20/8/01), and at the Lords Bicycle Club Sports in August 1902, the police warned that people betting would be arrested (Mercury 1/9/02).



Betting was still a problem in Durban, in 1906, however, and W R Poynton, president of the Agricultural Association, wrote to the Durban Sports Association claiming that athletic sports were "dropping in popular estimation because of the unrestricted betting indulged in" (Mercury 9/3/06). The long dispute in Durban in 1906 and 1907 that eventually threatened the holding of the S A Championships was caused by allegations that cyclists were cheating, "throwing races", because of the betting involved. Action against bookmakers was taken in December 1908 when Chief Constable Donovan charged a number of Tattersall's bookmakers with betting on corporation property (Latest 12/12/08; 19/12/08).

There was further evidence that public opinion was turning against betting and the bookmakers in October 1909 when the Horse-racing and Betting Restriction Act (the 'Betting Law') came into operation in Johannesburg. It particularly affected Rufe Naylor and his flourishing professional athletic business at 'The Stadium', which is the subject of the next chapter. Section 5(c) specifically prohibited betting on the result of any foot race or cycle race unless it was 'got up ex tempore', that is not arranged beforehand, and not at a place to which the public or members had access (Star 1/10/09; 15/10/09). 'The Stadium' had to stop the betting on foot races, and changed to betting on whippet races, and since the Act was law within 25 miles of Johannesburg, the professional athletes performed in other towns. The new law, aimed at the professionals, marked the complete change that had taken place in attitudes towards betting on foot races over the previous quarter of a century, and betting at amateur sports meetings steadily declined, although, as had been noted above, it was still a problem at the S A Championships in 1914. The SAAA and CA wrote to the CCAA and CU agreeing that there was no evidence that officials knew betting was occurring (SAAA and CA minutes, 14/10/15).

## EXPENSES

The payment of expenses has always been a controversial issue, and still is today. Some disputes that occurred in South Africa have already been discussed (Chapter Twelve). There are several aspects of this issue: travelling and accommodation expenses; 'broken-time' payments to compensate athletes for missing work; and out-of-pocket expenses for touring teams. Such payments were easily abused, difficult to control and provided a means by which promoters could attract athletes to perform at their meetings. The SAAAA included a rule at its foundation that district champions travelling more than 100 miles to the S A Championships could claim for expenses but, since there was no money, this rule caused considerable conflict. The 1904 SAAA and CA rules (p. 63) forbade athletes from asking for, or receiving expenses except under special circumstances.

In 1899 the Cape Town competitors entered for the S A Championships in Durban saying that they would only attend on condition that the SAAA paid their expenses (Witness 20/4/99). Unfortunately, the SAAA had a debit balance of one hundred and forty-one pounds, thirteen shillings and ten pence (Mercury 20/5/99), so no Cape Town competitors attended (Cape Times 20/5/99). Earlier the Cape Times appealed to the railways to assist (14/4/99):

...if the whole of the railway companies could be induced to grant special travelling facilities to the association annual championships, the event each year would be attended by the representative athletes and cyclists from every State and Colony in South Africa.

The Natal AAA clashed with the SAAAA over expenses in 1907. They complained that they had sent four athletes to the S A

Championships in Johannesburg 1906, but had only received half the expenses claimed, and in 1905 they sent three athletes to Cape Town and received nothing. The SAAA and CA replied that they were not obliged to pay in full, and that both the ORCAA and CA and Transvaal had not claimed. They pointed out that Natal had only contributed four pounds to the SAAA and CA, whilst Transvaal had paid fifteen pounds and fifteen shillings, Cape Colony fifteen pounds and fifteen shillings and ORC ten pounds and ten shillings. Reporting to the national association at its Annual General Meeting in 1907, Nourse blamed the poor financial position on the payments to competitors to the S A Championships (SAAA and CA Minutes, 28/6/07), and it was agreed to reconsider the rule (SAAA and CA Rule book, 1904, Rule 178, p. 54). Natal diplomatically withdrew its claims for 1905 and 1906. In 1908, however, the issue flared up again when the CCAA and CU accused the SAAA and CA of keeping its funds to send Transvaal athletes overseas instead of paying the expenses of athletes to the S A Championships (Cape Times 22/1/08). The ORCAA and CAU also protested that they had not received expenses (Friend 26/2/08). There were acrimonious exchanges at the SAAA and CA Annual General Meeting (Cape Times 20/4/08). The CCAA and CU were unable to assist Western Province athletes to the S A Championships in 1909 because they had received no refund on the one hundred and twelve pounds spent sending athletes in 1907 (Cape Times 27/2/09) and at the 1909 Annual General Meeting of the SAAA and CA it was agreed that the expenses of only four athletes from each centre would be paid (Star 12/4/09). This ruling was amended at a special general meeting two months later which decided that one hundred and twenty pounds of any profits from the S A Championships would go to the SAAA and CA, and any surplus would be divided as follows: one-third to the Reserve Fund and four-fifths to go to district associations to pay athletes' expenses (Star 25/6/09).

The payment of expenses to the visiting athletes attending the

Albion Harriers Sports at Durban in April 1910 created a nationwide furore. Star athletes and cyclists such as Duffy, Patching, Richards, Capel Smith and Paquet had their railway and hotel expenses paid (Cape Times 28/5/31) and were suspended by the SAAA and CA (Sporting Star 9/5/10). From the newspaper reports it appears that Albion Harriers and the Natal AAA applied to the SAAA and CA for permission, which was refused, but the reply was only received 21 days later, when the athletes were already in Durban (Latest 21/5/10). The athletes paid back twenty pounds thirteen shillings and seven pence and were allowed to compete at the S A Championships (Latest 18/2/11). 'Pneumatic' and 'Qrius' both agreed that because of the long distances and difficult communications in South Africa, the situation was different to England, and expenses were vital to attract start to meetings. Platnauer disagreed. 'Qrius' pointed out that a man could travel from Cork (Ireland) to London and back, with two days in London, for three pounds, whereas it cost seven pounds ten shillings to travel from Durban to Johannesburg (Latest 25/2/11). The SAAA and CA eventually agreed to expenses (Star 31/5/11).

Hefferon, Walker and McArthur were all under suspicion for receiving expenses and donations. When Hefferon returned from the Olympics in 1908 the ORCAA and CAU wanted to award him a 'purse' (money that had been collected) (Star 22/8/08) and the SAAA and CA, although agreeing that it would not render Hefferon a professional under the existing rules, replied (Star 29/8/08):

The executive are of the opinion that such a testimonial is not in the best interests of amateur sport, and trusts that the presentation will not take the form of money.

Hefferon later admitted that he had received expenses from Queenstown, Durban and Bloemfontein while he was still an amateur (Cape Times 13/10/09).

Money was also collected for Walker in Durban, and it was originally intended to use it to pay his tuition to become a book-keeper (clerk) but, since he had left Durban to live in Johannesburg, a public meeting was called (Star 29/1/09) and the fund, which reached one hundred and seventy-two pounds fifteen shillings was used to buy an insurance policy with Old Mutual that would mature when Walker was 30 years old (Star 26/4/09). Walker came under suspicion in 1909 over his extended tour of Europe, and the English press intimated that he should be considered a professional in view of the financial assistance he was receiving (SAAA and CA Minutes, 31/10/09). The SAAA and CA solicitor was asked to investigate (Cape Times 25/9/09). Yet it was Nourse who had arranged for Walker to travel to England as soon as possible in 1909 to remove him from the constant pressure exerted by Naylor to turn professional.

McArthur's expenses were queried when he competed at the marathon in Cape Town in November 1910, and were discussed by the SAAA and CA (Cape Times 7/11/10; Star 21/10/10; Sporting Star 17/12/10). He was cleared. When McArthur returned to South Africa as Olympic champion in 1912, the SAAA and CA were worried that, like Walker and Hefferon, he would turn professional and at Nourse's suggestion planned to pay him a 'pension' of two pounds per month as long as he remained an amateur (Star 9/11/12). Most of the centres, however, objected violently (Cape Times 29/12/12; 7/12/12; Pretoria News 6/11/12), and the idea was dropped (Rand Daily Mail 17/1/13).

The proposed English AAA tour of South Africa in 1913 was cancelled because the English association would not allow its athletes to receive expenses whilst on their extended stay (Sporting Star 9/8/13; Cape Times 30/7/13).



## OFFICIALS

There was also controversy about the status of officials. In 1898 the W P centre of the CCAA and CU adopted a system of paid handicappers and timekeepers. The Cape Times deplored this (Star 22/11/98):

It is a matter for regret to many good sportsmen that the thin end of the wedge of anti-amateurism has been introduced into W.P. sport

The Star disagreed and said that payment made an official do his job better (22/11/98).

It is a feature of athletics that up to the present time it has been served by a willing band of amateur officials who as yet have not demanded payment from the considerable sums of money presently generated by the sport and available to athletes, commentators and entrepreneurs. Commenting on this in 1895, the England AAA chairman, Arthur McAllister, said that one of the problems that people had visualised would happen was that amateur officials would rebel against professionalism, but, "That doesn't seem to have happened" (Athletics Weekly 21/12/85). It is not unlikely, however, that in the future officials may demand payment for their services.

Another aspect of this problem was the status of officials acting at professional meetings, which caused some controversy. This issue arose when professional athletes competed at 'Callies' in Pretoria with amateur officials in 1909 (Pretoria News 15/11/09), and it was discussed at length in the Latest (11/12/09), but no conclusion was reached:

It is such a very complex subject that the average person cannot grapple lucidly with the



hidden mysteries and distinctions that are continually cropping up.

Earlier in the year the matter was discussed at the Annual General Meeting of the SAAA and CA and a letter from the English AAA was read, stating that in England amateurs were not allowed to officiate at professional meetings (Star 12/4/09), but it would appear that South Africa did not enforce such a rule. 'Qrius' commented on the issue in February 1910 and supported the Sporting Chronicle, Manchester, England in its view that amateur officials could officiate at professional events without losing their amateur status (Latest 5/2/10).

The third problem that arose with officials was the position of journalists. It has become obvious in this thesis that journalists such as Platnauer, Barrable, Wallace, Cox, Cumming, Greenwood and others played an extremely influential role in athletics in South Africa, and many of them served on the committees of clubs and provincial and national associations. Certain people objected to this, and the issue flared up into a dispute in May 1919. 'Hobo' made these comments (Pretoria News 23/6/09):

I have always held the view that no Pressman should hold a seat on any governing body of sport, if he writes about the branch with which his body deals.

The Western Province Football Association have laid it down that no man who writes for the Press is eligible for election as a member of the Council,...And I hope to see the day when all the sporting bodies of the country will pass such a resolution.

This point of view illustrates the differences that existed between governing bodies of different sports in their attitude to amateurism. In athletics, journalists were never barred in South Africa and many of them have served athletics with distinction. 'Qrius' attacked the opinion of 'Hobo' and asked what would have become of amateur athletics in the Transvaal if it had not been for such men as Platnauer and Greenwood (Latest 5/2/10):

These two have done more real hard work of more material good, and more lasting benefit to the cause of athletics in this country, than the collective ability of the Pretoria Harriers since the first competitor of that club made his mark in the soil with the spike of the first pump worn in the Transvaal.

#### RECIPROCITY

McIntosh (1963, pp. 175-176) wrote that each governing body in sport in England made its own amateur rules, and how this has led to curious, humorous and sometimes tragic anomalies. This point arose in Durban in 1893 when the Queen's Park Swimming Club refused to accept the entry of a professional walker and 'Umpire' objected, saying that a professional was only a professional in that particular sport, and not in others (Mercury 8/11/93). This was not the standpoint adopted by the SAAAA and in the SAAA and CA 1904 rules there were only particular exceptions made to allow amateurs to play with or against professional cricketers and footballers (p. 62). The problem of professional cricketers also arose in Durban in 1896, and the DAAA had to change its rules (Mercury 22/10/96). In 1906 the TAAA attempted to achieve uniform reciprocity rules (Star 30/10/06) and although, all the governing bodies agreed with the idea (Star 16/11/06), it was not achieved. Another attempt was made by the SAAA and CA in 1909 (Star 6/7/09) but once again there was no

report of it being successful.

The changing attitudes to betting and malpractices before World War One were indicative of the changing state of South African society, which was becoming more stable and more settled. The changes in England and the developing power of the legislators were transferred to South Africa and officials were slowly able to impose their attitudes and rid athletics of practices which they saw as undesirable and objectionable. It appears as if this was resisted initially but, after the Anglo-Boer War, the cult of athleticism appeared to have been assimilated and there was a general tendency to separate amateurs and professionals into two distinct categories with strict rules governing the former.

## CHAPTER FIFTEEN

## PROFESSIONAL ATHLETICS

Professional athletics was widespread and popular in Britain, America and Australia in the nineteenth century, and in view of the popularity of gambling and pedestrianism in South Africa, it is surprising that no South African exploited the situation here. It was an Australian, Rufe Naylor, who saw the opportunity and developed professional athletics to such a peak that leading athletes from all over the world were attracted to South Africa, and thousands of spectators watched events. For a short period, from 1908 to 1913, professional athletics in South Africa became so strong that it threatened to eclipse the amateur section, which was only kept alive by the harrier clubs.

The possibility of professional athletics developing in South Africa had been recognised by the Cape Argus in 1898 (7/6/98):

Professionalism must come some day; but it may be hoped that it will find a combined South African hostility to all its worst phases...

An attempt to promote professionalism took place in 1899 when events were held in the Plantation Hotel grounds, at the Simmer and Jack area in Johannesburg (Star 8/6/99). They were called South African Sheffield Handicaps, after Sheffield, the English Yorkshire town well-known for its professional athletics. During the Anglo-Boer War the professional runners entered amateur meetings hoping that they would not be detected (Cape Argus

5/11/1900). The war interfered with the Sheffield Handicaps, but professional athletics began again in 1904 at Germiston (Star 12/9/04). The Sheffield Syndicate began holding events in 1907 at the Sheffield Grounds, Braamfontein (Pretoria News 10/6/07; Star 2/7/07), and at the third meeting there were 66 entries for the 100 yards, and 'Skelton' won the final and the twenty-five pounds prize. Most runners ran under assumed names (Star 4/7/07). A professional meeting was held in Pretoria in October at the Caledonian Grounds (Pretoria News 8/10/07) and again in December (Pretoria News 27/12/07). Sheffield Handicap events continued regularly in 1907 attracting good crowds (Star 22/7; 6/8; 2/9; 10/9; 11/10; 7/12; 9/12), and there was increased interest in the December meetings when it was announced that the winner of a match between F Mitchell and L Arnold over 75, 100 and 120 yards would meet the Australian professional, Arthur B Postle, who was touring the world. A large crowd saw Mitchell win the eliminating match, and excitement ran high when Postle arrived in January 1908, billed as the world's champion sprinter. The race was advertised as the "Greatest athletic event ever arranged in South Africa" (Star 4/2/08) and the stake was one hundred pounds.

A new track, especially for professional athletics, was built at Denver, called Powderhall Grounds, after the famous Scottish stadium which inaugurated a new wave of popularity for professional athletics in 1870. Postle described the track, opened on 4 January 1908 (Star 6/1/08), as "better than any in Australia" (Star 28/1/08). The promoter was the Australian, John MacNamara who said he "felt there was room for professional sport in South Africa so long as it was conducted on straight lines." There was also some professional athletics at Driehoek, where the Germiston Sheffield Syndicate operated (Transvaal Leader 10/2/08).

The match between Postle and Arnold was held on 8 February over 75, 100 and 120 yards and attracted a large crowd, including the

Star reporter, who admitted it was his first visit to the grounds. Postle won the first two races easily (7.3/5 and 12.1/10) and "seemed to take one stride to his opponent's two" (Star 10/2/08). Public interest was aroused and Postle added to it with a series of crowd-pulling events. He announced an attack on the world's 50 yards record on 15 February with an entrance fee of two shillings and six pence for men, free for women, and obliged by equalling it - 5.1/2 seconds (Star 17/2/08). He then raced and beat a cyclist over 95 and 105 yards (Star 24/2/08), and defeated the whippet 'Newsboy' off a 35 yards start over 120 yards (Star 30/3/08). On 1 April Postle shaved 3/10ths. of a second off the world's 60 yards record "timed by four gentlemen possessing a unique knowledge of accurate timekeeping." As a result of this so much interest had been generated that there was pressure for Walker to meet Postle, which Platnauer opposed (Transvaal Leader 19/2/08), and the SAAA and CA banned an exhibition race between the two sprinters (Pretoria News 6/3/08). Just before he left South Africa for the English summer season, Postle beat a horse over 100 and 135 yards (Star 16/4/09). There was no doubt that Postle captured public imagination, bringing a new dimension to the athletic scene in Johannesburg and showing that professional athletics could draw the crowds.

A few months later Reggie Walker became the official world sprint champion when he won the 100 metres at the London Olympics, and he returned to South Africa as co-holder of the world's 100 metres best-time, 10.4/5, and holder of the 100 yards best-time, 9.2/5 (Star 6/8/08). The public and promoters wanted to see Walker in action, preferably against the best in the world, and a match with Postle was the favourite talking point, but vigorously resisted by Nourse and the SAAA and CA (Star 31/10/08). Postle returned to South Africa, with his manager, Rufe Naylor, who realised that a match between the two sprinters would be very lucrative, and Walker was offered a match on the Rand for six hundred pounds, the winner to get three hundred and fifty pounds,



the loser two hundred and fifty pounds. Naylor was also prepared to stage the race in Sydney, all expenses paid. Walker said he would run if the SAAA and CA agreed, which of course they did not (Star 30/11/08). John Macnamara suggested that the two athletes should run at separate venues with electrical timing and Walker would receive a one hundred pounds gold trophy if he could run the 100 yards in 2 yards under evens (9.4/5 seconds), while Postle would receive a two hundred pounds trophy or purse if he could run 4 yards under evens (9.3/5 seconds) (Star 5/12/08). Walker agreed and stipulated that the event take place on Boxing Day under the control of the TAAA, and the Daily Mail should appoint the officials (Star 8/12/08). Macnamara announced that a committee of three, nominated by Walker, plus the sports editors of the S A Sporting Times, the Leader, the Star and the Rand Daily Mail would supervise the races and that latest clocks with 2 seconds per revolution would be used. If both athletes failed, one hundred pounds would be given to charity (Star 9/12/08).

Naylor was not too happy with the arrangements and wrote to the Star pointing out that there was no international athletic body, that the SAAA and CA was not bound by English Laws and that there was no reason why they should not race together, quoting 'Longboat' in Canada as precedent. He also said that Walker should turn professional and, anticipating developments some 75 years later, appealed for open athletics (Star 10/12/08). Platnauer wrote a long article in the Transvaal Leader (9/12/08) explaining why Walker could not meet Postle. All the publicity focused attention on the event and there was heightened interest when Walker, running in Durban, revealed he was in good form by running the 100 yards in 10.3/10 and the 120 yards in 12, into a headwind (Star 14/12/08).

Walker and his trainer, Brady, moved to Johannesburg and visited the Wanderers on 17 December to inspect the track and for starting practice. On the same day the Star announced that

another professional sprinter, B R Day, was also coming to South Africa (Star 17/12/08). On 22 December there were pictures of the two sprinters in the Star, the first ever of athletes to appear in the newspaper, and on Boxing Day, after all the publicity, the Wanderers was packed to see Walker perform. At 2.15 p.m. George Allsop started Walker in the first heat of the 100 yards, and he should have been recalled, as Raphaely, the check starter said, "he just slightly beat the starter without leaving his mark", but Walker, making full use of a slight following wind, spreadeagled the field to clock 9.2/5 seconds. In the final, after two false starts, he was only able to finish 4th (it was a handicap event) since he was left at the start. In the 120 yards there were also two false starts, then the field was got away cleanly and Walker won in 11.2/5 seconds, a world's best by 1/5th of a second (Star 26/12/08).

Postle was scheduled to run in the evening at the Powderhall Grounds, but after hearing Walker's times he withdrew, saying that he did not believe "anyone living could get the distance in 9.2/5 seconds", and that no man living could give him a yard and win (Star 28/12/08). Postle ran 70 yards in 7.1/16 seconds, which was claimed as 'world's record' (Star 28/12/08).

The outcome provoked much reaction. Macnamara wrote to the Star (29/12/08) and described the starting at Wanderers as "simply farcical", saying that the professional starter John O'Connell should have been used. O'Connell, who was watching Walker, was quoted as saying (Star 29/12/08):

From crack of pistol to break of tape no great fault could be found with the timing, but in the first heat of the 100 yards handicap, and in the final heat of the 120 yards, Mr Walker beat the pistol fully half a dozen yards in each occasion.

Macnamara also repeated his offer to Walker. 'Pneumatic' claimed that Walker had only gained a yard, and in another letter Postle disputed this, and again maintained that no man alive could run 9.2/5. He said: "However, it is ridiculous to think he would have any chance of conceding me 3 yards in the 100, which his Wanderers time indicates" (Star 30/12/08). James Cumming (formerly 'Umpire') said that Walker only gained 1-1.1/2 yards in the 100 and, the 120 yard start was perfectly fair. He appealed to Macnamara to stop tempting Walker to turn professional. Macnamara also had a letter in the same edition of the Star (31/12/08) saying he would pay for O'Connell to travel to Pretoria to start Walker on New Year's Day. A record crowd turned up in Pretoria, and Walker placed 2nd in his heat, easing up. He should not have run in the final as he was not the 2nd in the fastest heat. He was, however, allowed to run and won in 10.2/5 (100 metres), a world record. Once again, however, it was claimed he beat the gun (Star 2/1/09).

Interest in the relative merits of Walker and Postle was high, and it was obvious that the question could only be settled by a head-to-head race. This the SAAA and CA wanted to avoid, and as a prominent member and supporter of the national association, Platnauer continually wrote against Walker turning professional, and the evils of professionalism. On 3 February 1909 he reviewed the whole situation in the Transvaal Leader, pointing out that amateur athletics was a sport, professional athletics a business, and claiming that Naylor and Postle were only in South Africa because professional running was dead elsewhere in the world.

What Platnauer wrote was essentially true, and Naylor realised that whereas interest in professional athletics was waning in USA, England and Australia, it was high in South Africa. Professional athletes such as Day were travelling to South Africa, and large crowds could be attracted. Naylor formed a

professional athletic club, Johannesburg AC; in December 1908 with himself as managing director (Star 19/12/08). He acquired a piece of ground on the corner of Main and End Streets and announced he intended building an up-to-date Sports Ground, 'The Stadium'. It would have thousands of seats for spectators (a luxury unknown at that time); there would be brilliant illumination (Wanderers held their first sports under electric lights on 4 January 1909); and challenges would be sent all over the world. There would be a 120 yard cinder sprint track and a 7 laps to the mile circular track for running and cycling (Star 8/1/09). Professional athletics suddenly boomed, and a South African Athletic League was formed to control it. The entry fee was six pence per athlete; the secretary was Rufe Naylor; a council was formed; grounds were registered; and reciprocal agreements made with Australian State Leagues and the Lancashire Athletic League (Star 12/1/09). The Johannesburg AC was floated as a Limited Liability Syndicate, with shares available to the public, and Naylor housed the office in Moseley Buildings, President Street (Star 21/2/09; 23/2/09). Rain held up the construction of 'The Stadium' and the opening was delayed several times. It finally opened its doors on Saturday 13 February and over 5000 people attended. The access areas were overloaded, the track sodden, and O'Connell's starting suspect (Star 15/2/09), but there were a host of other features to bemuse the Johannesburg crowd: a 'judging machine' which "will decide every event on Saturday night to the smallest fraction of an inch" (Star 11/2/09); a coloured bulb over the lane of the winner; 45000 candle power of lighting; and an electroscope to project results and pictures on to a screen (Star 12/2/09). The crowds loved it. After three meetings it was decided to hold a marathon finishing at the Stadium, and 15000 people lined the section of road between Loveday Street and 'The Stadium' (Transvaal Leader 13/3/09). This event has been described in Chapter Thirteen.

Postle met Day on 20 March and defeated him over 220 yards in 23

seconds. A series of events followed in which both runners featured and, on 9 April a 50 yards race for ladies was held, G Evelyn winning in 6.9/10 seconds (Star 10/4/09) There was also wrestling and tug of war. Postle beat Day again over 440 yards (51.3/5) before 6000 spectators on 17 April, but the race was disappointing and Naylor realised he needed Walker to maintain public interest, so once again he tried to lure him into a meeting with Postle over 100 yards, offering a massive purse of fourteen hundred pounds, a record at that time. He claimed it "would be the greatest foot-race ever known" (Transvaal Leader 14/4/09). Walker would not be persuaded and with Duncker, he was sent off by the SAAA and CA to compete in Europe. At the SAAA and CA Annual General Meeting (Star 12/4/09) it was stated that "it would assist in keeping him in the amateur ranks." George Farrar contributed one hundred pounds towards the expenses and provided accommodation, the SAAA and CA contributed ninety-five pounds, and Nourse collected two hundred and twelve pounds. As the Friend put it, Nourse wanted Walker "out of the way" (27/4/09).

During the summer of 1908-1909 professional athletics made a big impact not only on Johannesburg, but throughout the world, and South Africa became the mecca for the world's leading sprinters. Writing in the Star (25/1/09) 'The Casual' said:

The correspondence in the papers has assumed proportions which indicate that the possibility of Postle meeting Walker is of much more importance to many people than the trouble about liquor licences and floods and mining disasters.

'The Casual' argued that Johannesburg had the two best sprinters in the world and they should meet without delay. He also commented on the success of professional athletics compared to amateur athletics:



Recent events have shown that active professionalism has roused the sleepy-headed pillars of amateurism in Johannesburg to a sense of their responsibilities. Their responsibilities are to provide us - I mean the sporting public - with good sport at shorter intervals than twelve months, to look to it that a very deserving section of sport is properly encouraged and fostered. It appears highly probably that something will be done in this matter very shortly. Healthy professional opposition demands that something must be done. There are already signs and tokens that sports meetings will figure in Wanderers programmes more frequently in the future. This is a revival which we directly owe to the professional agitation.

Postle and Walker take equal shares in the undoubted revival which has taken place generally. The arrival of Postle and the return of Walker from the Olympic Games have made both amateur and professional running a very strong factor in South African sport. (Star 1/2/09).

'The Casual' had certainly pin-pointed the problems facing athletics, and even Platnauer voiced similar criticisms, though he was opposed to professionalism:

The committee (Wanderers AA and CC) had really done absolutely nothing to promote general athletics, and he considered that it was a disgrace to the club that so little had been done. (Star 19/2/09).



Naylor retained public interest by arranging a second professional marathon in April 1909 (for details see Chapter Thirteen).

Postle sailed for Britain on the same ship as Walker and the close contact probably had an influence on deciding Walker to turn professional in 1910. Interest in professional athletics did not wane with the departure of Walker and Postle, since four new professionals arrived from Australia in May, and in July Hefferon decided to turn professional. The four new arrivals were: Pat Quinlan (cycling).; Ernest Terry (Tasmanian wood-chopper); George Tincler (former world professional mile champion); and Jack Donaldson (sprinter) (Star 19/5/09). Donaldson soon gained public acclaim by running the 100 yards in 9.3/5 seconds and the 220 yards in 22.1/2 seconds, both faster than the times Postle had recorded (Star 15/7/09). Later in the year Donaldson ran 400 yards in 44.3/5 seconds, 1/5th faster than the world professional record set by A R Downes in 1897. But without Walker and Postle to compete against, the public were less interested in Donaldson and more interested in Hefferon. In an interview, Hefferon stated that he had turned professional because he wanted to meet Dorando and Hayes, the two other main figures in the 1908 Olympic marathon drama, who had also become professionals. He also claimed that he had not been treated well as an amateur, and it had cost him a lot of money (Star 22/7/09).

Hefferon's first opponent was Norman Conway, reportedly unbeaten over a mile. The race, for four hundred pounds, took place at 'The Stadium' on 4 September and attracted 6000 people. Conway won in 4:37.1/2. A month earlier a 'Gala Carnival' with 6 hour team cycling, wood chopping, and other novelty events had attracted only small crowds (Star 2/8/09). Hefferon defeated Conway in a return match over 4 miles (20:42) in September (Star 27/9/09).

When news was received of the Anti-Betting Bill that would be introduced, Naylor resolved to hold as many events at 'The Stadium' as possible before the 'Black 15th', the day the Bill became law (Star 1/10/09; 15/10/09). Details of the Bill, the Horse-racing and Betting Restriction Act, were as follows:

1. Fewer horse-racing days.
2. Betting only at an approved site on the course on the day of the race.
3. Section 5(c): Betting on the result of any foot-race, or any shooting, running or boxing contest or prize fight is totally prohibited, with the narrow exception of races or contests which are got up ex tempore, i.e. when the date has not been fixed beforehand, and the place is not a place to which either the public or members have access.

This effectively stopped the betting on foot-races at 'The Stadium' and the professionals toured South Africa running at other towns (Star; Cape Times 11/1/10). 'The Stadium' changed to presenting whippet-racing and cinematographic films (Star 25/10/09) and it seemed professional athletics was finished in South Africa. Many athletes tried to regain their amateur status, and a sympathetic TAAA wrote to the English AAA for advice. Platnauer opposed reinstatement and said the SAAA and CA could not possibly consider it (Transvaal Leader 23/11/09).

Although the Anti-Betting Bill marked the beginning of the end of regular professional athletics because, without betting, the sport lost much of its attraction, there were still isolated events that drew large crowds. People were still interested in watching clashes between great performers. A third professional

marathon was held in November 1909 (Star 11/11/09) and the series of races between Hefferon and Tincler in Durban created much interest. Tincler beat Hefferon over a mile (4:25.3/5) on 13 November (Star 15/11/09), and over 2 miles (9:39) on 27 November, which beat Hefferon's amateur record by 12.1/5 seconds. Hefferon (9:41) was also well inside his record (Star 29/11/09). In Bloemfontein Tincler again beat Hefferon over 3 miles (15:41.4/5) (Star 6/12/09) and Hefferon at last managed a win when he beat Conway over 2 miles (9:51) at Kimberley (Star 3/1/10). Conway turned the tables on Hefferon in a 1.1/2 mile race at Cape Town, winning in 7:08, some 12 seconds inside Hefferon's amateur record (Star 11/1/10).

There were interesting aspects surrounding the professional athletic scene. Some athletes were suspended by Naylor (he could suspend for six months) and a group of professionals met at the Village Main Hotel and threatened to establish their own club and ground unless their grievances were met (Star 5/3/09). Tincler was not one of 'The Stadium' professionals and was not on good terms with Naylor, who had brought Conway to South Africa as his middle distance star. But Tincler's claims could not be ignored since he had toured the world for five years and was unbeaten off scratch (Latest 21/8/09). He was eventually given a race at 'The Stadium' but was so heavily handicapped he could not make an impression. For a while he was injured and, although, not fully recovered, he agreed to meet Conway in August. He was a clear winner but the race was awarded to Conway and the crowd and the bookmakers protested. Tincler helped pacify the crowd, and an amount double the prize money was collected and given to him (Latest 21/8/09).

When the Sheffield Handicaps began, the SAAA and CA tried to squash them by issuing a list of all athletes who competed to the provinces (Mercury 29/1/08). The Gambling Commission, whose investigations led to the Anti-Betting Bill, took evidence from

athletes (Witness 27/3/09), and one said he had been asked to run in 'leaded shoes' (Cape Times, April 1909).

When Hefferon turned professional, 'Qrius' said he had done it six months too late, and should have done so when the 'marathon craze' was at its height (Latest 24/7/09). Hefferon was reportedly offered ten thousand dollars to run in New York early in 1909 (Latest 19/3/09; 23/10/09) but at that stage preferred to remain an amateur. According to 'Qrius' (24/7/09) Hefferon made little money as a professional and received a poor deal from Naylor. Hefferon was actually advised by Tincler not to back himself when they met in Durban, and afterwards Hefferon thanked Tincler (Cape Argus 4/8/28). 'Qrius' attached the extravagant claims Naylor made for his professional athletes and the status of races at 'The Stadium' "to prevent the public being gulled by fictitious claims." He objected to the "burlesque advertising" and said that, while Naylor was a good promoter and manager, he had brought about his own downfall by trying to bluff the public, and this had led to the Betting Act, which was aimed directly at 'The Stadium' (Latest 12/2/10). 'Qrius' said his views were supported by The Sydney Referee (12/1/10) and The Sporting Life (London), which were quoted in the Latest (11/9/09).

Hefferon apparently agreed to meet Tincler in Durban because he was disillusioned with 'The Stadium' and refused a ten pounds a week retaining fee offered by Naylor (Latest 2/10/09). Naylor offered Tincler 50 guineas to take Hefferon's place against Conway (Latest 9/10/09) which he refused because of the earlier treatment he had received (Latest 9/10/09). Tincer later agreed to meet Conway but not at 'The Stadium'. Hefferon and Tincler were also involved in a dispute. In December 1909 Tincler agreed to meet Hefferon over four miles instead of taking a three weeks rest after his series of races, but he stopped and sat down. The gate money was refunded and Hefferon refused to race Tincler again (Latest 11/12/09; Cape Times 14/12/09).

H B Keartland came to South Africa towards the end of 1909 because of his interest in Reggie Walker, whom he had met in England, and became sports editor of the Natal Advertiser (personal interview). Keartland became Hefferon's manager and tried to arrange a match for him in England with C W Gardiner, winner of the 'Mail Marathon' (Cape Times 27/12/09), who had challenged Hefferon in The Sporting Life (Star 27/12/09). Hefferon left for England in April 1910, but before he left he ran in several other events. He raced against Conway at the Union Skating Rink, Cape Town, (which was managed by Tom Widdowson) and at the Royal Rink, Bloemfontein (Cape Times 13/1/10; Friend 20/1/10). He challenged the Australian walker, C Johansen, to walk 3.1/4 miles while he ran 5 miles, and lost by 175 yards, but ran a fast 25:25.1/5 (Cape Times 17/1/10). Hefferon was being trained by E R (Mick) Terry, and won his first professional marathon in Johannesburg against the English runner H Wilson (Star 14/3/10).

In spite of the ban on betting there were ~~four~~ more seasons of professional athletics in the summers of 1909-10, 1910-11, 1911-12 and 1912-13, with the focus very much on the sprinters. Interest flared up in December 1909 when it was learned that Charles Holway, Fred Davis (The Little Welsh marvel), Jack Donaldson (The Blue Streak) and Arthur Postle (The Crimson Flash) would all be arriving in January 1910. The Latest commented (18/12/09; 1/1/10) "...we shall have quite a plethora of pros in the country." Holway had beaten Postle in England in October. The pattern for the professional sprint group developed into competing in England from June to September and, in South Africa, from December to March. But before the series of races in South Africa in January 1910 there were protracted negotiations between Naylor, 'Mick' Terry (representing Donaldson), Duggand and Dyer. Naylor wanted one-third of the profits (Latest 15/1/10), and when he was sure that Duggan and Dyer could not hire Wanderers he



tried to dictate terms (Latest 22/1/10). Terms acceptable to all were finally agreed to, guaranteeing two hundred pounds to each runner, with an extra one hundred and fifty pounds (The Star said the winner would received six hundred pounds (18/1/10)) to the winner, or 66% of the profits if these exceeded one hundred and fifty pounds. 'Qrius' attacked the Wanderers committee for enabling Naylor to stage the match at 'The Stadium' (Latest 22/1/10).

'The Stadium' starter, Jack O'Connell (Queensland) trained Postle at La Rochelle; Holway, the American, trained at Turffontein under Harry Duggan and Fred Davies; Donaldson was with Terry, the woodchopper, at 'The Stadium' (Star 27/1/10). There was dissatisfaction when it was announced that Postle's trainer, O'Connell, would be starter for the big clash between the three sprinters and both Naylor and Macnamara wrote letters to the press (Star 31/1/10). The 100 yards race was held on 12 February at the end of a week of intensive publicity. Donaldson won with a tremendous finish in 9.3/8 seconds, a result that surprised 'Qrius' (Latest 19/2/10). 'Qrius' attacked the timing in sixteenths, saying it was unnecessary, and that it was also impossible (Latest 19/2/10).

Writing in the Star (14/2/10), John Stuart wrote this description of the scene and the event:

The Stadium is a dismal place at the best of times. It rather reminds one of a gaunt and dreary drawing by Mr Sidney Sime, who has a subtle and deliberate way of representing the landscape of the lower regions. You descend into a pit, with gaunt brown walls, illuminated by the sallow light of about a dozen arc lamps, which on Saturday night shone with a dull pallor through the heavy mist.



There is a rough unfinished look about the place that increases the sense of desolation; and the height and indistinctness of the lights magnify the sense of distance to such an extent that the competitors at the remote end of the track seem impishly small. But the multitude that throngs the stands and the higher levels is almost inordinately alive; a large, well-to-do, well-behaved crowd, full of interest and even of enthusiasm, brimming over with unaffected and unconcealed enjoyment - men and women, boys and girls, even children, all out for the night's amusement and not a sad or sorry face among them. There were over 9000 people there on Saturday night, and they all seemed to know the ropes.

The Kaffirs who had been assiduously sawdusting and sweeping the track, which was the only dry part of that soggy arena, were ordered off; and a curious hush fell over the spectators. The three competitors lined up, the starter and the check-starters behind them. Postle, in the well-known crimson had the south side. In the centre was Holway, in white, with the Bird of Freedom and the Stars and Stripes on his chest. Donaldson wore a light blue with a huge white 'A' in front of the costume.

The scene that followed the race beggars description. The arena which had been flooded with water was then flooded with people. (John Stuart, Star 14/2/10).

Naylor later offered Walker, who was in England, but not running well because of illness, seven hundred pounds to meet Donaldson, and the possibility of the world's best professionals meeting the reigning Olympic champion looked likely when Walker, after finishing second to Ramsdell at the English AAA Championships, admitted he was considering turning professional as the split in the amateur ranks in England had made many athletes do likewise (Star 1/3/10; Latest 25/6/10; 2/7/10; 16/7/10; Lovesey 1979, p. 62).

Donaldson should have left for England with Hefferon and Terry in April but a match was arranged between him and Postle at Durban on 23 April, by W G Pearse, owner of the Phoenix Hotel. Donaldson won the 50 yards, and Postle pulled up in the 70 yards with a leg injury. It seemed a common dodge of professionals to feign injury if they thought they were being beaten. Donaldson then ran an exhibition 100 against Terry, off 8.1/2 yards, and won in 9.1/5 seconds. 'Qrius', in a long and involved argument managed to convince himself that this was not worth more than 9.4/5 (Latest 30/4/10). Postle said he would stay in Durban and open a business, while Tincler, who ran an exhibition mile as part of the proceedings, had already become involved in the local community.

Tincler was born in Dublin and educated at Bromley College, Kent, and St John's College, Sussex. He was not just a performing oaf (Latest 23/4/10). He assisted the Landers brothers with their training and was appointed Durban AC coach in March 1910 (Latest 26/3/10). In June he visited Powderhall (Scotland) (Latest 7/5/10) and continued coaching when he returned (Latest 27/8/10). Tincler wrote a series of articles about his experiences in professional athletics in the Cape Argus in 1928 (4/8/28).

Donaldson and Postle met at Cape Town on 9 May, after two postponements, and only a handful of spectators watched. Donaldson won the 50 and 70 yards events and the 60 yards was

cancelled, Postle again claiming to be injured (Cape Times 10/5/10). Most of the professionals then left for the English summer season. The events in England set the stage for a boom in professional athletics in South Africa in the 1910-11 summer. Although Walker lost to Ramsdell in the AAA Championships, he actually defeated him on three other occasions, and said he ran badly because blood-poisoning delayed his preparation for the championships. Hefferon had mixed fortunes. He was unable to train properly for a 15 mile race with Gardiner at Ibrox Park, Glasgow, in July, because his wife was ill, and he was badly beaten. He also recovered his form, beating Gardiner over 4 miles (22:15) for twenty-five pounds in London, and went on to win the English Professional 10 miles Championship in 59:28.1/2 at Newbury, beating Gardiner by a foot (Latest 16/7/10; Star 28/7/10; Friend 16/8/10; Pretoria News 16/8/10). Holway defeated Donaldson at Pontypridd, Wales (Star 2/8/10).

The announcement in September 1910 that Walker had turned professional, and that Keartland, his manager, was leaving for Johannesburg to arrange a match with Donaldson once again created excitement in South Africa (Star 15/9/10). Excitement mounted as it was learned that Postle and Holway were also coming (Latest 17/9/10), and that Keartland was also bringing Gardiner (Latest 17/9/10) 'Qrius' said (Latest 1/10/10) that "a mighty boom" was approaching South Africa." 'The Stadium' reopened and began staging regular meetings again (Transvaal Leader 19/9/10) and 'Hobo' in the Pretoria News (12/10/10) said: "All indications point to a phenomenal revival of professional running in this country."

As it happened, not all the stars could compete. Conway had a heart attack and Tincler was still banned from 'The Stadium'. In February 1911 he wrote a letter appealing for permission to compete again (Transvaal Leader 10/2/11).

The Walker vs Donaldson clash, so long awaited, took place on Christmas Day 1910, billed as the "100 yards world championship." Unfortunately, the race was a fiasco since Walker fell at 60 yards and left the ground limping. Donaldson clocked 9.5/8 seconds. It was later revealed that Walker had broken down in training three days earlier, and an investigation was called for (Star 31/12/10). Naylor announced that he had nothing to do with the race and that he had only hired out 'The Stadium' (Star 31/12/10). The investigation found out that Terry had signed an agreement with Walker in September, committing Walker to run two races at tracks selected by Terry, the second race within three months of the first. Walker could not appear elsewhere until after the two races, so despite a groin injury, Walker was committed (Star 28/12/10). When Walker was at Durban he trained at Lords, and when he moved to Johannesburg, at Turffontein under O'Connell. Telegrams on Walker's progress were posted at the Phoenix Hotel and Theatre Royal in Durban and a special train at three pounds return fare travelled from Durban (Latest 17/12/10). The result of the race was posted up immediately and was a great disappointment to Walker's Durban admirers. The second race between Walker and Donaldson was cancelled and Walker left for a long period of recuperation at the Clarence farm near Kokstad (Latest 21/1/11) (See also the Friend 31/12/10). 'Qrius' had continually stated that Walker was not in good form after his illness earlier in the year and his indifferent form in the English summer season. He said the criticism Walker experienced when he turned professional added to the strain. In the event he was proved correct.

Donaldson, on the other hand, was obviously in excellent form and at Kimberley on 21 January 1911 he ran 150 yards in a world's best 14 seconds, beating the 14.1/2 seconds by the great British professional sprinter, Harry Hutchins in 1887 (Star 23//1/11). Wilson and Conway also competed. Harold Wilson (not the same Wilson that won 'The Stadium' marathons in 1909 Star 19/3/09))

had won the English AAA mile championship in 1908 (4:20.1/5) and finished second in the 1500 metres at the London Olympics. At Kimberley, Conway beat Wilson over 1000 yards in 2:24.3/5, although Wilson had won a mile just before Christmas. Attention then shifted to a clash between Postle and Taylor at Durban in February 1911, promoted by Guy Pearse and Alex Ballantine. An aggressive advertising campaign in the newspapers and bioscopes, and the liberal use of posters and handbills ensured a large crowd, which saw Postle win the 75 and 100 yards, and Taylor the 120 yards. Many of the professionals then left for Australia and, according to Terry and Donaldson, interviewed by Tom Widdowson, professional athletics was over in South Africa (Latest 4/2/11). Postle contracted to meet Holway in Australia and Taylor also decided to go. Long reports appeared in the Latest on the professional races in Australia. Walker returned to Durban from Clarence in June, but all the professionals had gone. Holway beat Postle and Taylor before 20 000 spectators in Australia (Donaldson was injured) (Latest 5/8/11), but in September, Donaldson beat Holway over 130 yards in a 'world record' 12 seconds (Latest 30/9/11) and then defeated Postle in Melbourne (Latest 18/11/11).

Walker, without success as a professional, issued challenges which nobody accepted, and he was reduced to running time-trials at Lords (Latest 28/10/11; 18/11/11). On 25 November he ran 110 yards in 10.2/5 seconds at a cricket match, a world's best (Latest 25/11/11), and then like Tincler, turned his hand to coaching. He helped Cliff Sulin with the approval of the SAAA and CA (Latest 20/1/12). Tincler moved to Johannesburg in March 1911 and also found himself without opponents. He ran at 'The Stadium' in March, and was reported to be assisting Gitsham and Harmse (Latest 11/3/11). 'The Stadium' stopped staging events in March 1911 and returned to whippet-racing (Star 18/3/11). Hefferon moved from England to America and in September was beaten by Tom Longboat in Toronto (Friend September 1911). 1911 was a quiet



year for athletics in South Africa, both amateur and professional, and did not live up to the forecasts at the end of 1910. 'Qrius' was so worried about the general state of athletics that he advocated the holding of professional and amateur races on the same programme, as was done in Australia (Latest 21/10/11). The SAAA and CA set up a committee to consider ways of preventing successful Olympic athletes from turning professional (Star 21/9/11), and suspended Vincent Duncker for selling his Olympic medal (Latest 20/5/11).

1912 was very different. The successes of the South Africans at the Olympic Games and of Reggie Walker in Europe ensured an exciting year. It began in February when Holway announced he had agreed to meet Walker in March at Lords, Durban (Latest 3/2/12). Walker said he planned to run some races in South Africa to earn money, and then travel to England to redeem himself (Latest 13/1/12). Four thousand spectators came to Lords and were rewarded by seeing a revitalised Walker win the 75 yards by 3 yards in 7.1/0 seconds, a world's best, and then win the 100 yards easily in 9.3/5 seconds. In both races Holway was away first (Friend 4/3/12; Latest 9/3/12). The stake was two hundred pounds (Star 16/1/12). Walker was obviously back in top form and announced he was ready for England. He first moved to the Rand, with Keartland, to attempt world records to silence his critics - and no doubt to improve his market value in England (Star 8/3/12). On 9 March, in bad conditions, he ran 90 yards in 8.4/5 (Star 11/3/12), beating Donaldson's ground record at 'The Stadium' (Friend 11/3/12). He also ran short sprints on boards over the ice at the Niagara Ice Rink: 2:2.4/5; 35:4; 40:4.2/5, equalling the world records (Friend 17/3/12). Back in Durban Walker again beat Holway over 100 and 130 yards (Latest 23/3/12), and on 4 April again ran short sprints, at Pietermaritzburg Ice Rink: 20:2.4/5; 35:4; 40:4.1/5, the latter a new world record. He spent a week on the farm of his friend, L C Clarence, at Kokstad, then sailed for England. Meanwhile his manager,



Kearland, had been successful in his application to be trainer to the S A Olympic team, and it was agreed that Walker could join and train with the athletes (Star 8/3/12). He joined them in England (Cape Times 25/3/12). Postle arrived in Durban on his way to Britain where he hoped to meet Walker, Cartmell, Donaldson, Ramsdell and Holway (Latest 25/3/12). Meanwhile, Hefferon was still in Canada and not faring well. He wrote a letter to the Friend asking the Bloemfontein public to subscribe fifty pounds which he needed to meet Longboat, whom he had beaten in London and Toronto (Friend 1/6/12). It was later learned that he had injured a kidney in a fall, but wanted to meet McArthur in one last race (Friend ?/9/12). 'Qrius' had told Hefferon there was no point in coming to South Africa while the Olympics were on and until the spring professionals returned. There were no reports of Hefferon ever returning to South Africa, and the last mention of him was by Tincler (Cape Argus 4/8/28) who said he saw Hefferon at the Powderhall Marathon in the war (1914-18) and he was "as fat as a barrel" and back in the army, a Sergeant Major in the Canadian infantry.

Walker opened his English campaign with a 130 yards in 12.1/5 at Pontypridd in late May, which was described by Sporting Life as "The best performance ever seen on the Pontypridd track" (Latest 15/6/12). Walker challenged Donaldson, but he refused, saying he needed to recover from his sea voyage. Walker had waited eighteen months, he could afford to wait a little longer (Latest 15/6/12). Walker scored a double victory at Manchester before 10 000 people over 120 and 130 yards (off 1 and 2 yards) beating Postle and Donaldson (Star 31/8/12). This vindicated him, and 'Strephon', the Manchester sports-writer, admitted he had been wrong about Walker (Latest 24/8/12). Interest in England was building up for the 'World 100 yards Championship' between Walker, Donaldson and Postle, but at the Taff Vale Handicap, Walker fell in the final after winning his heat of the 130 yards in 12.3/5. Postle and Donaldson won their heats in 12.4/5 but did not contest the final

(Latest 24/8/12). The 100 yards Championship was held at Salford Football Grounds on 7 September before 6 000 spectators, and arrangements were made to post results at various venues in Durban, such as the Theatre Royal, Phoenix Saloon, Tatersall's Bar and the Hall by the Sea. Donaldson won from Walker with Postle third. The prizes were two hundred and seventy-five pounds, one hundred and twenty-five pounds and one hundred pounds. Time: 9.3/4. Keartland felt that Walker's fall might have affected his performance (Latest 14/9/12; 21/9/12). Donaldson beat Walker easily again at Pontypridd in October, and Walker was apparently past his peak (Latest 12/10/12). 'Qrius' had earlier warned Walker that this would happen as he was overdoing it: "The policy of traipsing all over England from one professional gathering to another is not conducive to steadiness in sprint form." He also said that Walker's start needed revising, and his 'purlers' were getting distressingly frequent (Latest 5/10/12). Walker himself explained that he was in top form for ten weeks, and Terry kept postponing the match with Donaldson, so when they met Donaldson was at peak and Walker was not. Doctors had advised him not to run after his fall but he decided to risk it as he had waited two years to meet Donaldson and he would forfeit one hundred pounds if he withdrew (Latest 9/11/12).

Postle wrote to 'Qrius' saying he intended to meet Walker in a scratch 100 yards on the Rand. Postle was then 30 years old and he had tried unsuccessfully to meet Walker for the last five years. He regarded himself and Walker as the two fastest men in the world over 100 yards (Latest 5/10/12). Once again there was tremendous publicity, and on 16 December Walker beat Postle after the event had been postponed by heavy rain (Latest 21/12/12). The Mercury/Latest office in Durban was besieged by callers up to 11 p.m. on the 14th when it was supposed to have been run (Latest 14/12/12). In a second encounter Postle beat Walker in two races but in the third (75 yards) Walker won in a world's best 7.1/5 seconds (Latest 4/1/13). Postle again beat Walker over 50 and 60

yards in January before a poor crowd (Latest 11/1/13). Walker spent much of 1913 touring the Cape Province and giving exhibition sprints (Latest 18/1/13; 21/6/13).

Tincler was also back in action in 1912 and in November beat Ted Dunk twice at Lords, and then lost to Harold Wilson (Latest 30/11/12; 11/1/13). Professional athletics in South Africa was then virtually over. Speaking at a meeting of the TAAA, Otto Schuller said, "Professional meetings are as dead as that ancient bird the dodo" (Star 24/2/13). Later in the year, Tindler wrote, in a letter to the Chronicle, England (Latest 11/10/13):

The game is played out there. One thing might have saved pedestrianism in South Africa - the winning by R E Walker of a championship; but he was never able to beat Donaldson on level terms.

The final professional event was a match between H Hedemann (Australian) and H Wilson for the 'world professional mile championship'. Hedemann had beaten Hans Holmer in England. The race was held in Durban on 28 February and won by Hedemann in 4:39.1/5 (Latest 7/3/14).

The Wanderers Club finally voted to allow professionals to hold sports at their grounds in 1914 but it was too late (Latest 28/9/14). Patching, the leading South African amateur sprinter (AAA 100 yards champion in 1912 with a meeting record), turned professional in September, but by then the war had begun and the match with Walker fell through, since Walker volunteered for the army and was sent to South West Africa.

An attempt was made to revive professional athletics in Pretoria after the First World War but it was unsuccessful (Pretoria News 7/4/20; ?/3/1921).

## PROFESSIONAL WALKING

There is one other aspect of professionalism that deserves further attention; professional walking and the exploits of John S Mellet, whose performances have already been referred to in Chapter Nine. Born in Winburg, Orange Free State, in 1864, Mellet stood 5ft. 8ins. tall (1,75m), weighed 150 lbs (68kgs), and for over twenty years dominated the walking scene in South Africa. He was a professional walker, but the authorities did not appear to object to his meeting amateur walkers, who usually competed against him as a relay team. He certainly became more widely known and popular than the amateur champion of the period, L Thornton. Mellet made two successful appearances overseas, in 1897 and 1901.

According to Wallace (in Swaffer, 1914, p. 97), Mellet's first appearance was in a track race at Kimberley in 1881. In 1884 the Diamond Field News reported (3/11/84) that he was second to H W Brown in a 2 miles walk, and a 1 hour walk. From that point on, Brown moved towards amateur athletics, but in 1887 Mellet firmly stepped into the professional arena when he beat Walshe and Campbell over 3 miles at Kimberley in a race with large stakes involved. The Diamond Field News (8/8/87) sagely commented that he "shows signs of future promise."

In December 1889 Mellet moved to Johannesburg to meet Hancock and Barrow, the English professional walkers. Many of the professional walkers who had been active in Kimberley, moved to Johannesburg hoping for better pickings, and Mellet followed them. Professional walking in Johannesburg became popular for about six months.

On 19 September 1889, J J Barrow, known as 'Roaming Joe', issued a challenge to any man in South Africa to meet him in a six days

'go-as-you-please' event, or in a walking contest for the championship of South Africa, for a five hundred pounds stake (Star 19/9/89). Barrow was from Liverpool and six day events were popular in England at that time (Lovesey 1970). Arthur Hancock, who had been active in Kimberley, accepted the challenge, and agreed to walk six hours a day for six days for five hundred pounds a side (Star 3/10/80). The stake was eventually reduced to two hundred pounds, and the money was held by the sports editor of the Star (Star 9/10/89). The conditions were: the event to take place in an enclosed building or tent; no attendant to accompany either competitor for more than 50 yards at a time; the referee to have full power to disqualify either man for foul play or unfair walking; the match to begin at 6 p.m. on Monday 28 October 1889, finishing each evening at midnight. The object was to see who could walk the further. The Star reported the training progress of both men (15/10/89; 21/10/89; 24/10/89; 25/10/89) and betting before the event began was even. Barrow, who had covered 600 miles in 6 days in England, showed good form in 30-40 mile training spins, and one week walked three hours a night for six nights covering 16 miles on his best evening (Star 25/10/89). Hancock also looked good in training (Star 15/10/89). The Star was heavily involved in the organisation and announced the race thus (21/10/89):

The contest will be one of the finest ever witnessed in South Africa, for the committee are preparing an excellent track.

For those who might become bored, wrestling bouts were arranged and a band hired. The entrance fees were set at five shillings and two shillings (Star 21/10/89).

When the contest began the prize money had been raised to four hundred pounds (Star 21/10/89). The track was 16 laps to the mile (110 yards) in a large tent, and on the first day Hancock walked



the full six hours with "a quick, jerky gait", covering 31 miles. Barrow retired at 11.40 p.m. having covered 29 miles and 7 laps. The Star gave full details of the progress of each man (29/10/89). Hancock still lead after the second day, but on the third day Barrow, "amid considerable cheers" and walking more freely than his opponent, overhauled him and reduced Hancock's overall lead to a mere 6.1/4 laps (Star 31/10/89). Both started well on the fourth day, with a lap of 42 seconds (about 6 mph). Hancock completed 100 miles at 8.46 p.m. and Barrow at 8.51 p.m. and then Hancock spurted "in a most brilliant fashion and gained a lap" (Star 1/11/89). On the fifth day, however, Hancock failed to appear because of a blister on his foot, and Barrow won the event (Star 5/11/89). Barrow challenged Hancock to a race from Johannesburg to Pretoria and back in a day, for one thousand pounds and Mellet appeared on the scene, challenging Hancock and Barrow. The Star was full of challenges (22/11/89). Barrow, Mellet and Jenkins met in a three hours race at Wanderers on 1 December, Mellet winning with 68.2/3 laps (a lap was 409 yards) (Star 2/12/89).

Mellet then met Hancock at Wanderers in a 25 miles race with Mellet receiving a 1.1/2 miles start. A tremendous dust storm arose and the public, unable to see, burst through the barriers and blocked the track, so the walkers could not finish. As there were only 100 yards to go and Hancock was ahead, he was declared the winner. Mellet immediately challenged him to a rematch (Star 28/12/89).

The venue for the next race, also over 25 miles, was Fillis' Circus Tent, Hancock again conceding 1.1/2 miles start to Mellet, for a stake of two hundred pounds (Star 9/1/90). Two courses were laid out, an inner and an outer lap. Mellet had to walk 559 laps of the inner course of 68 yards, whilst Hancock had to walk 647 laps of the 74 yards course. Mellet won the event, but as the



Star remarked, despite a telegraph board indicating the laps, "It was impossible to tell the exact relationship between the walkers" (Star 13/1/90). The two walkers met again over 25 miles on 18 January, in a scratch race, Mellet in the outer lap. Mellet kept pace with Hancock for 10 miles, gaining 6 yards a lap, but then fell back. He spurred at the finish again and won by 600 yards. The Star remarked: "Mellet is now South African Champion" (20/1/90). According to the Star, Mellet, who defeated a team of 9 amateurs in Pretoria in December 1889 (Pretoria News 16/12/89), had been sent by President Reitz to try his fortune against the Transvaal professional walkers (Star 20/1/90). The walkers moved back to Kimberley and did not return again to Johannesburg (Star 3/3/90).

The professional walkers first appeared in Kimberley in 1889, then moved to Johannesburg, returning again to Kimberley in 1890. In September 1889 Hancock beat John Sutherland (Daily Independent 9/9/88) and in February 1890, Barrow beat Walshe (Diamond Field News 3/2/90). Mellet defeated Hancock again at Kimberley in March in a race described as the South African Championship (Diamond Field News 1/3/90; Star 3/3/90). The foreign professional walkers were not mentioned again and probably returned to England.

Mellet first appeared in Bloemfontein at celebrations to mark the arrival of the railway in 1890. Sports were held to celebrate the occasion, at the end of which Mellet met and defeated a relay team of eight local walkers, each of whom walked a mile. Mellet's time for the 8 miles was 1:16:55.3/5 (Friend 23/12/90). In 1891 he raced an English professional runner, J Fisher, over 10 miles, receiving 15 minutes start and was caught at 7.1/2 miles (Friend 29/5/91). Walshe was back in South Africa in 1891 and lost twice to Mellet, first in a 10 miles race (Friend 7/8/91), then over 8 miles for fifty pounds, which was billed as an S A Championship. The latter event was somewhat of a fiasco and had to be abandoned

(Friend 6/10/91). Mellet was warned for interfering with an amateur event in 1891 (Friend 6/11/91). He performed regularly in Bloemfontein in 1892 and was very popular (Friend June 1892). He visited Grahamstown and was "loudly cheered" when he beat a team of local walkers (Grahamstown Journal 17/9; 24/9; 27/9/92). He moved on to Kimberley for the Exhibition, appearing several times in events.

At Bloemfontein in March 1893 Mellet defeated Mayhem for the 'S A 1 mile Walking Championship' before a huge crowd, and repeated the win twice more to win the medal outright (Friend 31/3/93). In a match against Britz in May, both were neck and neck at 2.3/4 miles, and both trotted in the last lap, so both were disqualified. The huge crowd invaded the pitch and it was agreed to hold the event again (Friend 19/5/93). In the re-match, over 3 miles for forty pounds, the largest crowd ever turned up, over 1000 people, including President Reitz. Britz won by 15 yards (Friend 16.6.93). A third match was arranged because Britz's walking was criticised, but that race was also unsatisfactory since the crowd again got out of order and invaded the track when Britz was disqualified (Friend 10/11/93). Mellet beat du Plessis for forty pounds in January 1894 and then said he would accept no more challenges (Friend 12/1/94).

In November 1895 Mellet appeared in Durban. He earned seven pounds by walking 9 miles before a small crowd in 1:21:13.2/5, claimed as "a new record" (Witness 23/11/95). Back in Bloemfontein, he was invited to walk at the sports held in honour of the swearing in of President M T Steyn. He met a relay team of 9 walkers, two of whom beat him (6/3/96). He was then challenged by the Australian, Baker, to a 24 hours walk, 4 hours a day for 6 days, for a wager between two hundred pounds and five hundred pounds at the Wanderers (Friend 18/8/96). This event attracted much attention, the Friend giving final details in a long column on the leader page (Friend 25/9/96). The match finally agreed to

was 25 miles a day for 3 days for two hundred pounds, plus a fifty pounds cup presented by Lavine and Sons (Star 1/10/96). Baker was by then 53 years old, and had won over 100 races. The Star (2/10/96; 3/10/96) and the Friend (2/10/96; 3/10/96) both carried detailed reports. Mellet led by 100 yards at the end of the first day and 880 yards by the end of the second. Baker forced the pace and came back to lead by 10 yards at the eleventh mile of the third day, but was then attacked by cramp and retired. Mellet went on tour and walked at Pretoria, Krugersdorp and Heidelberg, giving exhibitions. He returned to Bloemfontein and on 24 October walked an exhibition 9 miles before a large crowd that included the Volksraad, with all his prizes on view, including the fifty pounds cup (Friend 27/10/96).

Baker challenged Mellet again, and before the race, Mellet went to Pietermaritzburg and beat a 9 man team over 9 miles in 1:24:14 (Friend 27/11/96; Witness 16/11/96), which was claimed as a record. (Yet he had walked 1:21:13.2/5 in Durban the year before.) The SAAA and CA at last became interested in Mellet and wrote to Pietermaritzburg asking for the names of the amateurs who walked against him (Witness 23/12/96). The re-match with Baker was in Johannesburg on 2 December over 15 miles for one hundred pounds. Baker received 1 000 yards start but Mellet caught him at 11.1/2 miles and Baker withdrew. Mellet's time was 2:15:12 (Friend 13/11/96; 4/12/96). Baker challenged Mellet a third time but lost again in Bloemfontein on 12 December (Friend 15/12/96).

Mellet decided to try his luck in England in 1897 and before he embarked, he walked at Paarl and Newlands (Cape Times 18/1/97). Tyler queried the amateur status of his opponents and Mellet explained that no action had been taken against his "relay team" competitors because they did not walk against him, but against each other. He acted as a pacemaker and a prize was given to the one who walked the fastest mile (Cape Times 16/1/97). When he

arrived in England he issued challenges in the Sporting Life which were answered by Holland and Griffin (Friend 15/6/97). He beat Griffin over 25 miles for twenty-five pounds in July, attended by the great British professional sprinter, Harry Hutchens. Mellet lost a shoe and dropped back at the 12 miles mark, and lost more ground when he stopped for a drink at 18 miles, but that may well have won him the race, as Griffin retired at 20.1/4 miles. Several supporters from Johannesburg were there, and one gave Mellet fifty pounds, another a ten pounds seat for the Jubilee (Friend 20/7/97). Mellet brought about a revival of interest in professional walking in England, and two of the leading English amateurs, Fenton and Pearce, turned professional in order to meet him. Mellet beat Pearce over a mile in August, but lost to Fenton after giving him 200 yards start in a 5 miles race in July (Friend 3/8/97; 17/8/97). Mellet won a 15 miles race at Preston Park, Brighton, in September (Friend 18/9/97), and then beat Dave Fenton over 15 miles in an event described as the World Professional Championship (Star 6/10/97; Friend 12/10/97). This was at Catford for one hundred pounds. Mellet left for South Africa and the Sporting Life paid him this tribute (Star 25/10/97):

He is the finest exponent of long distance walking (excepting Joe Scott, the Australian champion) that ever visited England.

On his return, Mellet was interviewed and said that professional walking had become unpopular in England because of the cheating. He accused Fenton of cheating and not paying him the one hundred pounds stake. His trip had cost him four hundred and fifty pounds and all he had gained was a cup valued at twenty-five pounds and some stake money, so he was broke. However, he was "Champion of the World" and nobody had accepted his challenge to walk 3 hours for one thousand pounds (Friend 5/11/97).

Mellet came out of semi-retirement again after the Anglo-Boer War in August 1901. There was a long preview in the Friend, and his appearance in conjunction with a soccer match at Ramblers was like 'Derby Day' with over 2 000 spectators there to see him take on the usual eight man team. The event marked the revival of athletics after the war. Mellet lost to the last three opponents (Friend 1/8/01), but showed he was regaining his form when he gave the Englishman, A J Russsell a 200 yards start over 10 miles and won by 50 yards in 1:29:51.1/2 (Friend 29/8/01). Mellet defeated Russell again in October and reduced his time to 1:10:57.2/5 (Friend 14/10/01).

An unpleasant incident occurred soon afterwards when one of the walkers who had beaten Mellet in the eight man relay in August complained that the cup awarded to him by Mellet was one that Mellet had won at Port Elizabeth in 1889 (not reported in the E P Herald) and a shield had been soldered on. It was not the 25 guinea trophy promised. Mellet said he had explained that he could not obtain a cup in town and offered to buy one. Six other walkers wrote in supporting the complaint (Friend 26/10/01).

Mellet went overseas again at the end of 1901 but there were no reports of his races and copies of the Friend from January to July 1902 were unavailable. Mellet had retired when the 'Walking Craze' arrived in 1903.

Interviewed by the Natal Witness in 1896 (18/11/96), Mellet attributed his success to quiet living and regular training, and said he was always fit, walking one or two hours daily. He was a non-smoker, and did not believe in drinking during an event because it made him sweat. He kept a dried peach in his mouth when racing.



## CHAPTER SIXTEEN

## MINORITY GROUPS

It is clearly evident that up to the First World War athletics in South Africa was a sport confined mainly to white, English-speaking male adults, and the main activities were running, hurdling, jumping and throwing. In this chapter the focus of attention will fall on women, blacks, juniors, Dutch-speaking athletes (Afrikaners) and the amateur walkers.

## WOMEN

Pole vault, triple jump, hammer and steeplechase are not considered suitable events for women, and it is only in recent times that middle and long distance running have been introduced. The professionals of Edwardian times, such as Walker and Hefferon, would never have believed the sums of money earned by women athletes today, such as the sum paid to Zola Budd to appear against Mary Slaney in a 3000 metres race.

The period under study was still male-dominated and the emancipation of women had hardly begun. Society did not encourage women to take part in physical recreation and there were strong fears that physical exercise and sport would interfere with femininity and child-bearing capabilities.

According to Pallett (1955, p. 11) the bible recorded no athletic women, but Greek mythology did, in the form of Atalanta, who vowed only to marry a suitor who could defeat her in a foot race. Her name was given to the athletic club for women formed by E P Dimbleby at Port Elizabeth in 1929.



Women were excluded from the ancient Greek Olympic Games, and held their own meetings but, according to Harris (1964), information about them is scanty. There is evidence that in the first century A D there were well-established athletic meetings for women, and that in Sparta women athletes performed naked before men, a practice foreign to the Athenians. According to Harris, a Greek man kept his public and his private life well apart, and women were very much in his private life. It would appear that the situation was similar in the period under study, although women were encouraged to watch. The clothes worn by women in Victorian and Edwardian times also effectively prevented athletic activity. Pallett (1955) said that athletics was included in the activities of girls' schools in the United States before 1914, "but it took the holocaust of the 1914-1918 war to introduce women's athletics into Europe" (p. 16).

Dobbs (1973, p. 178) claims that when the women's suffrage movement had failed with every democratic attempt to get its voice heard, it was sport which had to bear the brunt of the suffragettes move towards militancy and violence. There are obvious parallels to be drawn there with the black's struggle for political rights in South Africa.

Brailsford (1969) notes that women frequently took part in the seasonal rural sports in England in the Middle Ages: "The usual prize was a smock, which at the Cotswold Games, as at many others, was displayed on a tall pole before the event" (p. 113). The Puritans, however, tried to suppress such activities, and Brailsford said that Richard Graves, a Wesleyan writer, criticised smock races because the competitors "exhibit themselves before the whole assembly in a dress hardly reconcilable with the rules of decency" (Whitfield 1962 in Brailsford 1969, p. 240).

The Dutch settlers in South Africa were Calvinists, and the Huguenot refugees reinforced Puritan attitudes in the Cape (Davenport 1978, p. 19). The nineteenth century British settlers brought with them their Victorian values and concepts and it is, therefore, not surprising that athletics for women was not popular in South Africa before World War One. In 1914 the Uitenhage Times (20/6/14) noted that, "The Athletic Girl" was a topic of debate and commented:

Is the modern athletic girl a satisfactory organism from either the eugenic or social point of view. It is a question which interests us in South Africa as deeply as it does the people of European countries: the more so because in our own freer and sunnier climate, the present-day girl is even more addicted to open air sports and exercises.

The first newspaper report of a race for girls was at Somerset West Strand in 1892. A ladies 75 yards flat race was held at a meeting on 12 March and won by Kitty du Toit (Cape Times 15/3/92). The following week the Cape Times (22/3/92) remarked: "Sports are taking place every week at Somerset West Strand, ladies taking part." Kitty du Toit again won the 100 yards.

The Wanderers included races for girls at Juvenile Sports in April 1892, but only one girl entered (Star 2/4/92). Races of 100 yards and 150 yards for girls were held at the Diamond Jubilee Sports at the Union Ground, Port Elizabeth in 1897 (E P Herald ?/6/97) and in Cape Town a Ladies Sports was held in May. Most of the events were, however, cycling (Cape Times 11/5/97). Cycling for women did not arouse opposition, and it became a very popular activity for them. The only other report of athletics for women in the nineteenth century was a 75 yards sprint for ladies at Boksburg

in 1899, which the Star (15/12/98) described as "somewhat unorthodox." Two races were held, won by Miss Hicks and Miss Trollope (Star 3/1/99).

Athletics for women became more popular after the Anglo-Boer War. A Ladies Section of the Gymnastic and Athletic Club was formed at King William's Town in 1903 (Cape Mercury 5/3/03) and the 'Walking Craze' (see Chapter Thirteen) in 1903 attracted many women. In Simonstown a 3.1/2 miles walk for women was held in September in which twenty three women walked. It was won by Mabel Press in 32:59 (Cape Times 19/9/03). Women also participated in a walk at Verulam, Natal, on 3 October over 5 miles. Miss Hutson won and received a brooch and a cake - most of the Natal walks gave a cake as a prize, and were known as 'Cake Walks' (Natal Mercury 5/10/03). The Girls' High School, Bloemfontein, held its first-ever sports in Austin Park in June 1903, successfully, according to the Friend (23/6/03). At the Pinetown Sports in 1906 a Ladies 100 yards race was included, and won by H Kirk (Natal Mercury 11/6/06) and in 1908 at the Wanderers Labour Day Sports on Good Friday, there was a 75 yards race for Ladies (Star 18/4/08). The Transvaal Leader reported that Johannesburg Harriers had lady members in 1909 (1/9/09) and there were even races for women at 'The Stadium' as part of Rufe Naylor's professional programme. Forty-five women contested a 50 yards handicap which was won by G Evelyn (Star 8/4/09; 10/4/09). Events for women were also part of the Fish River Sports near Grahamstown in September 1913 (Grocott's Mail 29/9/13).

Articles opposing athletics for women appeared in the press from time to time. In the Natal Mercury (7/7/06) 'Umpire' quoted Dr Gordon-Staples from the Girls Own Paper, who attacked athletics for girls. The Pretoria News (13/7/14) reprinted an article from the New York American by Dr W L Howard condemning athletics for girls, in which it was claimed that women became physiologically like men through training and said: "This is one cause for women

athletes being, as a rule, sterile." On the other hand an article in the Latest (13/6/14) entitled "The Modern Amazon" extolled the virtues of sport and physical training for women. T W McCawley, the Transvaal superintendent of physical culture in the Education Department, spoke at length on the value of physical training for girls (Pretoria News 19/11/03).

Athletics for women before World War One was a controversial subject often opposed on biological as well as sociological grounds. It does appear as if progress in athletics for women in South Africa was more advanced than in Europe, even though the events contested were short sprints. This temporary lead was changed by World War One which brought about great sociological changes in Europe and coincided with a rapid advancement of women's athletics which left South African women behind.

There were no reports of women in South Africa using athletics to further their political aspirations or improve social inequality. There was little demand by women for athletics, and those events that were held were almost without exception short sprints. Competitors were usually young, probably schoolgirls. Women, therefore, played a very minor role in athletics before World War One.

#### BLACKS

Under this heading will be included the activities of all non-white athletes: blacks, coloureds and asians (Indians and Chinese). In places the words 'Kafir' and 'native', even 'nigger', have been used in this thesis. They have not been used in a derogatory sense and only because that was the word used at the time, and their use avoids including long involved explanations.

Although many years passed before 'apartheid' was institutionalised by Acts of Parliament, there was certainly

racial discrimination and social separation of the races in the period under discussion, which prevented blacks from playing any role in the development of athletics. There was athletics for blacks, however, and the seeds sown in those early years may have influenced later development.

Evidence suggests that in the early athletic meetings, which were really rural sports, people of different racial groups competed together, occasionally in the same events but more often in different events on the same programme. At rural sports held to celebrate the marriage of the Prince of Wales in 1863, on the Parade at Cape Town, Simeon, a black, competed and gained first place in the hurdles and second place to W Day in the 880 yards (Cape Argus 21/5/63). At similar celebrations in Grahamstown, 'Native Sports' were arranged separately at the cricket ground whilst rural sports for whites were in the Drostdy Grounds (Grahamstown Journal 16/5/63). In 1864, however, at the annual Christmas Sports in Oatlands Estate, blacks competed with whites and Nyoka won the hurdles, the 300 yards and throwing the assegai. He may well have been a member of the Frontier Armed Police who arranged the meeting (Grahamstown Journal 23/12/64).

Events for blacks were included in the Prince of Wales Marriage Sports at Port Elizabeth (E P Herald 22/5/63), whilst at military sports in King William's Town in 1871 they competed in the mile with whites (Grahamstown Journal 6/10/71):

Three Kafirs were allowed to run, and this probably spoilt the race, owing to the fact that two of the natives went off from the starting post at a quick pace and took the lead, which one of them kept 'till over three quarters of a mile had passed.

At Colesberg in 1876 there was a 100 yards for blacks and a 100



yards for whites (Cape Argus 15/1/76) and the race for natives to the top of Bowker's Kop in Queenstown has already been described (Queenstown Free Press 25/5/77; 31/5/78). Whites and blacks competed together at the Queen's Birthday Sports, Kamastone, in 1880 (Queenstown Free Press 1/6/80) and at Cala in 1884 at sports held to commemorate the laying of the foundation stone of the bridge across the 'Tsono River there were seven races for 'Europeans' (whites) and eight for blacks. There was also apparently a mixed event (Daily Dispatch 4/6/84):

The only unpleasantness of the day occurred in the quarter mile race, between the European and native runners; the native claimed a foul from the white man, which the judge, in the opinion of all, rightly awarded.

A flat race for natives was a regular feature of many sports meetings in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, particularly in East London and Port Elizabeth (Daily Dispatch 17/9/84; 27/5/85; E P Herald 14/12/85; 16/4/94; 11/10/97). In 1885 the race at Port Elizabeth was advertised as being for Malays, Hindoos, and Chinese. Reporting on a race for blacks at De Aar, the Cape Times (6/8/87) said it was:

...exceedingly entertaining, from the fact that the competitors started off like torpedo boats, but came creeping up to the tape like tree-frogs.

The tendency of black athletes to start fast has lasted to the present day, and is only slowly disappearing as the art of pace judgement and tactics is being understood.

A sports meeting specifically for natives was held at St Augustine's Mission Station, Modderpoort, in 1886 (Friend



14/1/86) and many events for blacks were arranged in conjunction with the Jubilee Celebrations in 1887 (Cape Times 20/6/87; Daily Independent 10/6/87). At the Hospital Sports in Queenstown in 1888, in addition to the usual 'one mile Kaffir race', there was a European versus Native tug of war which caused great excitement. The whites won (Queenstown Free Press 16/10/88).

In Port Elizabeth the races for blacks, reflecting perhaps an increasing separation and polarisation of the races, deteriorated into demeaning spectacles as the competitors were expected to drink ginger beer and eat buns at the end of each lap of a mile race (E P Herald 8/10/88). People protested and a proper championship race over 880 yards was introduced, won for several years in succession by Peter Dalaza. He ran 2:14.1/5 in 1894 and 2:16.4/5 in 1897 and won a 440 yards in 1899 when he was referred to as "the old native champion" (E P Herald 16/4/94; 11/10/97; 9/10/99). In East London the regular winner was Buckskin (East London Standard and Border Gazette 10/3/93), whilst in Queenstown in 1892 in the mile, "Willem, a well-known runner, was again first." He won again in 1893 (Queenstown Free Press 13/5/92; 27/10/93). There is no doubt that there were talented black distance runners in South Africa in the nineteenth century but through lack of opportunity were unable to realise their potential.

An indication of differing attitudes to blacks between the English and the Dutch before the Anglo-Boer War was illustrated by an incident at Clanwilliam in 1873. Blacks were permitted to compete so the Dutch-speaking members of the community boycotted the sports, and W De Smidt wrote a letter of complaint in the Volksblad (Cape Argus 1/7/73). Incidents of this nature were few because athletics was still mainly a sport for the English-speaking.

After the Anglo-Boer War the custom of holding a special event

for blacks fell away, perhaps because they were beginning to establish their own athletic structure, and also no doubt to the increasing tendency towards separation. Separate clubs and organisations appeared just before the war. The Indian community in Johannesburg were reportedly planning to hold sports in July 1893 at Braamfontein (Star 26/4/93) whilst in Kimberley the Colonial AC for coloureds was formed in 1895 and held sports on the Queen's Birthday (Diamond Field News 27/5/95). Sports were held again in 1896 (Diamond Field News 27/5/96). A 3 miles bicycle race for coloureds was also included in the S A Championships at Kimberley in 1896, which raised some objections (Diamond Field News 6/10/96). After the Anglo-Boer War the Griqualand West Coloured AC was formed, and sent a team to compete in Cape Town in 1902 (Diamond Field News 17/5/02).

The Cape Malays formed the Good Hope Cycling and Athletic Club in Cape Town in 1898 and held inaugural sports, reported as the first of their kind in South Africa (but see above). On 24 October 1898 Professor C E Lewis and W E Tyler officiated and C Nasterdien won the long jump (18ft. 4ins.) and the 440 yards (59.2/5) (Cape Times 25/10/98). This club held several successful meetings (Cape Times 22/4/99) and paved the way for the formation of the Western Province Coloured AA and CU after the war, which held inaugural sports at Green Point in July 1902. Rugby was cancelled and a team from Kimberley competed (Cape Times 7/7/02). The WPCAA and CU held championships at Green Point in 1903 and J Mulder won the 100 (10.2/5) and long jump (19ft. 8ins.) (Cape Times 28/12/03). The WPCAA and CU held championships in 1907 and then faded, but was resuscitated in 1913 and held championships at Green Point on Wiener's Day (Cape Times 7/10/13). S Davids was credited with the following performance, wearing sand shoes (plimsolls, tackies, sneakers): 100 (10.2/5), 220 (23.4/5), 440 (53.3/5) and long jump (18ft. 3ins.). On 3 August 1914 he ran 10.4/5, 24 and 55.3/5 (Cape Times 4/8/14). Mention must also be made of the marathon for coloureds held at Camps Bay in February

1910 over the same course as that used by the whites three days previously. First was W R Henry in 3:38:17, which would have placed him 4th in the whites race, ahead of the well-known runner J Lambrechts (Cape Times 7/2/10; 9/2/10).

The NGR Indian Football Club, Durban, became involved in the 'Walking Craze' in 1903 and organised a 14 miles road walk on 24 October which was won by A Teloky (Natal Mercury 27/10/03). According to the Latest (26/10/12) Indians used the Oval, Durban, for a sports meeting in 1902, but then there was a long gap until R N Sullaphen came on the scene. He was a member of Eastern Harriers and in 1912 appealed for assistance with facilities (Latest 26/10/12). Sullaphen arranged sports at the Indian Recreation Ground in 1912 and 1913 because the Durban Municipality would not grant the use of the Oval, Albert Park (Latest 10/5/13). Sullaphen became secretary of an athletics and cycling association in 1913 which pressed hard for improved facilities (Latest 31/5/13; 21/6/13). 'Qrius' displayed his customary insight and foresight by saying of Sullaphen's efforts: "Some men are born before their time..." (Latest 19/7/13). In October it was reported that the Natal Indian AA and CA had held sports in Pietermaritzburg (Latest 11/10/13) and just before World War One, thousands of Indians attended a farewell sports meeting at Albert Park in honour of M K Gandhi, organised by Sullaphen. Gandhi spoke on the ethics of sport (Latest 18/7/14). Sports meetings for Indians continued during World War One (Latest 29/5/15) but in 1918 the Latest, commenting on the fact that Indian youths seemed only interested in football said (5/1/18):

The writer vividly remembers that in days gone by many sports fixtures were held, such as Marathon races, walking races, long distance road racing and boxing, but today all those seem to have been completely wiped off the slate.

The events referred to were obviously not reported in the Latest. Later in 1918 a fund-raising sports was held for George Marian, the Eastern Harriers champion (1914-18) and Natal champion (1912-18), who was retiring. His best times were given as 10.4/5 and 21 (220 yards) (Latest 19/10/18) but the latter performance is highly unlikely.

In the Transvaal it was reported that an Indian AAA was formed in 1911 at the house of R D James (Transvaal Leader 17/10/11). No further reports were given.

Up to this point the focus has been on the progress of black athletics and, apart from the incident at Clanwilliam, little attention has been paid to attitudes and conflicts. In Cape Town after the Anglo-Boer War it would appear that mixing was frowned upon. This comment was in the S A Review 1902 (L M Levy, scrapbook).

A lot of talk was occasioned at the entering of a very undesirable element into several events on the programme. The colour question is one which cannot be ignored in Cycling and Athletics, where competitors mix so freely, and I was glad to see the officials call out a would-be flyer in the boys half mile, who if not quite as black as the proverbial ace of spades, made a very good second. Several of very doubtful origin, however, did turn out, and as I said before, this caused free comment.

This cutting almost certainly refers to the Caledonian Sports in March 1902, and reveals the changing attitudes. People were

becoming concerned about the intrusion of non-whites into their lives. When the CSAR AAA (railways) was formed in 1903 it was for whites only (Star 7/3/03) and in 1904 when Green and Sea Point Harriers allowed a coloured to compete at their sports, they were asked for an explanation (Cape Times 19/12/04). In a similar incident in Durban when a Native Cycle Race was held at Lords Cycle Sports in April, 'Umpire' commented: "...the executive are introducing the thin end of the wedge."

Strangely enough a third incident of similar nature occurred in the Orange River Colony the same year. A letter from 'Disgusted Athlete' appeared in the Friend (19/10/04) protesting about events for natives at the ORC Championships at Ramblers:

It is not a question of race, it is not a question of colour, it is not a question of souls - it is a question of amateurism and athletics.

The writer felt that events for natives were acceptable at Carnival Meetings, but went on:

If the Union intends to govern amateur sports at Waaihoek, well and good, and I have nothing more to say. If not, those two events will have to come out.

Strictly speaking 'Disgusted Athlete' was correct because, if the ORCAA and CU were not governing black athletics on all occasions and there were infringements at the black meetings, then there was a problem, but the ORCAA and CU decided to retain the events for natives, although two members voted against (Friend 25/10/04). Reynolds wrote to the SAAA and CA who discussed at a meeting in November (SAAA and CA Minutes, 15/11/04). The secretary was instructed to reply that there was no rule barring



native competitors, but the committee deprecated Native Races and hoped that such events would not be included in future programs, and also that the matter would be brought up at the next General Meeting. There were no further reports on that item, nor was any discussion minuted at the SAAA and CA Annual General Meeting. However, writing in the column 'Sporting Notes' in the magazine, The Bloemfontein Pelican (29/10/04), 'Myself' attacked the Ramblers for trying to arrange the events and said they had received "a just rebuke from the rules of the Amateur Athletic Association. The last paragraph read:

It is certainly advisable when sports are held to make the programme as varied as possible, so as to maintain the interest and amusement of the spectators, but by all means let us endeavour to keep the native in his own sphere. If he will play tennis, cricket and football, let him do so, but on no account let him participate, or compete against white men, in the field of sport.

This quote indicates how the attitude of the English-speaking South African was changing.

In Natal in January 1904, A Barklie had organised sports for natives at 'Nkingani near Blood River, and the Natal Witness, with a less aggressive attitude than 'Myself' in the Pelican, remarked (13/1/04): "...another factor in the civilization of the alien host of this enigmatical land."

Few others seemed to see the possibilities of sport and athletics as socialization agents, and most reports indicated a steadily increasing resistance to mixing in sport. The East London C and AC also included events for natives in their sports in 1905, but like the Ramblers, had to remove them (Daily Dispatch 22/4/05):



The proposed native events are not coming off, the Town Council objecting to natives using the Recreation Ground under any circumstances.

There was a public outcry in Kroonstad in 1907 when the local athletic club included a race for natives in their sports: "White competitors intimated their disinclination to take part."

It was announced that the "Committee have withdrawn the items objected to" (Transvaal Leader 4/11/07).

Evidence of the deepening rift was apparent in Port Elizabeth in 1911 when Indians refused to take part in separate sports organised for them to celebrate Coronation Day and at a meeting at the Town Hall expressed their resentment that the corporation was departing from the practice of equality of treatment on such occasions by ordering colour and racial distinctions (E P Herald 22/6/11).

Not only competitors, but spectators also became a matter of controversy. In June 1912 the TAAA ruled that clubs should make arrangements for coloured spectators at sports meetings (Star 14/6/12) but the Cape Times reported in November that the Wanderers was still refusing to allow coloured spectators in to watch (Cape Times 29/11/12). The SAAA and CA discussed this matter on 4 November but no decision was reached. It was agreed that coloured spectators would be a good source of revenue but some felt the time was not yet ripe. The Chinese Consul had approached Nourse on the issue, and he replied that nothing could be done at present. The matter was held over (Star 5/11/12). According to Gutsche (1966, p. 117) the Wanderers committee refused to admit blacks, coloureds and Indians in 1903, Abe Bailey being the only member in favour, and the issue was raised

again and again.

In view of the increasing racial discrimination, it is difficult to understand how the mayor of Johannesburg, W R Bonstred, could make the following statement at the dinner after the S A Championships:

It is very gratifying for us to recognise that in the world of athletics in South Africa racialism finds no place. (Rand Daily Mail 5/5/13).

The final word on this topic belongs to 'Qrius' who, yet again, revealed his uncanny insight. He discussed social discrimination in sport in Britain, its absence in America, and whether it could be removed in South Africa, and said (Latest 30/8/13):

I am not suggesting that the practice would commend itself to South Africans as a whole, but it is a view that the broad-minded will take.

Commenting on the possible inclusion of blacks in the S A Olympic team, he continued:

Can we include a good Zulu? It is a big question, but it will have to be faced one of these fine days.

Unfortunately, South Africa had to wait sixty years before such an event became possible.

From the above account it can be seen that whilst there were few blacks in urban areas in the middle nineteenth century, there seemed to be no objection to them competing on the same

programme, and sometimes in the same events as whites. As blacks became urbanised in greater numbers and social divisions in society became marked there was increasing resistance to mixing with blacks in athletics. The TAAA and the SAAA and CA tried to avoid the problem and gave the impression that they hoped it would solve itself. Of course it never did.

#### AFRIKANERS

The Dutch-speaking whites of South Africa played a very minor role in the development of athletics in South Africa before the First World War. The Boers were farmers, and sports meetings took place in the towns, which were largely English-speaking, even Bloemfontein and Pretoria. According to Davenport (1978, pp. 32-33):

It was generally English-speaking or aliens who set up as shopkeepers at the centres where the Boers repaired for the quarterly Nagmaal, which became the first town of the interior. After the Great Trek, the inland towns became outposts of British culture even in the Boer Republics; and Afrikaner propagandists had come to caricature English culture by the 1870's as that of 'soakers, robbers and reds' - that is of canteen keepers, shopkeepers and redcoats - but as missionaries and humanitarians as well.

Part of the British culture was sport and, that too, was at first regarded with suspicion by the conservative Boers. It was only after World War One that the Afrikaner began to compete in athletics in large numbers. In the period before 1914 the Boers lived mainly in rural areas where they lacked the opportunity to participate in sport, and there was also the problem of becoming

involved in an activity in which they were lacking in expertise and which was conducted in the English language. As late as 1912 ex-President Steyn of the Free State attacked sport as an "undesirable British innovation" (Pretoria News 9/5/12) and said that sport and examinations were the two great enemies of South Africa (Star 26/4/12). He was speaking at the opening of new buildings at Oranje School, Bloemfontein.

A perusal of the surnames in old athletics programmes clearly shows that in the nineteenth century, even in a town such as Dundee in 1899, almost all the officials and competitors were English-speaking (Dundee Athletic Club Sports, 2/1/99). The Eastern Province Herald (1/11/05), however, noted in 1905 the increased participation by Afrikaners:

In scanning recent sports programmes of the various country towns, we are much struck by the number of obviously Dutch names among the competitors, and the good performances they are putting up.

One of the first Dutch-speaking athletes to achieve success was probably Hans Minnaar, a sprinter, who was prominent at early meetings in Pretoria (De Volkstem 29/4/76; 23/5/77). His exploits were, however, only reported in the English columns of the newspaper as De Volkstem said that "the entertainment" did not interest their Dutch readers (23/5/77). Pienaar, "a foot-hunter", won the mile at sports in Standerton in 1880 and some Boers met a team of British soldiers in tug of war (De Volkstem 4/9/80). There were several Dutch names amongst the winners of the boys' events at the 1887 Jubilee Sports in Pretoria (De Volkstem 28/6/87) but from then on most of the names of athletes and officials were British, apart from C M de Vries, who became secretary of the Pretoria Cycling Club in October 1896 (Transvaal Advertiser 29/10/96). The Anglo-Boer War brought a big increase of British

athletes and officials to Pretoria.

The sports at Cronstadt (Kroonstad) in 1891 were organised by C J Vels and Schmidt (Friend 22/9/91), but in Bloemfontein, athletics was British-dominated, and the minutes of the OFSAAA were kept in English at least until 1931. The Dundee Sports (see above) attracted many Dutch spectators and some began to compete (Natal Witness 4/1/95; 4/1/97; 4/1/99). In 1898 it was reported that Dutch farmers camped around the grounds with their wagons (Natal Mercury 4/1/98).

One place where sport did take a firm hold in Dutch culture was at Stellenbosch College. The Stellenbosch College Athletic Club, to which all sports were affiliated, was formed in 1884, although it seems likely that athletic events took place before then on Adderley Square, later called 'die Braak', and next to 'die Laan' alongside the Eersterivier. The early activities of the Athletic Club were concerned with cricket, but in March 1885 it was decided to hold an athletic meeting. This took place at 'die Braak' whilst the second meeting was in 'die Laan' (Cape Times 13/3/86). For a full description of those early activities see Van der Merwe (1984). In 1887, Jubilee Year, Stellenbosch College was given permission by the Queen to change its name to Victoria College, and that year sports were held on an eight lap to the mile track in front of the Theology Seminary (Cape Times 26/9/87). Despite some lean years, particularly during World War One (Pienaar c1930 in Ds J Luckhoff's scrapbook), Stellenbosch eventually won the Dalrymple Cup. The S A Universities' Championship in 1929 and produced many Springbok athletes. Stellenbosch was strong in 1913, winning all the Inter-College events at the S A College Sports (Cape Times 17/10/13), and L A Cox, sports editor of the Cape Times, praised the Stellenbosch athletes and used them as an example for the Cape Town colleges, which were weak and apathetic (Cape Times 10/10/13; 17/10/13; 25/10/13; 27/10/13). Stellenbosch was unable to enter the points

series proposed by Cox, which became the highly successful Collison Cup, because of travelling problems (Cape Times 22/10/13) but appeared regularly in other meetings and, under Sid Harvey's able guidance, athletics flourished. Stellenbosch graduates took their love of sport and athletics with them to all parts of South Africa and so perpetuated the link of athleticism with the English public schools and Universities in the nineteenth century.

The influence of the British on Afrikaner sport is noted by Pienaar (1945, p. 246):

Maar waar die Afrikaner eers by die Brit skoolgegaan het, is op die gebied van die openbare vermaak, een van die allerbelangrikste lae van die volkslewe. Van ons kinderspeletjies tot ons radio en rolprent het ons 'n klein Engeland of Amerika geword. Ons sportsoorte, perderenne, dansbals, konserte, kampeer-en seebadsgewoontes is direk uit of via Engeland oorgeneem. Ons is die Brit in baie opsigte dank verskuldig, maar het duur betaal deur verlies van selfstandige ontspanningsvorme. Ons ou speletjies het tot onlangs in platvloerse danse ontaard, ons het liggaamskultuur verwaarloos ten gunste van rugby, krieket, ens.

The Dutch Reformed Church acknowledged increased Afrikaner interest in and participation in sport in 1909 (Star 5/5/09):

That while sport is not to be disapproved of in principle, a warning note should be sounded against the modern sporting spirit by which people are carried to the neglect of common duties.



The synod further recommended that ministers should try to exercise "a strong influence for good" by attending sporting functions. It would appear that muscular christianity and athleticism were being accepted and assimilated.

Die Volkstem made a change in its policy in 1912 and also recognised the increasing interest of Afrikaners in sport by announcing that in future it would devote space to reporting sport (Grocott's Mail 31/7/12):

Our attention has been called to the Olympic sports at Stockholm where South Africa took a place above Canada, Australia and many European countries, and we have been asked for cooperation so that whereas our English-speaking Afrianders have already gathered in so much sport-fame, we may see at the next games a Dutch-speaking Afriander carrying off the laurels.

It was stated also that the reports would be in Afrikaans, and the public were invited to suggest terms for a Dutch 'sporting rubric'. It was admitted that up to that time the Olympic Games and other sporting occasions had been ignored, even if there were Afrikaners involved. There is also the inference that Afrikaans was developing as a language, and would use its own sporting terminology, and not take over the English. The growing demands of Afrikaners for recognition of their language was reflected in the comment by the Pretoria News in 1912 (21/2/12). It was asked if English-speaking people were not supporting athletic meetings any longer because of language problems: they had been "gevoetsak" because they could not "praat the Taal."

## JUNIORS AND SCHOOLS

In Chapter Three the beginnings of athletics in schools and colleges were described and it was concluded that in South Africa they did not play the important role in the overall development of athletics in the same way as they did in England. Athletics was usually confined to an annual sports day, and educational institutions were continually badgered by administrators and journalists to play a greater role in promoting athletics. It is understandable that schools in the Eastern Cape were in the forefront of developing athletics as many schools in the region had been established on the lines of the British public schools. The influence is strong even today, and such features as the traditional uniform, with boaters, the heavy after-school sport programme favouring cricket and rugby, with athletics crammed in between in the spring; and the fact that most are single-sex establishments continue to be well-guarded in schools like St Andrew's, Grey, Dale, Queen's, Selborne and Graeme. Kingswood recently admitted girls.

Dale College in King William's Town played cricket against the Buffalo Club and other clubs in East London in 1883 and afterwards contested cricket ball throwing and 100 yards sprinting, successfully defeating their adult opponents (Daily Dispatch 28/11/83). Dale College also initiated what must qualify as the first-ever inter-schools contest, against St Andrew's and St Aidan's of Grahamstown, in October 1894 (Grahamstown Journal 30/10/94). The outstanding performer was A Norton (St Andrew's) who won the 100 (10.1/5), 220 (24'0), 440 (57.1/5), long jump (17ft. 11.1/2ins.) and cricket ball throw (112y.2ft.3ins.). Norton later surprised everyone by beating Hunter in the long jump at the S A Championships in 1896, and Blignaut in 1897 (Diamond Field News 6/10/96; E P Herald 12/5/97). Norton was outstanding at St Andrew's in 1895 (Grahamstown Journal 27/4/95)

and 1896 (Grahamstown Journal 25/4/96). Inter-school sports between St Andrew's, Kingswood, St Aidan's and the Grahamstown Public School (later Graeme College) were held in 1890 (Grahamstown Journal 30/10/99). This meeting was superseded by 'the triangular' between St Andrew's, Kingswood and Grey College, Port Elizabeth, which is still being held. The EP and Border Inter-High Schools Meeting for the Hirsch Shield began in 1917.

In the Western Province the Cape Times (27/2/99) suggested that an inter-schools sports should be held, but nothing developed. Inter-college events were held at each college's sports day and in 1903 H T Landers travelled from St Andrew's College, Grahamstown, and won the 880 yards at the Diocesan College Sports (Grahamstown Journal 6/5/04). After the Victoria College Sports in October 1905 the Cape Times (23/10/05) again appealed for Inter-college sports and in November it was discussed at a meeting. However the idea foundered because SACS wanted their part-time Law students to compete (Cape Times ?/11/05). The issue was discussed at a WPAA and CU meeting and a sub-committee consisting of F R Jesse, A R B Palmer, Tom Widdowson and L A Cox was appointed to contact the schools (Cape Times 29/11/06).

In 1907 the Cape Times was asking why the colleges could not get together and "bury the hatchet over the ridiculous law class dispute" (Cape Times 27/11/07). The WPAA and CU considered a Western Province Schools Championship in February 1908 (Cape Times 29/2/08) but agreed to leave a decision until after the S A Championships. In 1905 the SACS sports were once again discontinued, but were revived in September 1909 (Cape Times 14/9/09). In August 1910 the WPAA and CU announced they were going ahead with a Schools Championship (Cape Times 19/8/10) and the rules were published (Cape Times 9/9/10). The first sports took place at Paarl Gymnasium on 23 March 1912, enthusiastically supported by the principal, F C Wahl. Competing institutions were SACS, Victoria College, Wellington, French Hoek and the two Paarl

High Schools (Cape Times 23/3/12). Another meeting for schools took place in Paarl in August 1913 (Cape Times 5/8/13) which reported that at a big meeting on August Bank Holiday there were many school championship events, and Cape Town should copy this. The attempt to promote inter-school athletics had apparently failed because in September 1913 another long article was printed in the Cape Times (2/9/13) criticising schools for only holding an annual sports day and describing how the attempt to promote inter-school sports some years ago had failed. A new attempt was to be made, and the rules were published. L A Cox, who was responsible for introducing the Collison Cup, attacked the apathy of Cape Town schools in his capacity as a member of the WPAA and CU and sports editor of the Cape Times. He described the Swedish schools athletics and commented: "Come along Western Province schools, it is time to be up and doing" (Cape Times 14/10/13). He severely criticised the SACS sports for poor performances and a poor crowd, and praised Stellenbosch for winning all the inter-college events (Cape Times 17/10/13). The success of the Collison Cup prompted him to remark that Western Province should now do something for the schools (Cape Times 12/12/13). John McDonald was chairman of the WPAA and CU, and he not only supported Cox's efforts to establish the inter-club points series, persuading his firm, H C Collison Ltd., to present a trophy (Cape Times 20/11/13), but he also supported Cox in trying to establish an inter-schools competition, and in June 1914 the WPAA and CU appointed another sub-committee to explore the possibilities. It was McDonald, Cox and Finck (Cape Times 8/6/14). Despite the problems caused by World War One, an inter-schools competition finally got under way in 1917. McDonald was the prime-mover and he presented the cup (Cape Times 29/3/20). S. J. du Toit (1970, pp.5-16) gives a full account of the events surrounding this first meeting of a long and successful series.

Natal was equally slow in establishing inter-school athletics, and, as in Cape Town, the journalists were concerned, realising

that a sound programme of athletics for juniors was necessary for a successful adult programme. Commenting on the success of the Pietermaritzburg College Sports, 'Meteor' appealed for the establishment of an inter-school event (Natal Witness 14/12/98). Nobody came forward to do this and, as we have already seen, (Chapter Seven) the Natal AAA was itself having a difficult time, continually being formed and then becoming defunct. There were occasional sports for children, such as the morning events at the Sons of England Sports (Natal Mercury 17/4/06) and the Forester Sports (Natal Mercury 5/6/06) in Durban in 1906. On Whit Monday 1907 a thousand children took part in the morning session of the Foresters' Sports; half the Albert Park was allocated to boys and half to girls (Natal Mercury 21/5/07). The Latest (5/12/08) reported that various attempts had been made to encourage athletics in the schools, and listed the successes of Harold and Cliff Sulin, but felt that Natal was lagging behind. The Durban AC held a successful meeting for schoolchildren on 23 October 1909 while the Latest Marathon was being run. There were nine events and Durban High School was first with Berea Academy second (Latest 23/10/09). A similar meeting organised by Durban AC in 1910 was unsuccessful, with less than 200 people attending and the club lost heavily (Latest 26/11/10). The Latest carried a report on the American High School system in September 1912 (14/9/12), and in 1914 reported that schools were at last showing interest (21/3/14):

It is pleasing to find that some of the up-country colleges are to be represented in the junior events. The schools have been slow to support amateur athletics in the past, and I trust this is the turn of the tide.

But two months later 'Qrius' in the Latest accused the schools of not supplying fresh material, and this was why athletics in Natal had not flourished (16/5/14):



The writer earnestly appeals to all heads and others to think seriously of the position, not with the idea solely of producing Olympic champions, but with the set purpose of breeding a virile South African manhood.

Sports are very much a dead letter in the schools athletic curriculum.

'Qrius' appealed for an inter-school meeting. His appeal was taken up by Clifton of Hilton, and on 23 May the Latest announced a proposed Public Schools Championship. 'Qrius' also felt that staff appointments were preventing the development of athletics (Latest 23/5/14):

Cricket and football have every attention given to them, and the fact that a master was a good player at either of these two games counted more in his favour than that he had distinguished himself at school for his prowess in running or other field sports.

'Qrius' returned to the young athlete topic again two weeks later (Latest 6/6/14), claiming that South Africa had more young athletes at the turn of the century than at present:

Many young athletes in the past came from overseas, before the blight of the war and the unsettled state of business in the Union had put a stop to immigration.

If only some public-spirited man with the aid of an energetic secretary would take the subject up, there should be little difficulty next year in having a public schools meeting in Durban or Maritzburg.



This campaign of 'Qrius' bore fruit in July when Arthur Armfield, sports master at Hill Crest School, sent out a circular to local schools announcing the intention to hold an annual meeting at Lords for the following age-groups: under 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and open (Latest 11/7/14). His first attempt was unsuccessful, despite the support of the Natal AAA (Natal AAA Southern District minutes, 25/7/14) and it was delayed a year, eventually coming off in October 1915. The meeting was a success, although only the primary schools responded (Latest 9/10/15). Two weeks later a Natal Public Schools Athletic Sports was held at Pietermaritzburg College, with Durban High School, Hilton College and Weenen County also competing. Durban AC later decided to promote inter-school athletics and arranged a series of events in December 1915 (Latest 27/11/13).

The first centre to establish inter-school sports appears to have been Kimberley. According to the Daily Independent (29/9/88), the second annual sports for Public Undenominational Schools was held in 1888, so the first one should have been in 1887. At the second sports, N Bottomley won the 100, 220, long jump and high jump (5ft. 2ins.). Unfortunately this report was the only reference that could be found. In Bloemfontein, J Bradley of Grey College arranged an inter-schools meeting in 1903 to which St Andrew's College, Grahamstown, sent a team that was highly successfully winning all the events, except the 220 and high jump (Friend 24/6/03). There were no further developments in Bloemfontein until after World War One.

In the same way that rapid progress was made in promoting senior athletics, Johannesburg was soon involved with events for juniors. Four years after its foundation, Boys' Athletic Sports were held at the Wanderers. The Star (3/2/90) gives full results

and the events included a half mile for the under twelve age group. In 1894 there was a long discussion about junior athletics in the Star (5/12/94). The SAAAA had restricted boys events to under 16, and the Star agreed that races for boys under 18 were undesirable, saying that they should compete with the men. Apparently there had been an application to hold championships for boys under 18. The Star felt that it would be better to organise a meeting for public schools at a central place in South Africa (Star 5/12/94). In June 1904 a very successful inter-school sports, the first ever, was held in Pretoria. Fifteen schools participated, and there were 2331 entries from boys and girls. The organiser was Mr E W Barry, headmaster of Gymnasium School, and Lady Lawley presented the prizes (Pretoria News 27/6/04). According to the Transvaal Leader (1/9/04) this spurred Johannesburg into further action:

The elementary schools of Johannesburg having noticed the success attained by similar sports in Pretoria, are arranging for a sports meeting here early in October.

Platnauer, who was sports editor of the Transvaal Leader, wrote supporting athletics at schools later the same month, and was praised in a letter received from 'Contributor' (Transvaal Leader 20/9/04).

The first annual sports of the Johannesburg and Rand Primary Schools was held at the Wanderers in October 1904, and was successful, with over thirty schools and 2000 athletes present - 996 girls and 960 boys (Star 5/10/04). Colonel and Mrs Dalrymple and the officials of the Transvaal Education Department attended (Pretoria News 6/10/04) and a commemorative dinner was held on 21 October at which the dignitaries made speeches on sport and education (Pretoria News October 1904). According to the Transvaal Leader (23/9/05) the second meeting in 1905 was even

more successful and the Star (22/9/05) reported it was attended by over 6000 thousand spectators. The races for girls were mainly novelty events such as thread the needle, potato race and egg and spoon race, although there was also a 100 yards sprint (Johannesburg and Rand Primary School First Sports Programme 5/10/04). According to the Cape Times (12/12/13) this meeting was discontinued because it was claimed that the introduction of a two-session day made it impossible to prepare the children. "The last attempt to hold a meeting was a fiasco."

The famous 'inter-high' meeting in Johannesburg had its origins in inter-school cross country. In 1902 St John's College and Marist Brothers met at the Union Grounds over a 4 miles course. Lord Milner and Lord Brooke were present to see St John's win (Star 2/10/02). In 1903 there were four schools, including two government high schools (Star 9/10/03). The race in 1904 was held in Belgravia. In 1905 it was decided to change to athletics, and "the first annual championship sports in connection with the public schools of the Transvaal was held on Wanderers front ground." The sports were on Wednesday 27 September and at short notice, so only five schools competed. Brother Callixte, a prominent supporter of athletics, was on the committee, and the meeting was attended by Nourse, Hilner, Rogaly and Platnauer (Star 28/9/05). For a fuller account of this sequence of events see Venture of Faith by Lawson (1968, pp. 379-383). It is interesting to note that St John's took a leading role in these developments but only held their own first sports in September 1907 (Star 16/9/07).

Eendracht, a Dutch-speaking Pretoria High School, won the 'inter-high' in 1906, and the boys trained for several weeks beforehand at the Caledonian Ground (Pretoria News 21/9/06). Platnauer suggested putting the shot (12 lbs.) should be added to the 'inter-high' programme (Transvaal Leader 15/9/06) and had articles comparing the results with English and Scottish events (Transvaal Leader 18/9/06) and reviewing the athletes (Transvaal

Leader 22/9/06). St John's, although the founders of the inter-high, admitted that they had not taken it seriously and, in 1910 appointed S B Stokes, "a well-known Harrier", and Duffy, the Olympic sprinter, to coach the boys at the Wanderers (St John's Newsletter, (1910). In 1913 the TAAA, with an eye on the 1916 Olympics, appointed officials to talent-spot at the sports, and to encourage promising athletes to continue with athletics when they left school (Sporting Star 23/8/13). Otto Schuller, TAAA president, had spoken on this topic at the Mayor's dinner for athletes at the S A Championships, saying that South Africa needed "a scheme to develop athletics in the schools" (Cape Times 8/5/13). Krugersdorp started an inter-schools meeting in 1910 because, although the children had a holiday, they could not get to the sports in Johannesburg. Teachers and other interested persons met and formed the West Rand and Witwatersberg School Sports Association, and sports were held at Krugersdorp Wanderers (Star 15/3/10).

In 1906 the Transvaal Leader printed letters from L M MacMillan and G H Simpson appealing for more junior events at local sports meetings (7/9/06, 8/9/06). George Elliott, captain of Johannesburg Harriers, responded, saying that they were doing the best they could but needed more assistance. L M Levy, secretary of TAAA and Johannesburg Harriers also replied, asking if Simpson was prepared to help (Transvaal Leader 11/9/06). The result was that Johannesburg Harriers held a series of events for juniors through October and December (Transvaal Leader 29/9/06). Platnauer was worried about the lack of interest shown by junior athletes and said that he could not understand this, as South Africa had a better environment than Britain and schools were holding annual sports. He felt that British juniors were more motivated because they saw more athletics (Transvaal Leader 25/10/07). Platnauer had touched on something which is still a problem today.

The South African AAA had tried to promote athletics for juniors

at the S A Championships. A 440 yards School Championship was included in 1907 (SAAA & CA minutes, 28/3/07), but does not appear to have been contested until 1908 when a 220 yards for boys under 16 was also accepted (SAAA & CA minutes, 12/2/08). G C Sulin travelled from Durban to win the latter event from three local Cape Town boys, and also took the 440 (57.4/5) (Star 20/4/08; 21/4/08). Councillor A G Houghting of Durban donated a 30 guinea trophy for one of the events (Cape Times 21/2/08). It is interesting to note that the Star carried more detailed results than the Cape Times, an indication of the greater interest in Johannesburg in national athletics. In 1909, R S Miller, 17, won the senior long jump (21ft. 6.3/4ins.) and also the scholars 440 (55.4/5). This is the only result recorded in the official SAAA and CU result book. It does mention that eleven scholars took part in the 1913 Championships. Results of these junior events, 1908 to 1913, are, however, given by Platnauer in South African Sport (ed. Swaffer, 1914, p. 88).

In the opinion of the writer, one of the less desirable concepts introduced into junior athletics from England was the Victor Ludorum award. This is a trophy awarded to the person who gains most points at the annual school sports day. It led to pupils competing in too many events, often in an untrained state; a 'pot-hunting' type attitude; and only encouraged natural performers in the power events. Thus, a sprinter/long jumper could invariably score heavily, whereas pupils in long distance events were only able to score in one or two items, and pupils were discouraged from pursuing difficult events of a skilful nature, such as pole vault, because it meant a certain degree of specialisation. The Victor Ludorum still survives, and schoolboys still sometimes run 100, 200, 400, 800 and relays on one day (personal observation).

The Cape Times (17/9/09) carried a strong attack on the award, calling it "cruelty to animals", and recommending that boys be restricted to three events. Writing in the Latest in 1922 'Spike'



reported that at a Durban school sports a boy, Clerk, competed in the following: 100, 220, 440, 880, mile, high jump, hurdles and relay (30/9/22). It seems surprising that the Victor Ludorum Award gained such a position when prevailing attitudes were opposed to strenuous exertion, especially for women and children, and heavy training was frowned upon. In 1893, the Witness reprinted articles from an English journal recommending that training for 16-18 year old boys should begin three weeks before a sports day, and should consist of a five to six miles walk a day. Sprinters should sprint 50 yards and distance runners stride over 600 yards (Witness 9/3/93). Platnauer gave his ideas in 1906 (Transvaal Leader 20/4/06) and said boys should only start racing in earnest when they were 18. Before that they should build-up with gymnastics, walking and cross country running. Dr E P Baumann addressed the Johannesburg and Rand Teachers' Association in 1907 on "The effect of altitude upon school children in relation to physical exercise", and said that he had examined children after cross country runs in 1905 and found them more exhausted than in England, and that 66% of the boys had heart deviations, mainly hypertrophy, which was considered abnormal at that time (Star 23/11/07).

A mother wrote to the Star (27/11/07) after the publication of the article, asking for games and athletics to be restricted in Transvaal schools. There was also comment on the article in the Transvaal Medical Journal (Star 4/8/08):

A strong boy with good lungs and a powerful heart who had undergone a judicious preparatory training was not seriously injured by the strain of cross country racing.

The journal also felt that altitude was the cause of the large number of boys collapsing after long races in Transvaal and recommended that cross country races should not be permitted for schoolboys.



Colonel Dalrymple was concerned about the psychological effect as well as the physiological, and in October 1908, at the Parktown School Sports, he said (Transvaal Weekly Illustrated 3/10/09):

I am conscious that there are many failures in life through what might fitly be termed the mania for sport...I cannot, I regret to say, recommend the Olympic Games as a goal for your ambition; the risks the heroes run through over-exertion are too great.

The South African College (later the University of Cape Town) which should not be confused with SACS, the South African College School, formed an athletic club in 1913 (SA College AC minutes, 7/4/13). Lewis was president. Inter-collegiate events were included at the annual sports, at which students from Victoria College, Stellenbosch, competed. Stellenbosch can, therefore, claim to be the first institution arranging sports for university students.

In May 1913 the Cape Times (22/5/13) printed a long article about the need for the South African College and Victoria College to meet annually in athletics, as they were already competing at football, tennis and cricket.

The Grahamstown Journal (15/2/07) reported that Rhodes University College was forming "clubs for athletics" in 1907, and the first athletic sports were scheduled for November 1908 (Grahamstown Journal 30/11/08) but were postponed. They were held on 6 October 1909 at City Lords. E P Rood was the first Victor Ludorum (Grahamstown Journal 8/10/09). Athletics at university level was not really a factor of importance until Saul Peter Suzman initiated inter-university athletics for the Dalrymple Trophy in 1921. Suzman also began athletics at the University of Witwatersrand in 1920 (personal interview).

## WALKING

Apart from the period 1903-1904, walking has never been a particularly important athletic activity, especially as part of the track and field programme, where it has often been surrounded by controversy about 'lifting', i.e. having both feet off the ground at the same time. Long distance road walking has had its faithful followers, and some races, such as the Spartan Harriers 50 miles walk, have become national events.

The exploits of the famous walkers, 'Professor' Diamond and John Mellet have been described earlier in this study. 'Professor' Diamond played a role in making people aware of athletic feats in the mid-nineteenth century, and John Mellet, at the turn of the century, focused attention on walking as a recognised athletic event. Both were, however, professionals, and as such had a limited influence on the overall development of athletics, unlike the professional 'circus' associated with Rufe Naylor at 'The Stadium' which, as has been shown, had a distinct influence.

'Professor' Diamond had a fairly long stay in Grahamstown in 1866 and his feats, together with the success of the St Andrew's College Sports, then in their fourth year, prompted the Grahamstown Journal (2/7/66) to publish quaint remarks on the benefits of walking. (See Chapter Three, page 54.)

Such esoteric perambulations were not welcomed when race walking became part of track and field, and there were many arguments in the early days about what constituted "fair walking." The first disputes reported were in Kimberley, where H W Brown was prominent in one mile walking races. Brown won a mile walk on 8 September 1883 (Diamond Field News 10/9/83), but on 14 April 1884

was disqualified in a 2 miles event. He announced he would appeal to England (Diamond Field News 16/4/84). The 2 miles walk was again the centre of a dispute about various styles in October (Diamond Field News 30/10/84) and was repeated on 1 November, the second day of the Griqualand West AAC Sports. Brown beat Mellet. Brown won again in a 1 hour walk (Diamond Field News 3/11/84). Brown responded to criticisms of his style by writing to the Diamond Field News (13/7/85), quoting H F Wilkinson, "one of England's greatest authorities." He had presumably received a reply to his letter to England in 1884. Brown said he had been walking for fifteen years and was fed up with the critics. Amid further disputes, Brown won again in November 1885 (Diamond Field News 2/12/85) and then either gave up walking for a while or moved away from Kimberley. The latter seems more likely. He was back for the South African Championship Sports, held in conjunction with the Kimberley Exhibition in 1892, and was disqualified in the mile walk, won by A Buxton (8:17.2/5).

What was thought to be the fastest mile walk in the Colony at the time was walked by F O'Hara at Port Elizabeth in November 1886: 7:28.3/5 (E P Herald 15/11/86). The following year a South African One Mile Walking Championship was held at the PEAC sports. Brown had probably returned to Cathcart from Kimberley and travelled to Port Elizabeth to win this event in 7:22, beating W Doyle and F O'Hara (E P Herald 2/5/87). Doyle regained the 'record' in November by recording 7:06.2/5 (E P Herald 7/11/87). Brown won the S A Championship Mile again in 1889 (7:15.4/5) although his style was criticised (E P Herald 18/3/89), and in 1890 won yet again in the fastest time reported up to that time: 7:04.3/5). There was no comment on the legality of his technique (E P Herald 5/5/90).

A dispute developed between Port Elizabeth and King William's Town over the Mile Walk Championship in 1891, when George Randall (King William's Town) beat Brown in a suspect 6:40. The PEAC

later disallowed the record, causing bitter comment in the King William's Town newspapers (E P Herald 13/4/91). Despite his disqualification in Kimberley, Brown was back in Port Elizabeth in 1892 to win the mile walk: 7:20 (E P Herald 16/4/92).

Disputes about what constituted fair walking also arose in Queenstown and, in 1887, after a mile race that induced much argument, the Queenstown Free Press (24/6/87) commented: "and we believe it will be struck out of future programmes." This is exactly what happened, and at the Olympic Games, after many years of controversy, track walking was also eliminated. In 1888 there was again a dispute, and once again H W Brown became involved. 'Walker' wrote to the newspaper complaining that the 1 mile race at the Hospital Sports had been marked by unfair walking, and that the time was impossible as it was a minute faster than the English record (Queenstown Free Press 19/10/88). H W Brown wrote a lengthy reply on 26 October, and 'Another Walker', from Cathcart, home of the Brown family, said Brown had walked 6:41 in 1886, at Kimberley, and the record in the United States of America was 6:49. He said the winner at Queenstown had a handicap of 250 yards and so only walked 1510 yards. Brown himself said he would accept a challenge to walk 7:13, the time quoted by 'Walker' (Queenstown Free Press 30/10/88). 'Walker' replied, contesting these two letters (Queenstown Free Press 2/11/88) and Brown suggested writing to the English AAA for clarification of the definition of walking (Queenstown Free Press 9/11/88). The following year the Queenstown Free Press noted that the mile walk at the annual sports attracted "considerable interest in view of correspondence" (11/10/89). The mile walk in 1890 was unsatisfactory again, because so many were trotting (Queenstown Free Press 17/10/90) and it appears to have been discontinued after that time.

Very few reports of walking races at athletic meetings appear in the Star, Johannesburg; the Natal Witness; or the Natal Mercury.

Even in fairly detailed reports of events at the S A Championships, the three miles walk was often omitted. The Natal walker, F A Sheppard, was disqualified at the 1906 S A Championships (Witness 17/4/06) and again at a Point AAC meeting in Durban. This caused a certain amount of controversy, involving Durban AC, 'Umpire' and several letters to the press (Mercury 12/2/07; 21/2/07). A B Mole, who finished second in the S A Championships in 1908, travelled to England at his own expense to compete in the Olympics, but was refused permission by the SAAAA to join the South African team (Star 12/6/08; Cape Times 12/6/08). The Latest said that walking was a lost art in South Africa in 1909 (29/5/09), and in 1914 'Qrius' wrote that walking was not encouraged in Natal (Latest 6/6/14).

The three miles walk had been included in the first S A Championships held in 1894, but was not an event at the first CCAA and CU Championships in 1896. Winner of the first five S A titles was L Thornton, and after the Anglo-Boer War, W A Millar won in 1903, 1904 and 1905. Millar was the winner of the first Spartan Harriers 50 mile walk in 1903 and apart from his successes as a walker was a rugby Springbok in 1906 and 1912 (Cape Argus 8/3/47).

The two best known walkers of the period were A C St Norman and C McMaster. St Norman was also English, from Brighton, and the first report about him was in 1903 in a mile walk handicap. He also won a 40 mile walk that year (E P Herald 24/10/03). In 1904 and 1905 St Norman was active in running events, but returned to walking in 1909 to win the CCAA and CU 2 mile walk championship at Queenstown (E P Herald 25/5/09). He moved to the Transvaal in 1910 and won his first S A title in 1911. Later that year, St Norman walked three miles in 20:49.2/5 at the TAAA Championships (Cape Times 24/7/11) and 'Qrius' printed a letter from his trainer, E T Behan, about his training and his performance in The Latest (26/8/11). This was a phenomenal time, and was queried in 1922 at the SAAA and CA



Annual General Meeting. L Richardson pointed out that the time was faster than St Norman's one and two mile times added together, but no action was taken. It was referred to the IAFP in 1927 (SAAA & CA minutes 21/10/27) but again no action was taken. It stood until 1948. The Cape Times had reported in 1912 that St Norman walked a lap short (31/1/12).

St Norman was picked for the 1912 Olympic Games team, despite walking badly and losing at the S A Championships, and after the Games won the London to Brighton and back race (104.1/2 miles) in 21 hours 18 minutes 45 seconds (Star 26/9/12), which to some extent made up for his disqualification at Stockholm, when lying fourth (Cape Times 12/7/12).

Early in 1914, St Norman walked the mile in Queenstown in 6:45.2/5 (E P Herald 25/5/14), which was probably the fastest in South Africa up to that time, as Brown's performance (6:41) is very doubtful. Then came the incident at the S A Championships in Port Elizabeth. St Norman was disqualified in the 3 miles walk with 1.1/2 laps to go, giving the title to McMaster. St Norman wrote a letter of protest to the SAAA and CA, who suspended R Keats, the chief walking judge, and also coupled this with censure of the CCAA and CU (E P Centre) for allowing betting and allowing Keats to interfere with other officials (SAAA & CA minutes 20/7/14). St Norman also claimed that Keats had boasted beforehand that he would disqualify him, and had openly betted on McMaster at the Betting Booths near the dressing rooms (SAAA & CA minutes, 29/7/14). Keats wrote to the Cape Times (10/7/14) saying that St Norman was 'lifting' and that his 3 miles record was impossible. Details of statements by St Norman, Keats, Leton Tipper, Ramos, de Melker and Ashby, given to the SAAA and CA were printed in the Transvaal Leader (21/7/14). The E P Centre reacted strongly and requested the SAAA and CA to withdraw their "false, misleading and malicious allegations" (EPAA & CU minutes, 27/7/14). So the walking issue became interwoven with a clash between the two



bodies. The incident dragged on for some months with the exchange of many letters. It was alleged that an assault took place after the disqualificaiton, and that McMaster should also have been disqualified (SAAA & CA minutes 6/12/14). The E P Centre officials were so incensed that they threatened to withhold the profits of the meeting unless there was an apology for the vote of censure. The SAAA and CA explained that there had been no meetings because of the war, and the vote of censure was on the organising committee, not the E P Centre (SAAA & CA minutes 6/12/14). The CCAA and CU executive also wrote letters threatening to with-hold the profits, but these were eventually sent, amounting to forty six pounds, eleven shillings and nine pence, with substantial amounts subtracted for apparatus (sixteen pounds, three shillings), entertainment (seven pounds, fifteen shillings) and labour (twenty- two pounds seventeen shillings and three pence), which the SAAA and CU criticised (SAAA & CA minutes 14/10/15). Keats' suspension was lifted at the same meeting.

An interesting sideline on the issue of disqualification in walking appeared in The Latest in 1912. Keartland attacked the practice of expecting an athlete who had been warned to "swing round on his heel." He said it was an old professional dodge. 'Qrius' defended the practice, saying it was necessary because of the size of the tracks (3 laps to a mile) and it gave "ocular evidence" that a warning had been given. He also felt that judges should use bicycles (Latest 27/4/12).

Cecil McMaster was born in Port Elizabeth in 1900 and so was 14 when he won the S A Championship because of St Norman's disqualification, and he went on to become one of the most successful walkers South Africa has ever produced. After World War One he was S A Champion from 1920 to 1930, and again in 1932 and 1935. He went to the 1920 and 1924 Olympics and gained several international victories (Cape Argus 8/3/47). His first reported success was in 1911, when he was second in a mile

handicap (E P Herald 27/3/11) and in 1913 was the Eastern Province champion (E P Herald 11/10/13).

One of the most famous events in South African athletics is the Spartan Harriers 50 mile walk. The Fairbridge References note that W H Thompson walked from Cape Town to Simonstown in 3:35 for one hundred pounds in 1863, but it was the 'Walking Craze' in 1903 that really established the event. Tom Widdowson suggested (Spartan Harriers minutes, 5/6/08) that Spartan Harriers hold a race in view of all the interest in England (Spartan Harriers Minutes, 5/6/03). On 29 June it was announced that the race would start at 7 a.m. at the Town Hall on Thursday 13 August and the course was to the 25th milestone on the Somerset Strand road and back. The race attracted an entry of eighty, of which about sixty set off in fine rain which later became fairly hard. Millar, Snow and Levis were the leaders, but first Snow faded, and then Levis. Millar had a glass of champagne at Salt River Bridge, and finished in 9:23:29. The organiser was Tom Widdowson (Cape Times 14/8/03). Spartan Harriers were out-of-pocket because of the cost of gold medals, awarded to the eleven walkers who beat ten hours, and decided not to make it an annual event (Spartan Harriers minutes, 28/8/03).

Tom Widdowson became secretary of Spartan Harriers in 1907 (minutes, 4/4/07) and the club successfully organised a marathon later that year (minutes, 31/10/07). These two factors may have paved the way for a decision at the Annual General Meeting (minutes 1/4/09) in 1909 to form a walking section and revive the 50 miles walk (Cape Times 3/6/09). The race was not revived, however, perhaps because Tom Widdowson retired as secretary that same year (Spartan Harriers Minutes, 28/10/09). Charles Bailey came on to the Spartans committee in 1910 and became secretary of the walking section. He had come to South Africa for health reasons in 1902 when 20 years old (personal interview). He visited England in 1922 and followed the London to Brighton

walking race. He decided to promote a similar race in South Africa, and the first Cape Town to Simonstown and Back event was held in 1924. Full details of subsequent races are given in the booklet produced by the club: History of the Spartan Harrier 50 Mile Walk.

## CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

## INFLUENCING FACTORS

Five factors that were interlinked with and influenced the development of athletics were:

1. Public holidays, and the struggle to achieve a Saturday half-holiday.
2. Armed conflicts. The Jameson Raid, the Anglo-Boer War and World War One obviously interfered with athletics but the siege sports and sports in the prisoner-of-war camps must also be mentioned.
3. Tours. South African teams were sent to Europe in 1895 and 1898, and to the Olympic Games in 1908 and 1912. There were several unsuccessful attempts made to bring teams to South Africa.
4. Economics and finance. Money played a crucial role in the development of athletics, and income from gate money and patrons was vital to the sport. The affluence resulting from the discovery of diamonds and gold and the many depressions also had an influence.
5. Coaching and training. These were obviously important in influencing performances. They will be discussed in Chapter Eighteen.

## PUBLIC AND HALF-HOLIDAYS

In the nineteenth century people worked long hours for six days a week, and Sunday was a day of rest and religious observance, so

there was little opportunity for regular participation in sport and athletics. Sports Days were, therefore, held on public holidays and special occasions, such as New Year's Day, Easter, Whitsun, August Bank Holiday, Boxing Day, the Queen's Birthday, the King's Birthday, the President's Birthday, Wiener's Day, Dingaan's Day, the arrival of the railway and royal coronations, jubilees and marriages.

Many people worked on Saturdays, so it was not possible, at first, to develop a season. Once working hours were curtailed, allowing time and energy for practice on weekdays, and Saturday afternoons became free, allowing a regular series of meetings, athletics was able to develop.

In 1857 there was a notice in the Cape Argus about the possibility of Saturday becoming a half-day, and how this would allow the formation of a cricket club (19/12/57). There were moves to make Saturday a half-day in Greytown in 1866 (Natal Witness) and in Grahamstown the Journal reported that most stores had agreed to close at 2.00 p.m. on Saturdays. The Journal stressed the need for recreation in the form of walking, riding and cricket on Saturdays (8/10/66). In 1873 the Natal Mercury received letters appealing for Saturday to be a half-day (21/10/73).

In 1884 the Natal Witness also received letters on the issue, complaining that shops in Pietermaritzburg were opening on Saturday afternoons. An Early Closing Association was formed (Witness April 1885). The association was still active in 1888 and raised a petition appealing to storekeepers not to open on Saturday afternoons (Witness 17/11/88). In Durban the same year the Natal Mercury editorial protested about shops opening on Saturday afternoons and claimed (24/8/88):

The loss of the exercises and recreations to be enjoyed only on Saturday afternoons cannot fail to have an ill-effect, physically, and not only to unfit men for the proper discharge of their duties, but to rob them of interest in them.

Despite the fact that it was not a public holiday, most shops in Pretoria closed for the Queen's Jubilee Sports on 20 June 1887 and a large crowd attended (Transvaal Advertiser 25/6/87). Ironically, many of the junior events were won by Dutch-speaking children (Advertiser 28/6/87).

In Bloemfontein the day chosen for sports arranged to revive athletics in the city, 23 April 1890, was declared a public holiday (Friend 30/4/90).

There were further developments in Durban in 1891 when Dan Taylor, later president of Durban AC and Natal AAA, chaired a meeting requesting a Saturday half-holiday. He said that sportsmen would benefit (Mercury 10/6/91). There was similar agitation in Port Elizabeth and the E P Herald (13/5/92) reported that some firms were still opening on Saturday afternoons and should be forced to close. Several letters supported this viewpoint, and some firms signed a document. There were further protests in Durban in 1892 when Henochsberg opened a new store and did not close on Saturdays, which started a chain reaction and threatened those who had gained the Saturday half-holiday. A letter from 'Ruddicus' read (Mercury 19/8/92): "Athletic sports will be disorganised..."

The Grahamstown City Council discussed early closing in June 1891 and in August an employees meeting was held which led to an agreement with employers. In Port Elizabeth a letter from 'Half-



Holiday' drew attention to the wide variety of outdoor recreation available on Saturday afternoons, and appealed to those firms still opening not to do so (E P Herald 13/5/92).

When the first annual sports were held at Malmesbury on Wednesday 20 September 1893 it was reported that, "The stores, banks and public offices were closed at twelve o'clock...", and the hope was expressed that it would become a weekly half-holiday (Cape Times 22/9/93). In Cape Town a public meeting was called in December 1894 to obtain a weekly half-holiday for shop assistants. Banks and offices already closed on Saturday afternoons (Cape Times 14/12/94).

A deputation met Cecil Rhodes in March 1895 and asked for a private bill to be presented to the Cape Parliament that would apply to the whole of Cape Colony (Cape Times 5/3/95). It was presented in June, and generated much interest, with letters to the press, but was rejected. Agitation flared up the following year, and again in 1897. A letter from W E Tyler, secretary of the City C and AC read (Cape Times 26/2/97):

Sportsmen and athletes of all sections should combine with the employees to help them gain their ends. Looking at the question from a sporting point of view, it will make a very considerable difference to the gates at the various athletic meetings should this Saturday opening come about.

A committee was appointed at a meeting of shop assistants in March to lead a campaign which eventually achieved success (Cape Times 3/3/97).

In Port Elizabeth, letters appeared in the E P Herald on 7 July 1897 objecting to stores opening on Saturday afternoons, and

pointing out the need for recreation. In Grahamstown, the 1891 agreement made with employers to close on Saturdays was challenged in 1900, and the Journal took up the fight again (5/12/1900):

Some years ago, the fight for a general half-holiday on Saturday was won after a long and hard struggle...besides debarring them from taking part in all first class sport.

The fight was lost and it was announced that forty-five stores would close on Thursdays and open on Saturdays (Journal 19/12/1900).

The Cape Parliament voted to amend the half-holiday act on 8 June 1905, but only stipulated that the early closing day should be on Wednesdays or Saturdays (Diamond Field News ?/6/05). Grahamstown was one of the few towns in Cape Colony that had early closing on a Saturday, and in 1905 shopkeepers again began agitating for mid-week closing, which produced the usual crop of protest letters, one from Henry Lawrence, an employer (Grahamstown Journal 2/6/05):

The Saturday half-holiday has been established here for many years, and works well, and is in every way beneficial to our assistants.

A public meeting was held in Port Elizabeth in 1908 attended by 2000 people at which it was agreed to submit a resolution to the City Council requesting them to ask the Cape Parliament to amend the Act to make the half-holiday on Saturdays (E P Herald 18/7/08). The following month the Grocers and Provision Dealers, Cape Town, presented a petition to Parliament with the same request (21/8/08). They were unsuccessful.

Many letters appeared in the Pretoria News in 1904 about the hours of shop assistants, and several said they wanted to watch and play sport on a Saturday afternoon (Pretoria News (?/2/04). A Shop Hours Act was passed in the Transvaal in October 1908 which was similar to the one in the Cape, granting a half-holiday on either Wednesday or Saturday, and stipulating that on other days shops had to close at 7.00 p.m. (Pretoria News 2/10/08). That left little time for athletic training. In 1911 the TAAA arranged all the sports meetings for the year on public holidays, nine in all, so it would seem that many people still had to work on Saturdays (Pretoria News 17/2/11). The same thing happened in 1912 (TAAA minutes, 12/1/12).

The campaign to gain a Saturday half-holiday was still being waged in Bloemfontein in 1921 (Friend 9/12/21).

Reference has often been made to the fact that sports were usually held on public holidays, and that they became important social occasions attended by local dignitaries and huge crowds. A public holiday that was celebrated by sports meetings throughout South Africa over a long period of time was Queen Victoria's Birthday, 24 May. One of the earliest reports of sports on that day was at the Round House Hotel in Cape Town in 1857 (Cape Argus 27/3/57). The meeting at Queenstown, which began in 1876, became known nationally, and the sports were continued when the 24 May became first Victoria Day, and later Empire Day. Other early sports meetings on the Queen's Birthday were:

Port Elizabeth 1860; Mossel Bay 1860; Kimberley 1872;  
 Pietermaritzburg 1891; Durban 1893; Pretoria 1904;  
 Bloemfontein 1900; Potchefstroom 1877; Johannesburg  
 1888; Grahamstown 1876.

Regimental Sports were often held on the Queen's Birthday, and in

1887 and 1897 the Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilees were celebrated with sports throughout the length and breadth of the country, including Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

In the Cape Colony, Wiener's Day was used for sports meetings. In 1889, after a long campaign, Ludwig Wiener, a Cape Town baker, was successful in persuading the Cape Parliament to declare the first Monday in every October a public holiday. This became known as Wiener's Day, and many referred to the promoter as 'St Wiener' (Queenstown Free Press 10/9/89). This holiday was particularly useful for athletics in the Cape, as it was the only one between August Bank Holiday and Boxing Day for a long time. The reliance of organisations on gaining a public holiday for sports was illustrated by the comment in the Natal Mercury (2/7/03), that the Foresters' Fête had won the struggle with the Point Aquatic Sports, "for possession of the Pentecostal Holiday." When the Union Parliament removed the Whit Monday public holiday in 1911, it was feared that it would affect the S A Championships scheduled for that day, and they were brought forward to the new public holiday, Union Day (Latest 26/11/10; 31/12/10). Religious holidays such as Ascension Day and Good Friday were frequently used for athletic meetings, and the S A Championships were held several times on Good Friday.

#### WAR

Some of the more obvious effects of war have already been noted, such as the description of activities, the occupation of athletic grounds, the arrival of British athletes in the army, including Pitman, Hefferon, Deacon, Halswell and McArthur, and the numerous meetings held by the British Army wherever troops were camped.

The three encounters between the Dutch and the British had interesting interactions with athletics. The First Anglo-Boer War (Eerste Vryheidsoorlog) began on 16 December 1880, and according

to Geen (1961, p. 164):

At the time there were not 3500 British troops in all South Africa and the small garrisons at Pretoria, Potchefstroom and Lydenburg were simultaneously besieged...

Accounts of the siege of Pretoria in the army newspaper, News of the Camp, indicate the role that athletic sports played in the social activities of the military and civilians and the maintenance of morale. In February 1881, Convent Redoubt Athletic Sports were held outside the Redoubt next to Jellabad Villas. This was an outing for the "cooped-up residents of the capital" (News of the Camp 3/2/81). The Boers reportedly sat on their trench fortifications and watched.

'Siege Sports' were also held in the Second Anglo-Boer War. At Mafeking the Mafeking Mail was issued daily, "shells permitting", and according to issue 19 on 27 November 1899, on Sundays, "...the Boer knocks off sniping and Mafeking promptly resumes its enjoyment of life." One of the enjoyments was athletic sports, and these were held regularly. The Mafeking Gymkhana Club was a frequent organiser, and athletic events were often intermingled with horse racing. One of the events on Sunday 10 December was a Bullet Race for Ladies. The report read (Mafeking Mail 31, 12/12/99):

As Boer bullets, which it was intended to use, were found to be far too small for the purpose, the domestic 'Murphy' was substituted.

This event was a type of potato race. Issue 120 (Mafeking Mail 17/4/00) reported that:

Captain Cowan and the officers of the Bechuanaland Rifles deserve commendation for the excellent manner in which Sunday's sports were arranged and carried through.

Baden-Powell and the officers of the Garrison, arranged sports for natives on 13 May. Further insight was provided by Henry Martin in his diary (Transvaal Archives). Four entries are pertinent:

Sunday 8 April

Quiet all day and no news of any sort. Sports in the recreation ground in the afternoon. This prolonged state of the siege is getting unbearable. Sunday is the only day of the week that we can reckon on not being shelled.

Sunday 15 April

Easter Sunday, went to church in the morning, sports in the afternoon at the recreation ground.

Sunday 29 April

Sports in the recreation ground in the morning and afternoon, went up in the afternoon for a short time but found them slow.

NOTES

Throughout the siege the Boers never fired a cannon shot into the town on Sunday, which was a comfort and enabled us to move about and visit our friends in safety. Sunday was a day we all looked forward to with pleasure and anticipation.



There were also Siege Sports at Kimberley (Diamond Field News 25/12/99; 26/1/1900).

At the time of the Jameson Raid in 1895, the Wanderers Club opened its facilities for the accommodation of women and children, and the Wanderers New Year Sports were cancelled (Star 1/1/96; 9/1/96). The detention of the Reform Committee interfered with the business of the SAAA as one of those detained was the secretary, C L Andersson, and this delayed the circular to Cape clubs asking them to join the CCAA and CU:

The printing and publishing of the above circular has been delayed through the events which have since taken place in the Transvaal. (Diamond Field News 24/1/96).

During the Second Anglo-Boer War, Green Point track was used as a prisoner-of-war camp for Boer prisoners, and Lords, Durban, was taken over by the army as a remount centre. Green Point was re-opened on 13 December 1901, but the situation at Lords was more serious. When it was handed back to the DAAA they did not have the money to restore it and 'Umpire' feared that it would never be used for athletics again. The Agricultural Society played a prominent role in restoring Lords, and it was re-opened in 1905, but a proper cycling and athletic track was only completed in 1907. Wanderers was also occupied in the war and used first to store provisions and later as No 6 Military Hospital for the British Army. Athletics began again in 1902. The Caledonian Ground in Pretoria was used as a mule camp, and was back in action in 1903.

An interesting feature of the war was the athletic activity in Boer prisoner-of-war camps and concentration camps. In the concentration camps, which had been established to accommodate Dutch women and children whose farms had been destroyed, sports

not only helped to keep children occupied and entertained, but also introduced them to the sport of athletics. Refugee Sports were held in Bloemfontein on Christmas Day 1900, and in November 1901. On the King's Birthday, sports were held at Springfontein Camp, Norval's Pont Camp, Aliwal North Camp and Bethulie Camp. A copy of a programme of Refugee Camp Sports at Kimberley, (24/25 June 1902) states:

A sum of money having been granted by the government for amusements on Coronation day...

Sports meetings in prisoner-of-war camps were held at St Helena, Diyatalawa, and Bermuda. One of the most interesting accounts of athletics at Deadwood Camp, St Helena, appears in Boere op St Helena (Nienaber, 1950, pp. 107-111), in which de Graaf records a sports meeting in honour of President Kruger's Birthday. It is interesting to note that the great South African sprinter, member of the SAAAA team to England in 1895 and 1898, P J Blignaut, won the long jump, the high jump and several novelty events. He also did well at a meeting on 16 April 1901 (Diamond Field News 27/5/01). Other meetings were held at Broadbottom Camp, St Helena, 19 June 1901 and Diyatalawa Camp, Ceylon, 12 September 1902, where J Bremmer won the "100 yards Hardlopen voor 'Championship'." The prize was 6Rs (rixdollars).

J N Brink, adjutant to General Crowther, gave a moving account of sports in honour of Queen Wilhelmina's birthday on 31 August 1901 at Ragama, Ceylon (Brink, 1904, pp. 190-194).

The bitter coffee has a particularly sweet taste this morning, but scarcely have we swallowed it, when red and white signalling flags announce that the races are going to begin. There the first two fleet-footers are

off already! Watch how they strain every muscle! Are those the same men who generally pass the day in ill-humour and who give a sigh of relief when the long, long day is at last at an end? But today it is Orange Day, and every man feels a different being from what he usually is. There we have a three-legged race, fit sport to relax even the sternest visage; many a one laughs today, who thought he had forgotten how to laugh. Fierce waxes the fun when the egg-runners make their desperate attempts to keep their egg upon the spoon. Narrower and narrower becomes the circle of anxious spectators, who wish to see what way an eye has to be given to that pig, cleverly drawn upon the ground.

It is two o'clock. The shrill tones of the flute again call everybody to the sports-grounds, where further amusements are to be provided. Hearty laughs greet the attempts of the 'mast-climbers', and the comical jumps of those who take part in the 'sack-race'. The 'potato-pickers' are nervously trying to outdo each other; the 'cock-fighting', and the 'rope-catchers', cause roars of laughter. It is a hot day; the sun sends down burning rays and the high palms give but scanty shade. But who cares? Today is Orange Day, and joy is in everyone's heart.

Although these sports had many novelty items, at all the meetings there were bona fide events, usually including sprinting, hurdles, the mile, long jump, high jump and shot put.

I J Minnaar, writing in Die Huisgenoot (4/12/36), describes an inter-camp meeting between Deadwood and Broadbottom held at St Helena in honour of Presidents Reitz and Kruger in October 1901, for which the competitors actually trained. Phil Blignaut was the handicapper and there were 5000 spectators, including Frank Roome who was described as a "deskundige op die gebied van wedlope en skrywer."

Several athletes were active in the war, and a list was given in the Witness, reprinted from an article by 'Pneumatic' in the Bloemfontein Post (Witness 14/8/99). According to the report, Morkel and Piet Blignaut were killed, and Phil Blignaut was injured, at Elandsplaagte.

The Mapumulo Uprising in Natal in 1906 had a disruptive effect on the athletes there when troops were mobilised at Port Shepstone, Harding and Umzinto, and the Natal 'Test' Sports were affected. Landers, Sheppard, De Bary and Heine were all called up (Natal Mercury 19/3/06). Continued disturbances caused the cancellation of the Durban AC Sports in June 1906.

The outbreak of World War One in 1914 brought athletics to a standstill, as the Sporting Star noted on 12 October 1919:

There has been no sport more seriously affected by the war than athletics proper.

Able-bodied men were discouraged from taking part in sports activities in the Transvaal and the TAAA discontinued its championships in 1915 (TAAA minutes, 17/9/15). A notice was added to entry forms for meetings: "Those eligible for active service are requested not to enter" (TAAA minutes, 17/1/18). The proposed visit of an Australian team was cancelled by the SAAA and CA (SAAA & CA minutes, 6/12/14) and Allsop stated he was willing to continue acting as secretary, "until the full working of the

Association was resumed" (SAAA & CA minutes, 6/12/14).

World War One brought to an end the careers of several prominent athletes. Pitman, who had beaten Brown in Pietermaritzburg, was wounded in Flanders; H Oldfield, G Sulin and H Sulin enlisted; T E Scheepers was killed with Colonel Fouche's commando operating against rebels. The Rev J G Aldridge was killed by one of the last shells fired by the Germans (Latest 16/11/18).

#### TOURS

The possibility of a trip overseas to represent South Africa, or the prospect of a tour by visiting athletes have always stimulated interest and raised performance levels. The success of Laurens Meintjes in England and at the World Fair, Chicago, in 1893, had much to do with the decision to send a team of athletes to Britain in 1895, the first sporting team to represent South Africa overseas, although there was no country 'South Africa' at that time. The team was Piet Blignaut, Phil Blignaut, Phil Hunter and Dudley Gradwell. According to Parker (1897, p. 112) these men "donned the green and orange", but whether or not they used the Springbok emblem is open to doubt. (See below.)

W V Simkins made a proposal to the Western Province Rugby Football Union in 1886 that a rugby team should be sent to England, and this prompted several letters to the press, some of which suggested a cricket or a rifle team (Cape Times 14/7/86).

A Cape Colony Rifle Team was sent to Britain in 1887 (Cape Times ?/6/1887). H W Brown was one to respond to the letters (Cape Times 27/7/86):

With regard to athletics, just as praiseworthy a team could be selected from South Africa and sent to England as ever was the proud lot of any Colony.

Brown suggested that to be eligible, athletes should have achieved certain standards: 100, 10 secs.; 200, 20.1/5 secs.; 440, 50 secs.; 880, 2 mins; 16lbs. shot, 40 ft; cricket ball. 130 yards.

Brown again suggested that a team should be sent overseas in 1892, to the Chicago Exhibition, and mentioned Vincent, Pitman, Dreyer and the Brown brothers as suitable (Queenstown Free Press 10/5/92). The press commented:

The suggestion hardly seems likely to be carried into effect, the difficulties seem too hard to overcome, at least at first sight.

The proposal in 1893 (Natal Mercury 8/6/93) that a Pan-Britannic Games be held in London was, as has been discussed, one of the motivating factors in the establishment of the SAAAA, as it was felt necessary to form a national body in order to send a team, and these two issues were for a while conflated. In the event, the SAAAA was formed in 1894, the Pan-Britannic Games were cancelled, so a team was sent to the English AAA Championships in 1895.

Outside Johannesburg, there was little interest in the Pan-Britannic Festival, Meintjes' exploits, or even the SAAAA, as each centre was too busy establishing and promoting its own athletic affairs. The Queenstown Free Press 20/6/93; 6/10/93) reported Meintjes' races because he was to some extent a 'local boy', nephew of the Rev Naude and ex-pupil at the High School. The Eastern Province Herald (29/11/93; 8/1/94) was interested when he returned because he decided to settle in Port Elizabeth. Meintjes' remarks on the Pan-Britannic Festival were fully reported. The Star (25/11/93; 4/12/93; 9/12/93; 27/12/93) gave



full coverage to both Meintjes and the Pan-Brittanian Festival. The Cape Times hardly mentioned Meintjies, the Pan-Brittanian Festival or the SAAAA, and the team to England in 1895 sailed without any interaction from Cape Town.

On the occasion of the first S A Championships, H W Brown argued that a team should be sent 'Home' without waiting for the Pan-Brittanian Festival, and said one hundred and fifty pounds per man would cover the costs. Mr Blake agreed but said it would cost three hundred pounds per man. Mr Hazelhurst thought it was premature, and that they should wait until 1895 and send a team then if the Pan-Brittanian idea fell through. This latter suggestion was adopted (Star 31/3/94).

At the second Annual General Meeting of the SAAAA the secretary reported that nothing more had been heard of the Pan-Brittanian Festival and a team to England was being considered. Platnauer warned that only amateurs should be sent (Star 16/1/95). Following the S A Championships in March, the team was chosen with Abe Bailey and Henry Nourse guaranteeing the money (Star 29/3/95; 30/3/95). The team was looked after by Bailey, S Thomson and G Sonn, and managed by a G V Carter. Shaw assisted Hunter with hurdle training (Star 13/7/95). Reports on performances appeared regularly in the Star (29/7/95; 30/7/95; 8/8/95; 26/8/95; 8/10/95).

The Cape Times, which had ignored the SAAAA and its affairs, became interested in 1895 and published a full account of the tour to Europe (Cape Times 21/8/95; 9/9/95). Results were also printed in the Diamond Field Advertiser (10/9/95). Results also appeared in English publications: Sporting Life (24/6/95; 1/7/95); Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News (20/7/95; 10/8/95). The Athletic News, Manchester, reported that (8/7/95):

The South Africans wore a very striking costume of emerald green bordered with gold braid.

The magazine, South Africa, also commented (13/7/95): "The uniform of green edged with gold was particularly pretty."

Pictures of the athletes in the South African Empire (13/7/95) show them wearing a shield on their vests, but it is difficult to see if the shield contained a springbok, or any other type of buck. There has long been speculation about the origin of the term 'Springbok(ken)' for South African sportsmen.

The 1906 rugby players are generally considered to be the first 'Springboks', but according to correspondence conducted by Matt Mare in 1963 (Chairman of the SAAAU), when the 1895 team was in England they decided to sew an emblem on their vests and decided upon the Springbok. A letter from R A Kruger and C C Schutte claims that their mother often told the story of how her two nephews, Phil and Piet Blignaut, decided upon the springbok and sewed it on their vests. Thus, it appears that athletes were the first to wear the 'green and gold', but there is doubt about the emblem. In his readings of South African newspapers, the author first came across the term 'Springbokken' in connection with the 1906 rugby team to Britain.

In 1898 a second team was sent to England, consisting of the athletes, P J Blignaut and H Morkel, and the cyclist, J M Griebenow. Natal refused to support this team because when English sporting teams came to South Africa they insisted on being guaranteed expenses, and Natal felt there should be reciprocity (Star 10/1/98). Nourse, Farrar and Bailey each contributed fifty pounds but response from the provinces was poor (Star 30/3/98; 25/4/98). The team left for England but C Herbert, English AAA secretary, sent a cable to the SAAAA saying another five hundred pounds was needed or the men would be sent

home (Star 28/5/98). Nourse and Greathead donated one hundred and fifty pounds, but there was still a poor response (Star 1/8/98). This led to a special meeting of the SAAAA to consider how the money could be raised (Star 30/8/98). Nourse advanced another one hundred pounds to enable Griebenow to compete in Vienna. The team was not successful and financially it was a disaster. All three arrived in Cape Town without the price of a train ticket to Johannesburg (Star 13/10/98) and there was criticism of the large amount of money spent. The financial repercussions of the tour were still apparent in 1904 (Natal Mercury 6/4/04) and probably contributed to the fact that no further attempts were made to send teams overseas until the 1908 Olympic Games. This viewpoint is substantiated by the comment of 'Rapier' in the Diamond Field Advertiser (8/7/98):

After this failure it will probably be some years before South Africa - or the Transvaal - sends anymore athletes to England.

The phrase, 'or the Transvaal' was significant. Many of the provinces felt that it was a Transvaal team, and South African in name only. The Cape Times (7/6/98) commented: "That is not playing the game...", and said it was just as if Cape Colony or Natal sent a cricket or football team to the United Kingdom and called it South African.

Reference has already been made to the 1908 Olympics and the events that led up to the formation of the S A Olympic Games Association. In this section the sending of the team and its effects will be studied. The first indication that South Africans were becoming aware of the Olympic Games was a report in 1906 that Julius Jeppe had received a letter from the Consul-General of Greece about the games at Athens, and had suggested that Cape Colony form a committee and send entries. The Cape Times (4/1/06) felt that South African athletes were not yet good enough.

'Umpire', writing in the Natal Mercury (3/3/06) noted that Australian athletes were going to the Games and said:

It would be well worth considering sending a South African representative upon some future occasion, and local athletes might bear in mind that there would be a chance of following 'The fortunes of Nigel'.

This apparently referred to the Australians.

In the brochure prepared for the S A Championships at Durban in 1907 (S A Champions and Springbok Athletes), 'Qrius' noted that South Africa had not yet competed at the Olympics, and that a team should be sent in 1908. He felt that the athletes were good enough, despite the diffidence and disinclination of the authorities. 'Qrius' said Nourse had been keen to send another team to England in 1904 when the SAAA and CA had been formed, but the plan was dropped because of a proposed tour of South Africa by an Oxford-Cambridge team, which did not materialise because of financial problems. 'Qrius' said it would cost less to send a team overseas (Wallace, 1907, pp. 2-16).

Platnauer drew attention to the Olympic Games at a meeting of the SAAA and CA on 31 January 1907, and it was agreed to write to the English AAA for details (S A minutes, 31/1/07). In September it was announced that the British Olympic Games Association had sent a programme and centres were asked to comment and submit entries (Natal Mercury 7/9/07) Platnauer was in England in 1907 but on his return joined the sub-committee nominated to deal with the Olympic Games question (SAAA & CA minutes, 24/10/07). The Cape Colony AA and CU was not in favour of sending a team. They later said they were not opposed to a team going to the Games, but SAAA and CA funds should not be used (S A minutes, 12/2/08). The CCAA and CU was the only province that did not contribute to the Olympic

fund (SAAA & CA minutes, 18/4/08). The controversy surrounding the selection of the team has been discussed in an earlier chapter, and this continued after the Games. The success of Hefferon, who had been beaten by McArthur in the Olympic Trials, convinced the Potchefstroom sportsmen that their man could have won the Olympic marathon, especially when McArthur won the Transvaal 10 miles cross country championship in August (Star 14/9/08). There is no doubt that Walker's win in the 100 metres and Hefferon's second place in the marathon focused attention on athletics, and there was a lot of coverage in the press. The success of the team repaired the damage done by the 1898 tour and converted many to Nourse's view that South Africa should compete regularly in competition overseas. Thus, Walker and Duncker were sent to compete in Europe in 1909. Walker's success in winning the English AAA 100 yards in 10 seconds from Cartmell (USA) and Kerr (Canada) and Duncker's third place in the 120 yards hurdles, once again received publicity and convinced South Africans that they could compete with the best in the world (Star 14/9/09). Walker's tour was covered in detail by The Latest (see Appendix L).

The feeling that McArthur had been deprived of Olympic success persisted and in 1909 this was reinforced by McArthur's win in the Durban Marathon in 2:44:36 (Star 29/10/09). McArthur was granted leave to compete in the marathon in Athens in 1910 but, unfortunately, both that event and the London Polytechnic Marathon were abandoned. McArthur had scratched from the AAA 10 miles championship because when he arrived in England his appointed trainer caused problems: "He nearly settled me" (Latest 4/6/10), and, "He absolutely knocked me up" (Pretoria News 25/5/10). So McArthur returned without having run a single race, at a cost of two hundred and fifty pounds (Rand Daily Mail 21/5/10). Walker also toured Europe again in 1910, but suffered from blood poisoning and muscle strains (Latest 25/6/10; 2/7/10) and was beaten in the AAA 100 yards. He later beat the winner, Ramsdell, in three races and his tour finished successfully.



The 1912-1914 period was dominated by four aspects: the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm, and the proposed tours to South Africa by the Achilles Club, Polytechnic Harriers, and an Australian team. Despite the success of the 1908 team in London, not all South Africans were convinced of the value of the Olympic Games, but when the time for the games came closer, South Africans were eager to compete. A meeting of the Olympic Committee early in 1912 agreed that a team be sent, the number depending upon the amount of money that could be raised by public subscription (Star 12/1/12). The CCAA and CU was again reluctant and in December 1911 had decided that a team should not be sent and that the money could be better used to bring a team to South Africa from Britain (Cape Times 20/12/11).

There was criticism of a team being sent to the 1912 Olympics, and of the team finally selected. Platnauer said that the provinces had failed to grasp the importance of the Olympics (Transvaal Leader 13/3/12) and he also defended the selections (Leader 18/4/12). Selection was, of necessity, done quickly. The S A Championships were held on 6 and 8 April, the team was chosen on 9 April and left on 10 April. Five of the team took part in the English AAA Championships, and Patching was awarded the Harvey Memorial Trophy for winning the 100 yards in 9.4/5 seconds, and placing second in the 440 and third in the 220 (Cape Times 24/6/12).

Richard Coombe, president of the Australian AAA, had suggested that the British Empire enter the Olympics as one team, an idea supported by the London Times (Latest 21/9/12). This idea did not materialise. After the Games some members of the team complained that Keartland aped the Americans too closely, and that Wetherall had prevented them from competing in events in Britain (Latest 10/8/12).



The 1912 Olympics received wide press coverage before, during and after the event. An Olympic Film was shown in South Africa soon after the team returned, which further increased public exposure of the athletes (Latest 17/8/12; Star 8/8/12; Cape Times September 1912). There was an upsurge of interest in athletics, and a large crowd turned up at the Wanderers in December at a mammoth sports meeting to raise funds for the 1916 Olympics (Star 16/12/12; Transvaal Leader 17/12/12). 'Qrius' was still opposed to Nourse's viewpoint that the public would support future Olympic teams, and said a special fund should be established (Latest 20/7/12). Later 'Qrius' said: "...business methods applied to international sports are indispensable to international success" (Latest 24/8/12). 'Qrius' continually argued that sending one or two star performers to compete each year in England was necessary, not just a team to the Olympics (Latest 3/5/13).

Several attempts were made to bring athletic teams to South Africa before Pete Suzman managed it in 1923. A brief report in the Star in 1905 noted that the English athletes Shrubbs and Morton had been refused permission by the English AAA to compete at the Whit Monday Wanderers Sports (Star 9/5/05). In 1906 the SAAA and CA discussed the desirability of inviting a team of university athletes from Britain. T E Baines had visited England and contacted universities. He had guaranteed one thousand, five hundred pounds towards expenses. A letter from C N Jackson, Oxford University secretary, said a team of twenty-two athletes could be sent, but more than one thousand, five hundred pounds was needed. The SAAA and CA wrote saying fewer athletes should be sent (Star 24/1/06). Nourse, Platnauer and Allsop were appointed to handle the tour. The CCAA and CU met on 7 February and decided to oppose the tour because the proposed period, June to September, was considered "inopportune" (Star 6/2/06; Cape Times 8/2/06). Natal approved and guaranteed two hundred pounds, but the CCAA and CU, meeting again in March, were still opposed to it

(Star 21/2/06; Cape Times 1/3/06). Eastern Province also opposed the tour (EPAA & CA minutes, 14/2/06). The SAAA and CA abandoned the tour in March (SAAA & CA minutes, 19/3/06).

In 1906/1907 the idea of inviting an Australian team to South Africa developed. 'Qrius', writing in The Latest in 1914 (14/2/14) claimed that this had been a pet project of his since 1906. The idea certainly seems to have originated in Natal, and the Star reported (6/7/07) that the Natal Advertiser had received a telegram from the Australian AAA which said that they could not afford to send a team to South Africa, as a team was being sent to England. The Cape Times noted (10/4/07) that 'Australian' had written in the Natal press suggesting Australia should invite a South African team, and forget about England because England never reciprocated financially. The Australian Olympic representatives were actually in Durban in 1908 on their way to London, and watched a meeting at Lords organised to raise funds for Walker, but they did not compete (Natal Mercury 14/5/08). After the Olympics it was reported that Australia and New Zealand were keen to have Walker and Duncker compete there, and 'Qrius' commented (Latest 28/8/09):

Australia is really nearer to South Africa in a sense than is the Old Country...everything should be done by mutual aid and rivalry to develop sport.

In 1911, 'Qrius' was again campaigning for a team of Australian athletes to compete in South Africa (Latest 20/5/11), and yet again in 1914 (Latest 31/1/14; 14/2/14) and it was only prevented by the outbreak of World War One.

Meanwhile, there were continued attempts to bring out a team from Britain, despite the feeling in some quarters that the English AAA expected Colonials to pay, whether athletes were visiting

Britain from the colonies, or the colonies from Britain (Cape Times 2/7/09). This criticism was also voiced in Australia, and R Coombes (Canada), speaking at the English AAA dinner, said that the AAA should reciprocate the visits of Australian, Canadian and South African athletes. Lord Alverstone, of the AAA, agreed (Cape Times 15/9/11). In 1912 there were moves by the SAAA and CA to bring a Polytechnic Harriers team to South Africa. This London club assisted all colonial teams visiting England, including the 1908 and 1912 Olympic Games teams. The first moves to bring out the English team were made by Allsop, the SAAA and CA secretary, who accompanied the South African cricket team to England in 1912 and was asked to make enquiries about a visit by English athletes (Star 22/3/12). Allsop reported back to the SAAA and CA in November, and it was agreed that a team of ten would be invited at a cost of between one thousand and one thousand, two hundred pounds (Star 5/11/12). The Western Province AAA opposed the tour, saying a British team should have been invited, not a club team (Cape Times 7/12/12). Platnauer wrote a long letter to the Cape Times (10/12/12) explaining all the details of the tour up to that point and attacking the CCAA and CU for their viewpoint. Eventually, the WP centre of the CCAA and CU agreed to guarantee fifty pounds for the tour, but the SAAA and CA took note of the criticism and wrote to the English AAA to send a national team (S A minutes, 5/2/13). A cabled reply said the AAA could only send a team in January 1914, but the SAAA and CA requested them to consider October to December 1913 (SAAA & CA minutes, 13/2/13).

The English AAA agreed to send a team at the end of 1913, but said there would be no financial support, and that they could not assist a South African team to England (S A minutes, 7/4/13). The SAAA and CA agreed to guarantee one thousand one hundred pounds for the tour, but the AAA team would not receive any gate money (S A minutes, 9/6/13). Many cables were exchanged and arrangements were made for the team to arrive in October but, in August, the AAA said it was having difficulty raising a

sufficiently strong team. The SAAA and CA replied that names had to be submitted by 15 August or the tour would be cancelled (S A minutes, 5/8/13). The AAA eventually informed the SAAA and CA that only four athletes were available and the tour was cancelled (SAAA & CA minutes, 3/11/13). The Friend (9/8/13) reported that a clique in London did its best to prevent the tour because they disagreed with the AAA rules on amateurism. The Cape Times objected to learning about the tour from the Sporting Star and not the SAAA and CA (Cape Times 8/5/13) and criticised the SAAA and CA for committing itself to the tour without first consulting the Cape Province centres. The prospect of the tour stimulated much interest and activity in Western Province and Eastern Province. Guarantees were given, tracks put in order, and weekly meetings arranged to prepare local athletes (Cape Times 24/6/13; 28/6/13; 2/7/13; 5/7/13). Even before the English AAA cancelled, friction had developed about the arrangements between the SAAA and CA and the CCAA and CU, and the Cape Times (10/7/13; 18/7/13; 27/7/13; 29/7/13) said the industrial unrest made the visit inopportune. One of the main stumbling blocks that caused the cancellation of the tour was the rule preventing English athletes from receiving out-of-pocket expenses (Cape Times 30/7/13).

Early in 1914, the Cape Times suggested that Western Province should recommend a tour by Australian and New Zealand athletes, one advantage being that the seasons were the same (Cape Times 27/1/14). The SAAA and CA agreed to invite a team and guaranteed one thousand, four hundred and five pounds (S A Minutes, 6/4/14). According to L A Cox, the Australians were enthusiastic (Cape Times 14/5/14) but there was once again friction between the SAAA and CA and the CCAA and CU when the former reduced the Cape meetings from seven to five. The Cape withdrew its five hundred pounds guarantee (S A minutes, 29/5/14). Arrangements went ahead, however, and the Cape agreed to accept six meetings for five hundred pounds (S A minutes, 30/6/14). The tour was scheduled to last ten weeks, with fourteen meetings. The tour then became

entangled in administrative confusion. A letter from E Marks, secretary of the Australian AAA, said he had received an invitation from the SAAA and CA, but no letters from the CCAA and CU. He had also received a private letter from J T Wallace of Natal ('Qrius'). Marks asked for a definite decision to be cabled. Cox thought that mistakes had been made because the CCAA and CU understood it was working directly with Australia and not through the SAAA and CA, who had created a wrong impression (Cape Times 15/7/14). It was next reported that the Transvaal and Free State were having difficulty raising guarantees (SAAA and CA minutes, 20/7/14) and Transvaal asked the Cape to take over two of the meetings, which annoyed the Cape, whose quota had previously been reduced from seven to five against their wishes. Then, as a result of the conflict over the S A Championships involving the St Norman incident and betting, Eastern Province withdrew its support for the tour (EPAA and CA minutes, 27/7/14). Thus, there was considerable confusion and friction, but any further progress was ended by the outbreak of World War One, and in September the SAAA and CA wrote to Australia (SAAA and CA minutes, 6/12/14):

...stating that in view of the European crisis, he did not think the tour could be arranged, at any rate for the time being.

The period closed with no tour of South Africa by an amateur athletic team, and in view of the interest generated by the tours overseas and the excitement created by other visiting sports teams and the British and Australian professional athletes, there is no doubt that a tour would have done much to stimulate amateur athletics, especially in the depressed period between 1905 and 1913. The stimulating effect of tours was shown clearly after World War One when Suzman brought English university teams to South Africa.



## ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

Money has played an important role in the development of all sports. The need to earn money to live, which often meant people working long hours for six days a week, prevented the masses in England from taking part in sport and recreation. It has been noted that in the nineteenth century in England and South Africa, sports meetings had to be held on public holidays. In time, as working hours were restricted and the workers were paid improved wages, they were able to attend and take part on Saturday afternoons. Those workers involved in hard physical work and living in urban areas sought relief and entertainment, and football began to attract thousands of spectators in England. This was a less prominent development in South Africa as there was less industrial growth, but even in South Africa, sports such as athletics did their best to attract a 'gate' and bring in money.

This money was needed to enable clubs and associations to operate effectively and to pay the travelling expenses of athletes. It was reasoned that good athletes would attract large crowds, and to obtain good athletes, there had to be good prizes. So prizes became important, and the efforts to secure visiting athletes from other towns, provinces and countries, became a priority.

If there was an economic depression and money was in short supply, it was difficult to provide good prizes; and the public could not afford to attend sports meetings, so athletics was at the mercy of the numerous depressions that affected the South African economy in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. When diamonds were discovered at Kimberley, and gold in the Transvaal, and money was plentiful, athletic sports boomed.

Geen (1961, p. 269) notes that since the early 'eighties a drought had occurred on average every six years, which severely hampered



agricultural activity, and the effectiveness of rainfall had been reduced by poor farming methods. As early as 1871 the Natal Witness (?/6/71), was reporting on depression and inactivity in Pietermaritzburg, although there are no reports that it affected athletics. The departure of men to the diamond fields affected the Pietermaritzburg sports in 1872 (Natal Witness 5/7/72). Pietermaritzburg had economic problems in 1883 which did not mar athletics (Natal Witness 18/9/83):

The 'Maritzburg of 1883, despite hard times and a scarcity of money, has managed to spare a little of the balance of more flourishing days for the promotion of various institutions; and it is satisfactory to note that it has not forgotten to open its purse to further the cause of athletics.

The exodus to the goldfields in 1886 appears to have affected athletics more adversely and to a greater extent than the discovery of diamonds at Dutoitspan in 1870. The Queenstown Free Press (10/9/86) carried a letter asking about the annual Hospital Sports, to which W P Fisher replied (14/9/86) that he had intended calling a meeting some time ago,

...but owing to the general exodus which is taking place from our midst at present, added to the feeling of apathy and indifference displayed in the matter... I had little hope that a meeting could be successfully arranged this year.

In Durban, there was also doubt that the Wasps Sports would be held (Natal Mercury 14/8/86):

...for various reasons, not the least powerful of which is the growing exodus up-country.

The Wasps Club, in fact, collapsed completely. The Caledonian Society also lost many members and did not hold Scottish Sports (Natal Mercury 15/9/86). At sports in Pietermaritzburg, it was reported that there were fewer spectators (Natal Witness 3/9/88).

Thus, some towns were initially adversely affected by the discovery of diamonds and gold but, because of the increased money available, the arrival of many immigrants interested in athletics, including the professionals, the overall effect on athletics was positive.

Drought and the rinderpest plague had an adverse effect on country districts, especially at Queenstown. In 1889 the Queenstown Free Press (11/10/09) commented that there were few spectators at sports meetings, "...owing no doubt to the very severe and trying drought we have just experienced." A similar comment was made in Pietermaritzburg a few years later (Natal Witness (30/12/93): "It generally happens that a bad commercial year is a bad year for sports."

Sports in Queenstown were cancelled in October 1896 and the day proclaimed as a Day of Humiliation and Prayer throughout the colony, because of the effects of the rinderpest (Queenstown Free Press 9/10/96). In 1897 it was reported that attendance at the sports was poor because of drought and the rinderpest (Free Press 15/10/97). The generally depressed state of the country at that time and its effect on sport and athletics was also reported from Pretoria (Transvaal Advertiser 1/11/97) and Kimberley (Diamond Field News 8/5/96; 31/5/98).

After the Anglo-Boer War there was a prolonged period of economic depression which was reflected in athletics as this report in the

Star indicates (9/10/05):

Owing to the depression in sports, as in trade and commerce generally, quite a long period has elapsed since the holding of an athletic and cycling meeting at the Wanderers' Grounds.

The Star said that clubs were not prepared to put on sports meetings at a loss. A year later there was no change and the Star reported (7/11/06) that depression, "financial and otherwise" had interfered with the holding of meetings. The effects of depression were also felt in Cape Town by the City C and AC (Cape Times 13/8/06) and the Western Province Association for coloureds (Cape Times 18/11/07). Times were hard again in 1908 and at the S A Championships in Cape Town little entertainment was arranged (Cape Times 16/4/08).

The depression in the shipping trade in 1907 did not, apparently, reduce the quality of the prizes at the Point Walk, Durban (Natal Mercury 18/11/07) but in 1908 Kimberley suffered from depression and it was decided to cancel the famed annual De Beers Sports, and not to accept the Cape Colony Championships because of the crisis in the diamond market (Cape Times 16/1/08; Diamond Field News 14/1/08). The De Beers Sports were resumed the following year. At the Annual General Meeting of Pretoria Harriers, the chairman was able to report a successful year, despite the depression (Pretoria News 3/2/08) but athletics in the city did suffer and sports meetings were cancelled (Pretoria News 18/12/07). Many clubs also had to cancel their annual sports in Natal, and those that did attempt to hold them, lost money (Natal Mercury 7/4/08). The Caledonian Society also abandoned their sports (Natal Mercury 9/6/08).

In 1909 and 1910 both Cape Town and Bloemfontein complained that

sportsmen were being attracted away to the Transvaal. The Friend commented that if the trend continued, sport would suffer a severe setback in places outside Johannesburg (29/1/09). The following year a letter in the Cape Times complained about civil servants leaving for Pretoria at the time of Union (Cape Times 13/8/10). But Johannesburg also suffered from depression, and in 1910 'Pneumatic' noted that there was a lack of fixtures in the Transvaal because of the depression and the high cost of putting on meetings (Sporting Star 20/8/10). This was one of the reasons why the harrier clubs flourished, and why 'Pneumatic' attacked them, accusing them of not promoting athletics (Sporting Star 3/9/10; 17/9/10; 24/9/10). Very few mines held Christmas sports that year, and 'Pneumatic' said, "The times are changed indeed when we find that throughout the Transvaal only Lydenburg and Blaauwbank have found sufficient public spirit to start the New Year after the time-honoured custom, viz. with a sports meeting" (Sporting Star 31/12/10).

In Port Elizabeth in 1910, the E P Herald felt that the depression of the past decade had to lift (1/1/10), and indeed in 1911 there appeared to be a re-awakening in athletics (E P Herald 6/2/11).

Writing in The Latest in 1913, 'Qrius' said that the political commercial situation made the financing of any Olympic team doubtful (Latest 30/8/13). At Krugersdorp the West Rand Caledonian Society cancelled their sports because of the depressed business conditions (Rand Daily Mail 13/9/13) and the Cape Times (29/7/13) said that the proposed English tour should be cancelled because of the "unsettled state of the country", referring to the miners' strike. 'Qrius' felt that the economic situation had reduced the number of young athletes in the country (Latest 6/6/14):

Many young athletes in the past came from overseas...before the blight of war and the unsettled state of business in the Union had put a stop to immigration.

In 1914, South Africa experienced severe industrial unrest and a general strike, involving the railways and, the miners forced the government to declare martial law, but there were no reports of this affecting athletics.

Throughout the period, lack of finance limited the development of athletics. The succession of depressions severely affected the presentation of sports meetings and the support given to teams travelling overseas. Wrangles about finance were also primarily responsible for the cancellation of the proposed tours to South Africa. Athletics in most centres had to rely on the generosity of municipal councils to supply grounds and maintain them in good condition. Johannesburg was fortunate in having Wanderers and the size of the city usually guaranteed a satisfactory 'gate'. This was a factor influencing the allocation of the S A Championships, which, before World War One, went seven times to Johannesburg. Cape Town and Durban each had three turns.

## CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

## COACHING AND TRAINING

Progress in South African athletics in the period under review was steady and noteworthy. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, athletics was confined to rural sports which were crude, infrequent, spontaneous and unstructured. By the end of the period athletics had become institutionalised with a fairly well defined administrative structure, and athletes competed at well-organised regular meetings in standardised events at specially built facilities. Improved transport enabled athletes to move from one part of the country to the other and even between countries, and newspapers enabled people to read about their exploits. Inevitably, standards of performance improved, and soon records were being kept, at first on a national basis, and in 1913 internationally when the IAAF was formed. Two factors in particular contributed to the rising standards of performance. Firstly, the influence of coaching and improved methods of training, coupled with access to knowledge from newspapers, books and magazines; and secondly, an improvement in facilities and equipment.

The urge to give advice is one of the strongest temptations to which mankind is exposed, and the temptation is rarely resisted. Here is the basis of most training in sport." (Harris, 1964)

According to Harris (1964, p. 171) the giving of advice to athletes goes back to Homer, and the Greeks had three words for trainer: paidotribes, aleiptes and gymnastes, the latter term



approximating the modern term of coach. Trainers and coaches played important roles in Greek athletics, but were non-existent when the sport emerged in nineteenth century Britain. It was not long, however, before men of influence or authority were advising others. Athletes who had achieved success assisted those who were beginners, and schoolteachers assisted their pupils. A particular group of men who found themselves in influential positions, who had access to knowledge, and had the time to spare because it was in their own interest, were the journalists. In an age when the newspaper was the only medium of influence, editors, sports editors and athletic correspondents were regarded as oracles, and they wielded great influence. Wallace, Platnauer and Kearthland are examples.

Advice on training began to appear at about the same time as the formation and establishment of athletic clubs in the last two decades of the nineteenth century. The Queenstown Free Press (6/12/81) and the Grahamstown Journal (13/10/81) both mention a book, Hints on Training for Athletic Sports written by Mr W Anderson of the Port Elizabeth Athletic Club, priced at two shillings and six pence. Anderson was a prime mover in the formation of the PEAC and the organisation of the first sports (E P Herald 26/4/81).

The Eastern Province Herald carried a series of articles on training in 1883, written by 'Rundo-Fundo', who claimed he had twenty years of experience in athletics (17/10/83; 29/10/83; 5/11/83; 12/11/83). He warned about the dangers of competing when unfit and the need to train and eat correctly. He claimed that books were often erroneous, and that schools should have frequent athletic exercises, not just one sports day a year. Athletics should be healthy. Writing the same year in the Natal Mercury (21/8/83), 'Umpire' (Jock Cumming) had the following to say:

Training. - Running, as it now is, is a development of comparatively recent times. In

my younger days certain muscles were nursed to enable the pedestrian to accomplish a certain task. Starving and physicking, accompanied by a run at top speed once a day, was the required regimen to bring a runner into what is technically called 'condition'. To the mater-familie this was a horrible prospect for their boys who were determined to gain athletic honours. All these things, however, are now happily of the past. The laws of health are more sensibly studied, and instead of getting weak by hunger and over-training, and stale by a prolonged continuation of a required daily task, moderate exercise is adapted by frequent pleasant walks and fewer trials at top speed. To become 'fit' for a sprint, i.e. a race from 100 yards to a quarter mile - though to do the mile in anything like decent time now-a-days, one has to do all he can the whole way - you must abstain from spirits, and if accustomed to taking beer it must be taken at dinner. Drink water in moderate quantities, and strictly avoid 'blash' at meals. Let the food be solid and well-cooked. Eat moderately and remember the adage, 'More men have died from eating too much than too little.' The first thing to be observed in a sprint is, to start well. Few peds. in the colony can get away well.

Cumming went on to describe how to start, and then returned to training for the sprinter:

If the race is to be 100 yards, only run about 60 yards in practise (sic), and if a

quarter, only cover half the distance at a good swinging pace.

When Tom McCrystal, the Pietermaritzburg AC crack sprinter from Howick, entered for the Durban sports in April 1889 it was reported that he had trained for six weeks (Natal Mercury 15/4/89). The Durban sprinters Ted Smith and 'Watty' Brunton challenged McCrystal and it was noted that "All have done careful training" (Natal Mercury 3/7/89). When McCrystal beat Private Moore of the Royal Scots over 220 yards in Pietermaritzburg, Moore attacked his trainer but came off second best to a man described as "a veteran athlete of no mean order" (Natal Witness 8/4/89).

Jock Cumming, writing as 'Umpire', had a great influence on athletics. He used the incidents surrounding McCrystal's challenge matches to strengthen his appeals for a controlling body in athletics, wrote about technique and training, and recommended suitable books. In June 1891 he reported receiving a book, Athletics, published by George Bell and Sons, London, with chapters by leading experts. It was edited by H H Griffin, who advised several leading English athletes (Natal Mercury 4/6/91). Later in the year sections of this book were quoted at length in the Natal Witness in a column written by 'Lap Scorer' (12/9/91), as part of the preview and build-up to the Pietermaritzburg sports in October, at which the famous Pitman vs Brown encounter took place. The following year the Pietermaritzburg AC Sports were postponed a week because of rain, and according to the Witness (7/11/92) some athletes were upset because it meant another week of training and

...an additional seven days abstinence from the soothing puff and seductive liquids, not to mention the restraint of good boys' hours.

'Comet' commented that total abstinence was 'bosh', and that moderation was the key (Witness 7/11/92).

The Queenstown Free Press carried an article on training which it reprinted from the Kimberley Independent on 11 June 1889:

Training for such a race as a one mile contest requires to be set about in a systematic manner. A competitor, if he wishes to make any show at all must commence at least a month before the contest comes off. Proper diet, is of course, as indispensable as going to bed early or refraining from smoking, or at least too much of it. A short distance should be run daily at the commencement, and added to daily, or every other day until the required distance or more has been attained. For a mile race, more than a mile can be run daily, until a week or eight days before the race, that wind may be acquired, but for the remainder of the time it is advisable to run only the mile, and a spurt at the end of the distance should be cultivated.

This advice has several significant aspects. It recognises the need for a planned schedule, and discipline in personal lifestyle. The need to train over the distance to be raced was a comparatively novel idea, compared to the advice given in Griffin's book, where emphasis was on under-distance training, and the concept of tapering for the actual race with the introduction of speed work was presented. These concepts were embryonic and undeveloped, but they were there. The Queenstown Free Press carried hints on training again on 25 September 1891 and included advice on diet and tactics.

On his return from England and America, Laurens Meintjies commented on training at a dinner (Star 4/12/93):

A athletes were very lax in training. In England training went on steadily; and they practised there with something to fall back upon. It was called putting a bottom into one.

In 1893 the Natal Witness (9/3/93) carried articles on training reprinted from an English journal. Boys of sixteen to eighteen were advised to begin three weeks before the sports. Walking five to six miles a day was recommended, and legs should be rubbed with special rough gloves. It was suggested that sprinters train over distances up to 50 yards and distance runners up to 600 yards. For the mile, athletes should taper and include speed runs.

At the time of the formation of the SAAAA, the Star reported that a correspondent had asked a funny question: "how am I to train for a footrace?" The Star (9/1/94) replied:

Our advice is that if our correspondent wishes to reduce his weight he should do it as a jockey does, by taking long and brisk walks with sweaters on - that is, in heavy under and over clothing. One must live plainly and partake of no rich food. A nice underdone steak three times a day, with a glass of Dublin stout, is a sculler's diet, but it is not nice at the finish. One should never run further at one time than the particular distance one is preparing for. Of course, if going in for two or more events, it is



inevitable that this rule must be broken, but never, to use a horse-racing phrase, fully extend yourself until engaged actually in the race. If one is a smoker or a partaker of spirits, stop that sort of thing at once, and lay the pipe up in lavender, otherwise, unless a marvel, no one can hope to be successful on the track. Take plenty of walking exercise. If one does not come fit to the post by following these instructions, then all that can be said, is that the competitor lacks the necessary fleetness of foot.

Although recognising the limitations of inherited ability, the advice given by the Star seems less effective than that quoted by the Queenstown Free Press, and the preoccupation with steaks and ale was a carry-over from the beliefs of the early pedestrians, such as Captain Barclay.

In 1894 the Star reported (28/8/94) that Jack Barnett, a famous Australian trainer who had run as a professional and trained several boxers, had settled in Johannesburg and was willing to coach amateur runners who desired his services, but nothing more was heard of this. Nourse, however, was concerned about coaching and at the Annual General Meeting of the SAAAA held in January 1895 urged the association "to obtain good books on training, or obtain the services of a professional gentleman to advise it (Star 16/1/95).

The team sent to England in 1895 was exposed to coaching and training methods in England. Hunter trained with Shaw, an English hurdle champion (Star 13/6/95). In an interview reported in the Cape Times (21/8/95) Gradwell said the team had learned a great deal that they could pass on to others.



The training of successful competitors was always a matter of interest, so John Mellet's preparation was reported in 1896 (see Chapter Fifteen). He claimed that he never drank during an event, and so prevented sweating. The idea of avoiding the intake of water during competition persisted into the twentieth century. Hefferon said that he drank plenty of water when running and that it was in direct opposition to many of the accepted theories (Pretoria News 30/;2/08). This could have been why he did so well compared to the English runners in the Olympic marathon.

Sensible advice on tapering for an event was given in the Star (19/1/81). The article advised that in the final week before a race

...competitors would do well to take matters easily in regard to training during the next few days, otherwise they may find themselves somewhat stale on the day. For an athlete who is a bit off-colour, or is in any way stiff through training, one of the finest pick-me-ups is a Turkish bath, but this luxury should not be indulged in later than about three or four days prior to the meeting in which they are to take part, after which it is necessary to take as much rest as possible.

The collapse of a cyclist in a race in 1899 resulted in this comment in the Star (4/1/99):

...and it is too much the habit in South Africa for cyclists and runners to undertake long distance races without prior training.

The problem of insufficient training, what Meintjes referred to as lack of 'bottom', was almost naturally solved by the formation

of the Harrier clubs and the promotion of cross country country running. Spartan Harriers, Celtic Harriers, Johannesburg Harriers, Pretoria Harriers, Bloemfontein Harriers, Pietermaritzburg Harriers and Durban AC began to organise regular training runs, and Platnauer, the leading protagonist of the benefits of cross country running, added his views on training. He advocated a systematic approach, the use of dumbbells, and stressed the value of cross country running in the off-season (Transvaal Leader 15/4/03; 22/4/03; 30/4/03). He also explained the need for a definite racing programme (Leader 15/2/04) and the importance of gymnastics (Leader 11/6/04). Platnauer also recommended the book by H H Griffin and other literature (Leader 17/8/05). He touched on the subject of early specialisation in 1906 advising that youths should only start racing in earnest when eighteen years old, and before that should build-up with gymnastics, cross country running, walking and exercises (Leader 20/4/06). Platnauer continually returned to the need for cross country running in the off-season and in 1908 outlined a programme leading up to the Transvaal Cross Country Championships; to a ten miles race; and to a 25 miles marathon (20/5/08). His advice went largely unheeded, and in 1910 he returned to the topic again, urging that athletic sports meetings should not be held from May to October, as that time should be used for building fitness by running cross country (28/9/10).

Platnauer commented on why juniors and school athletes gave up athletics and said that it was because many of them thought that they had to do an abnormal amount of training, that this was not so. He said that to begin with, two sessions per week would suffice (Leader 24/4/11).

Soon after the formation of Pretoria Harriers in 1904, 'Olympian' stressed the need for consistent, scientific and systematic training in the Pretoria News (18/2/04). For him it was a serious matter, and he chided young runners for a light-hearted approach:

"Now and again several of them could be heard exchanging greeting."

Pretoria Harriers tried to improve their field events by forming a gymnastics section in which athletes were encouraged to practise ball punching, boxing, jumping and free gymnastics under the Scottish international, D Ferguson (Pretoria News 3/11/04). The similarity to the training of the Scottish Olympic sprint champion, Allan Wells (1980), is significant. In 1907, D Bennie, who had competed successfully for several years, agreed to coach the Pretoria Harriers novices and juniors (Pretoria News 27/3/07) and later that year the club produced a duplicated 'training letter' (Pretoria Harriers Minutes, 31/8/07), in which athletes were advised to complete at least six weeks training before a race, "with plenty of walking and at least three runs a week."

In Cape Town a cutting in Levy's scrapbook reports that Spartan Harriers were warned that their distance runners were getting plenty of training out of their bi-weekly runs, but the sprinters were, "likely to get rusty through want of practice." Platnauer, whilst in Cape Town during the Anglo-Boer War, had this to say (Scrapbook: L M Levy):

A well-known harrier, who was a splendid man in his day at half a mile, told me the other day that the main and best part of his training consisted in walking, and he said too, he rarely required much preparation for a race he went in for. A few short-distance runs about four days before a race was all he ever took. South African athletes, who went to compete in England, tell the same tale. Their trainers first got them bodily fit, and then only did they train them up for pace."

Diet and staleness were two items that often occupied the minds of Victorian and Edwardian athletes, trainers and coaches, and it was suggested earlier that this may have been a carry-over from the early pedestrians. In 1904, the Cape Times (8/2/04) advised athletes preparing for the Western Province Championships to eat calf's jelly with brandy and sherry, and drink a glass of port with a raw egg. On staleness it advised:

Should that most dreaded of all things - staleness - make its appearance, there is only one thing to do; that is, to rest and to drink plenty of Guinness's stout.

The South African sprint champion, J H Jones (probably C H Jones), writing in the Natal Mercury (14/2/1900) also commented on diet, and said it was no longer as unpleasant as it used to be. He advised sprinters to begin training slowly, and spoke of a twelve week programme with sessions three to five times a week.

The success of Reggie Walker at the Olympic Games focused attention on his technique, training, and his advisers. Jock Cumming ('Umpire') writing about Walker in 1908 described his running in these esoteric terms (Star 28/12/08):

Instead of running from the balls of the feet as most sprinters do, Walker turns inwards his foot when he touches the ground and springs from his toes, which serve him naturally as do the artificial spiral toes of the spring-jack. His balancing power when 'on the move' is marvellous, and not to be attempted by less gifted runners unless they can accompany it with the necessary strength to maintain the body at an angle of 45 degrees, which Walker does. His arm action is unique, effective, and

almost grotesque. He sweeps his open palms across his body like the fore fins of a seal, and flies along when at the top of his stride, tipping the daisies like a crane leaving Mother Earth for the wing.

Cumming's description sounds highly fanciful and is an indication of the awe which Walker's ability and speed engendered, blurring perception. Walker himself paid tribute to the trainers and coaches who had assisted him. In England in 1908 and 1909 it was Sam Wisdom (Cape Times 11/11/08; 19/4/09), while in South Africa it was a Mr Brady (Star 17/12/08). Walker eventually produced a book, Textbook on Sprinting, after his Olympic success. Preliminary training and training cover five and a half pages of the seventy-three pages in the book, which is an indication of the limited knowledge at that time. Walker himself had what would appear to be a misconception of how he actually ran when one reads his description of "The Real Art of Sprinting" printed in the Latest (23/10/09). A significant aspect of Walker's preparations for his campaigns in England were his visits to the Clarence farm near Kokstad, where he was able to run, swim, do gymnastics and prepare himself (Latest 18/3/11; 6/4/12). In 1912 Walker agreed to train Sulin for the Olympics (Latest 20/1/12). The Latest often printed reports on training and what particular athletes were doing (17/9/10; 22/10/10; 20/1/12; 18/5/12; 17/8/12; 7/9/12) 'Qrius' resented the claims of Keartland and his contribution to McArthur's success, saying that McArthur trained under Tom Perry according to programmes that 'Qrius' himself prepared (Latest 17/8/12).

The Edwardian period saw the emergence of coaches. The professional runner, Tincler, became a trainer and assisted Landers in Durban (Latest 27/8/10). Tincler coached for several years and in 1923 it was reported that he had a 'school' at Lords that met daily at 4.30 p.m. (Latest 5/5/23). In Cape Town it was

reported that the success of A R B Palmer, S A half-mile champion, was due to some extent to Joe Ferrer of the Docks Association Football Club (Cape Times 3/1/07). Another person who assisted athletes in Cape Town was Jock Edwards, an ex-Scottish athlete. He was with the City Cycling and Athletic Club and assisted the long distance man, F C Miller in 1909 (Cape Times 15/7/13). Later in 1913 the Cape Times printed these remarks on sprint training:

A sprinter does not need to run a half mile or a mile every night. That way spells madness. A few sharp bursts, practices at starting to the gun, and steady sharp work with no loafing about the track, is all that is necessary. (Cape Times 11/12/13)

Just before World War One, Sid Panther was a prime-mover in assisting Celtic Harriers (21/1/14). Panther later moved to Port Elizabeth and was prominent in athletics there during and after the war.

When one reads the advice given to athletes before World War One, and the description of their training schedules it would appear that very often faith was placed in everything but running. Diet, stout, gymnastics, dumbbells, swimming, walking, resting and exercises were all recommended, but almost without exception, athletes were advised not to do too much running. In 1911 the Pretoria News (6/4/11): extolled the benefits of skipping:

Skipping-rope practice is a splendid exercise, and should be indulged in often - particularly so when the weather will not allow outdoor exercise (says W Howshall, the reinstated English professional, now in Durban). After completing the exercises, the



trainer has advised a good sponge down with hot water, followed by a cold shower, after which a vigorous rub down is necessary. After the first week's training is over, then an advance in the distance can be taken: say, make the distance of sprinting as follows: Trot about 100 yards to loosen yourself, then proceed to take a sprint or two of 50 yards, but put more energy into the work than in the first week. Then run the 120 yards about twice, finishing up with a good quarter-mile, followed by the system of indoor work and bath, as already explained.

Even when training for his professional marathon, Hefferon believed that resting was more important than running:

I have done practically nothing since last week. I walked from Krugersdorp on Monday, ran two miles on Tuesday, and a mile on Wednesday. Since then I have been resting. (Star 5/3/10)

Admittedly, this was in the final week before the race. As an amateur in Bloemfontein, Hefferon did put in some long training runs, and in March 1908 he ran 25 miles over sandy, hilly roads (Friend 3/3/08). In the same issue, the Friend quoted remarks on 'How to Train' by W G George, the famous British athlete. George had a long and distinguished career and held the world mile record at 4:12.3/4, set in 1886. He wrote a fascinating book called The 100-up Exercise, which is based on walking and running on the spot (George, undated). A much more comprehensive book was Running and Cross Country Running by Alfred Shrubbs (undated), the outstanding distance runner before World War One, which appeared about the same time. It is interesting to note that Shrubbs

trained twice a day and covered between 40 and 50 miles a week. He did not train on a Sunday. The books by Shrubbs, George and Walker were all published by 'Health and Strength', and there is no doubt that such publications and articles in newspapers were the main source of information about training in South Africa. This is confirmed by A M Fairweather, writing in 'Sport in Queenstown' (1906, pp. 61-69):

We have no mentors as may be found in English and American Athletics, who having the knowledge of these things and the faculty of imparting such knowledge, are retained for this particular work.

...yet much guidance and information may be gathered by an individual from an intelligent study of what has been written and published in this connection, and the young athlete should regard the pursuit of this knowledge as essential as practice or training.

Shrubbs's book was recommended by the Cape Times in June 1913, and it was reported that A E Fox, a leading City Cycling and Athletic Club runner, was busy reading it. The Cape Times printed Shrubbs's performances in detail.

'Health and Strength' also published a book by Shrubbs's trainer, Harry Andrews, called Massage and Training, which was advertised in the Transvaal Leader (12/3/10).

In addition to the books and articles already mentioned, there were others. On 5 September 1903 the Natal Witness carried an advertisement for a book by A R Downer entitled Running Recollections and How to Train. Downer was referred to as "champion sprinter of the world." Walker's article, "The Real Art

of Sprinting", referred to earlier, first appeared in 'Health and Strength', the English publication (Latest 25/9/09) and was later published in the Latest (23/10/09). The Grocott's Mail printed other articles by Walker on the occasion he ran in Grahamstown (25/4/13; 30/4/13). Walker said it was necessary to begin training six weeks before an event, and that a "comatose state" would be reached after about four weeks as the athlete approached his peak. It was then necessary to rest a week with little or no training. Massage was essential and details were given. He advised against bathing more than three times a week and not within five days of a race. He said that the "English athletes train in perfunctory manner" and that the American athletes were "methodical."

A common-sense letter on the need for and dangers of training was written by 'Achilles' in the Pretoria News on 30 December 1912, and in 1913 the Rand Daily Mail (11/4/13) carried a regular feature on sport from England by A B George which occasionally dealt with athletics and training. C B Fry, the famous English cricketer and athlete, wrote a book, Diet and Exercise for Training, which was advertised in the Cape Times (17/4/13). Fry had visited South Africa with Lord Hawke's cricket team in 1895-1896.

When 'Qrius' received a letter asking for advice on training in 1914 he replied that there were many books available and recommended the one by Reggie Walker (Latest 14/3/14).

From the information available, it would appear that the ordinary club athlete in South Africa would have had limited access to knowledge about training methods. There were books and articles but these were few in number and very conservative in their approach. Training was extremely light, even for distance runners, and makes the performances that were achieved quite remarkable. Coaches were virtually non-existent, and athletes

were lucky if they could obtain advice from an ex-athlete, or somebody in authority, such as a journalist or administrator, who could take the time to assist them. The majority of track and field athletes trained for six to ten weeks before a particular sports meeting, and it was only with the advent of the harrier movement involving cross country running in the winter, that sustained training was maintained, producing athletes such as McArthur, Gitsham, Hefferon, Rennie, Ramos, Cormack, Collings, Spencer and Harmse.

## CHAPTER NINETEEN

## THE MEN

In this analysis of the development of athletics in South Africa it is apparent that particular individuals have played influential and decisive roles. Best (1970, p. 94) said:

History is...a truthful integrated account of the relationship between persons, events, times and places.

This chapter is concerned with persons, who may be divided into three groups: administrators, journalists and athletes. In each centre there were men who influenced progress, and it has been shown that athletics languished when such men were not available. Some men were limited by circumstances to a much less important role than that to which their talents entitled them, others were more fortunate and were able to make a much wider and greater impact. There were many disputes between individuals and groups, and examples of men seeking power, whilst others were concerned about the future citizens of the country and the contribution they thought athletics could make. Some were out to make money. This history of development has been very much an account of the activities of men who were sufficiently inspired and capable of shaping progress. The writer, Arthur Hailey, made this apt comment in his novel, In High Places (1962, p. 374):

Perhaps, through all the centuries, it has been individual human issues which had surveyed the world, creating history, moving mankind forward to an enlightenment dimly perceived, yet always out of reach...

It has not been possible to include all the men in this chapter who deserve to be mentioned. In each centre there were people who worked hard to establish athletics, or who were responsible for a significant development. A choice had to be made, and there were three men who, in the opinion of the writer, were particularly influential. They are E J L Platnauer, J T Wallace and Henry Nourse. It is not coincidental that two of these were journalists, as it has become apparent in this study that journalists have played an important and vital role in South African athletics. Unfortunately, the contributions of Barrable, Cumming, Cox, Bull and others have had to be included in Appendix M, along with the important administrators. Platnauer, Wallace and Nourse had the opportunity and the ability to reach dominating positions, and they were men whose advice, support, expertise and experience were eagerly sought and respected throughout South Africa.

As this chapter is a synthesis of activities and events that have already been described, detailed references will only be given where appropriate.

Platnauer will be considered first as he preceded the others chronologically, and retired before the First World War.

#### E J L PLATNAUER

Platnauer came to South Africa from England in 1889 and retired from active participation in athletics in 1913. In England he served on the committee of the Midlands AAA and had been an enthusiastic athlete. His first post in South Africa was sporting reporter for the Transvaal Mining Argus (Gutsche, 1966, p. 21), and he soon became fully involved with the development of athletics in Johannesburg. His expertise, sound judgement,



progressive ideas and dedicated enthusiasm quickly made him a respected and authoritative figure, and Henry Nourse appeared to rely heavily on his advice and opinion. Platnauer not only had invaluable input into, and influence upon, controlling bodies such as the TAAA and the SAAA and CA, he also founded two clubs which became famous; was responsible for the development of cross country running in South Africa; formulated rules and regulations; accurately recorded the events of the period; and influenced a large number of people in his positions as sports editor of the Cape Times and the Transvaal Leader. If Nourse was the throne, Platnauer was the power behind the throne.

In 1892, Platnauer was elected on to the committee of the Pirates Club, Johannesburg (Star 19/3/92) at a time of exciting developments. The professional walkers such as Barrow, Hancock and Mellet, were performing; Vintcent, Jones and the Blignaut brothers were the stars of the Wanderers Sports, already beginning to attract large crowds; the sprinting matches between Private Chester and Tom McCrystal in Pietermaritzburg were attracting attention; clubs and associations were being formed in all the centres; and in Pietermaritzburg the well-publicised clash between Brown and Pitman focused attention on Herschenson's attempts to form an SAAAA.

Platnauer was also involved with cycling and was the handicapper at the first South African Cycling Championships in 1893 at the Wanderers (Star 26/8/93), a significant factor as Nourse and Andersson were not at first willing to accept cycling into the SAAAA, which was a source of conflict with the CCAA and CU. Platnauer attended the meeting called by Andersson at the Wanderers in January 1894 to discuss the Pan-Brittanian Games and the proposed formation of the SAAAA, and was elected a member of the Provisional Committee appointed to draft rules (Star 5/1/94). His expertise was immediately recognised and he was appointed handicapper for the first S A Athletic Championships in March

1894 (Star 24/3/94). He acted as joint secretary of the SAAAA with Fred Hilner for a while (Star 2/5/94), assisting the new body through a difficult period until Andersson returned to the position in 1895. At that time each centre nominated a delegate to represent it on the SAAAA executive, and Platnauer became the OFS representative until he retired in 1913 (Star 22/4/96). Platnauer was thus a party to and could influence the policy of the SAAA and CA and was able to sway decisions taken by the national body by the influential articles he wrote on issues in his sporting column. It was a symbiotic relationship.

During his years on the SAAAA (and SAAA and CA), Platnauer was the official handicapper (SAAA and CA minutes, 11/12/08), and was usually sent to a centre several days before the S A Championships in order to do the handicapping for the prize meeting held with the championships. He served on the sub-committee appointed to investigate the cyclists' dispute in Durban in 1898, and represented the SAAAA at the Annual General Meeting of the SAAAA when held at other centres, as in Durban in 1899 (Star 20/5/99). Platnauer assisted Nourse to resuscitate the SAAAA in 1903 after the Anglo-Boer War (Star 15/3/03) and his cycling involvement was put to good use in 1904 when he was elected a member of the committee commissioned to execute the change from the SAAAA to the SAAA and CA (Star 18/2/04). In 1906, Nourse, Allsop (secretary) and Platnauer were appointed to consider bringing a team of English university athletes to compete in South Africa, which did not happen. The biggest criticism that one can make of Platnauer, perhaps, was his failure to convince the administrators in South Africa of the need to bring a touring team to the country between the Anglo-Boer War and World War One, an event that could have, and no doubt would have, had a strong positive influence on athletics at a time of decline and stagnancy.

In 1907 Platnauer was a member of the sub-committee appointed to

bring about the formation of the South African Olympic Games Association (SAAA and CA minutes, 24/10/07), and he was a selector of the athletic teams sent to the Olympics in 1908 and 1912, a task in which he incurred much criticism. He acted as chairman of the SAAA and CA at an executive meeting in 1908 (Star 31/3/08), and later that year, only he, Nourse and Allsop arrived for an executive meeting. They lacked a quorum but went ahead with the business (SAAA and CA minutes, 30/6/08).

Just before the Anglo-Boer War, in 1899, Platnauer tried to form a Transvaal AAA, but had to suspend developments when hostilities began. He was in Cape Town during the war, and on his return set to work again to form the TAAA. Platnauer said it was imperative that the body be formed, as the Transvaal could not expect the SAAA and CA to conduct its affairs, as had happened in the past, a situation that had drawn criticism from other centres. Platnauer sent out a letter signed by himself as 'secretary pro-tem' and convened a meeting. Nourse presided at the meeting, and a provisional committee was elected with Platnauer still 'secretary pro-tem'. He held the position of secretary from 1903 to 1906 when he handed over to his protege, Louis Levy, because of pressure of work (Transvaal Leader 19/10/06). He was in the anomalous position for those three years of being secretary of the TAAA and representing the ORCAA and CU on the SAAA and CA executive. Platnauer formulated rules for the TAAA (Star 10/2/05; 10/3/05). He also served on the Transvaal Cycling Union (Star 17/1/98).

Platnauer was an ardent and enthusiastic supporter of cross country running and was obviously determined to see the harrier movement successfully introduced to South Africa. Coming from England he had been convinced of its value to athletes during the winter months, and continually wrote on this aspect in the newspapers. Just before the Anglo-Boer War he attempted to form a harrier club in Johannesburg, called Pirates Harriers but, as

with the TAAA, the war brought progress to a halt after only a few months activity (Star 15/6/99; 28/9/99). Moving to Cape Town, Platnauer continued his campaign with a series of articles in the Cape Times (21/2/01). He wrote on the need for a club and called a meeting for Friday 26 April (Cape Times 24/4/01) and at that meeting the well-known club, Spartan Harriers, was formed and the badge 'a 5 barred gate', adopted (Cape Times 27/4/01). Platnauer reported religiously on all the club runs, and gave advice on training. The first 'Smoker' - a 'smoking evening' when young men gathered for a social, the entertainment consisting of smoking, drinking, singing, recitation and speeches - was held on 6 June, presided over by 'EJLP' himself (Cape Times 7/6/01), who had been elected chairman of the first successful harriers club in South Africa. Platnauer's decisive and influential role was recorded in scrapbooks kept by C S Bailey and Louis Levy. The secretary of Spartans in the early years was Tom Widdowson, ex-Birchfield Harriers, a club in the same area as Platnauer came from. Louis Levy, the Treasurer, was also born in England, and went to school there. He settled in South Africa in 1899.

Spartan Harriers went from strength to strength. It was captained by W P Petty, ex-Walsall Harriers, and the leading runner soon emerged as Fred Collings, ex-Cork Harriers, Ireland. At the first annual dinner, Platnauer gave a long talk on the development of athletics in England, and the similarities with the situation in Transvaal when he arrived there (Cape Times 1/2/02). But Platnauer was not yet satisfied. He realised that competition was the life-blood of athletics, and that Spartan Harriers had to have a club to compete against, so he supported moves to form another harrier club in the Wynberg/Kenilworth area, and presided at the first meeting (Cape Times 23/5/02). This new club was named Mountain Harriers and for a while was popular and active.

Platnauer did not neglect track and field athletics and wrote regularly on that branch of the sport. He was responsible for the

inclusion of the 4 miles race in the CCAA and CU Championships in 1902 (Cape Times 14/7/02) which was won by Fred Collings: 22:02.1/5 (Cape Times 6/10/02). The event was added to the S A Championships in 1904.

In March 1903, Platnauer moved back to Johannesburg to become sports editor of the Transvaal Leader. Before he left Cape Town he received many glowing tributes, and was referred to as a pioneer who had made a life-study of sport and had influenced the whole of South Africa. Dr John Hewat, chairman of the Western Province AA and CU said (Cape Times 28/3/03) that Platnauer was: "...one of the best sportsmen who had ever set foot in Cape Town."

Back in Johannesburg, Platnauer was soon busy promoting cross country running and helped revive Pirates Harriers. He felt that there was room for another harrier club, and taking advantage of the upsurge of interest in running, engendered by the 'Go-As-You-Please' events, he instigated the formation of Johannesburg Harriers with his friend, Levy, who became secretary (Star 28/1/09). It is interesting to note that the club colours and badge were almost identical with those of Birchfield Harriers, the Birmingham club of which Levy and perhaps Platnauer himself, had been members. Even the motto was the same.

Platnauer was obviously interested, as in Cape Town, in promoting cross country rather than a particular club, and soon after he had formed Johannesburg Harriers, chaired a meeting of Pirates Harriers (Leader 15/2/04). The desired rivalry between the two clubs did not develop, however, as Pirates Harriers became defunct, and the real competition developed between Pretoria Harriers and Johannesburg Harriers, the two clubs that kept amateur athletics alive in the Transvaal between 1904 and 1914. Platnauer and Levy were leading organisers of the first Transvaal Cross Country Championships at Fordsburg in 1905.



As sports editor of the Transvaal Leader, Platnauer wrote with insight and perception on a wide range of athletic topics. His articles were well-written and contained sensible advice, and must have been invaluable to athletes and officials. Reading his columns one can gain insight into the issues of the day and the changing fortunes of the sport. He printed many articles on training and dealt with the concepts of planning the programme and periodisation. He religiously recorded records and statistics; brought the S A and Transvaal records up to date; commented on international athletics; athletics for schoolboys, prizes, amateurism, professionalism, expenses, technique and so on. Never one to miss a chance to promote cross country, he took advantage of the 'Marathon Craze' after the 1908 Olympics and wrote about (Leader 13/8/12): "... the great revival of cross country running which has followed in the wake of the Marathon rage..."

When the Army Athletic Championships were introduced in 1908, Platnauer was an enthusiastic supporter and assisted with the organisation (Leader 8/1/08). He also gave inter-school Sports his full support.

Platnauer had a deep and far-reaching impact on South African athletics. He was a dedicated, diligent, meticulous person with an enviable breadth of knowledge. Gutsche (1966) spoke highly of his attributes and referred to him as (p. 140) "the doyen of sporting journalists." His contribution to South African athletics has not been appreciated.

#### J T WALLACE

A man who had almost as much influence as Platnauer was J T Wallace who was editor of the Latest, a specialist sports newspaper, published by the Natal Mercury from 1908 to 1927, and



who wrote under the pseudonym 'Qrius'. Wallace was an innovative and progressive journalist and administrator whose overall impact and influence was only limited by the fact that he was in Durban and not Johannesburg. An immigrant from Cork, Ireland, where he had run with Fred Collings of Spartan Harriers, he began a decisive and significant career in athletics in South Africa in 1900.

According to an article in Illustrated Natal (no reference) he arrived in Cape Town in the mid-1890s and competed in sports and athletics in Cape Town in 1898 and 1899. He moved to Durban at the turn of the century and won the Natal AAA Mile Trophy (4:52) at the Pietermaritzburg AC sports in November 1900. All reports indicate that athletics was virtually non-existent in Durban in 1900-1901 and Lords had been commandeered by the military. Tyzack and O'Flaherty convened a meeting to resuscitate Durban AC in October 1902 and Wallace was elected secretary. At that time he had already had articles published in athletics in various newspapers. Wallace organised Durban AC sports in 1903 and arranged a series of mid-week handicaps and evening meetings to generate interest. Next came Natal Championships which prompted this comment in the Mercury (24/6/03):

...never before such widespread enthusiasm...the astonishing impetus given to local matters as evinced during the past few months is unprecedented.

There had been odd Natal Championship events previously but the one organised by Wallace in 1903 was the first full-scale meeting (Mercury 6/7/03). There was renewed enthusiasm to revive the Natal AAA. A provincial body had been formed in 1898 but the power of the DAAA made it ineffective (Mercury 20/5/98) and it became defunct. At the Annual General Meeting of Durban AC in 1904, Wallace announced that Natal Championships would again be

organised by the club (i.e. by himself) and that plans were well advanced to re-form the Natal AAA. The DAAA had become defunct during the war and its athletic responsibilities were taken over by Durban AC (Mercury 21/1/04). 'Test Sports' were also held, an idea of Wallace's to raise money and select a team for the S A Championships. Wallace himself was manager of the team to the championships in Johannesburg and he submitted a detailed report (Witness 2/4/04).

Wallace apparently also ran billiard rooms, as well as working as a reporter, and after the 'Test Sports' a meeting was held there at which Wallace was elected secretary of a committee charged with establishing the provincial association and framing rules. The final meeting, when the new association was constituted, took place in conjunction with the Natal Championships at Dundee in 1905 and Wallace was elected secretary (Mercury 11/11/05).

Meanwhile, the SAAAA had been re-formed into the SAAA and CA and the 1904 Natal Athletic and Cycling Championships had been allocated to Durban AC to organise. These two facts caused a bitter conflict. Wallace wrote to the SAAA and CA and obtained their new rules, which forbade the giving of vouchers as prizes. The cyclists objected, saying that they were governed by Natal CU rules, to which Durban AC was not affiliated, and that the new SAAA and CA rules only came into effect on 1 January 1905. The dispute dragged on until February 1906.

Wallace resigned as secretary of Durban AC in January 1905, perhaps to devote more time to the Natal AAA. His report in August 1906 was dismal. The Natal AAA was not functioning properly, finances were low, the SAAA and CA did not reply to letters and they had not refunded the expenses of the competitors from Natal in the S A Championships. He felt there was apathy (Mercury 16/8/06). A quiet period ensued but in 1907 Wallace was his energetic self and busy as secretary of the committee

appointed to organise the S A Championships. Aldridge successfully resolved another dispute with the cyclists, and just before the championships the two groups agreed to cooperate and the Natal AA and CA was formed. Wallace was at the meeting but not elected as a member of the executive (Mercury 13/5/07). Wallace produced the booklet The South African Champions and Springbok Athletes (Wallace, 1907) in conjunction with the championships, which contained a mass of information, and was praised for his good work at the Annual General Meeting of the SAAA and CA.

Although not a member of the executive, Wallace represented the Natal AA and CA at the Annual General Meeting of the Durban Sports Association in January 1908 at which Morely said they were not affiliated and, at the Annual General Meeting of the provincial body, was thanked for his services. From that time on, when the Latest appeared and he began to write as 'Qrius', he played a minor role as an administrator, but his influence as a journalist became recognised country-wide. Wallace kept the Latest going as a vibrant, popular and informative magazine until he moved to Johannesburg in 1914 to become editor of the Rand Daily Mail and Sunday Times in March 1915 (Latest 6/3/14). Wallace returned to Durban after World War One and was elected president of the Natal AA and CA in 1924. While in America, he negotiated the arrangements for the visit of the 1931 American athletic team.

Writing in the Latest, Wallace covered an enormous range of topics and revealed an in-depth knowledge of athletics. He had an uncanny ability to see into the heart of a problem and made many predictions about the future that were later substantiated. His progressive views often brought him into conflict with other writers and administrators. In 1909 he said that, after his trip overseas, Walker could think of turning professional, as he would earn more money in three months than he would normally earn in three years. He also saw no objection to Walker racing against

Postle, provided that Walker received no payment. In 1911, Wallace took issue with those who believed "once a pro, always a pro" and argued that it was not necessary to copy English rules as the Australians did not. He believed in people being given the chance to regain their amateur status (Latest 2/1/09; 16/1/09; 17/6/11).

Wallace waged a long campaign to have the payment of expenses allowed. He firmly believed that the SAAA and CA should subsidise provincial teams to the S A Championships, and realised that competition between top athletes was essential and could only be arranged if athletes could be paid travelling and accommodation expenses. He argued strongly for clubs to be allowed to pay such expenses (Latest 21/5/10; 28/5/10; 25/6/10; 23/7/10; 28/1/11). The SAAA and CA eventually agreed to change its rules in 1911 despite strong opposition from Platnauer.

The SAAA and CA was criticised by Wallace on more than one occasion. Issues of which he was critical were the general management of the body; its selection policy; the organisation of Olympic teams and the time of holding the Annual General Meeting (1909). He wrote on the need for competent managers of touring teams and the desirability of provinces having direct representation on the national body (Latest 20/3/09). Wallace was so disenchanted with the SAAA and CA that he suggested that the executive should rotate regularly between different centres, and in 1910 said Natal should seriously consider withdrawing its affiliation (Latest 23/7/10).

When Walker was omitted from the 1908 Olympic team, Aldridge, Tyzack and Wallace collected funds that enabled the Natal sprinter to travel. In 1908, and again in 1912, he said that each province should be represented on the selection committee - "it should not be left to a few gentlemen in Johannesburg" (Latest 23/12/11). He criticised the selection system often (Latest

20/1/12; 17/2/12; 16/3/12; 30/3/12). Wallace felt that the administration of athletics and sport was too amateurish, and once again displaying his foresight, made these remarks about sports management (Latest 24/8/12):

...business methods applied to international sports are indispensable to international successes.

Relating his ideas to South Africa, he was highly critical of the S A Olympic Games Committee and the way its affairs were conducted (Latest 14/9/12).

In 1913, Wallace again anticipated future developments, by recommending that a few star athletes should be sent to compete in England each year in addition to the sending of a team to the Olympics every four years (Latest 3/5/13).

The Latest was not only read in Durban and Natal. It had a wide circulation and was often quoted in the newspapers of other centres, so there is no doubt that Wallace had an influence throughout South Africa. He may not have been popular, but he was certainly respected and could not be ignored.

H S NOURSE

Few administrators can claim to have played such a dominating role as Henry Nourse, who was president of the SAAAA (SAAA and CA) from the date of its foundation in 1894 until he was replaced in 1924. According to the Rand Daily Mail (7/10/42), Nourse was born in Uitenhage in 1857 and, when six, trekked with his parents to Umvoti County, Natal. At the age of ten he was living in Pietermaritzburg and at thirteen he was seeking his fortune at Du Toitspan (later Kimberley), where he met Rhodes. From 1873 onwards his name appeared regularly in the results of sports



meetings in the Diamond News, and his outstanding performances for Kimberley against Cape Town in 1884 have already been described. W P Taylor, writing in The Romance of the Golden Rand (MacDonald, c1932) said Nourse was the idol of his day, and related this incident:

They used to bet heavily on sport in those days, and one of the principal men to lay odds was Barney Barnato. L Goodman and Barney were betting partners. When Goodman saw young Nourse put the shot, beating McPherson, a Scot, at a holiday athletic meeting at Alexandersfontein, he rushed off to fetch Barney, who was at another meeting at Wesselton, where Mathers was taking part." (Alan Mathers, a Scot, was second only to Donald Dinnie, the great Scottish professional all-rounder). "Nourse was carted off to Wesselton, and matched against Mathers. Barnato backed Nourse, getting long odds against him. Nourse flung the shot two feet beyond Mathers, to the surprise of all Mathers' supporters, and afterwards I saw Allan Mathers on several occasions struggling for all he was worth, but he was never able to beat Nourse.

Nourse moved to the Transvaal where he erected the first ten-stamp battery; formed the Spes Bona Company in 1886; and was involved in the coach service to Barberton. His interests in gold, coal and land investments made him a wealthy man, so that he was able to assist with the financing of many of the early SAAAA ventures, including the 1895 and 1898 teams to England (Star 29/3/95; 30/3/95; 30/3/98; 28/5/98; 9/8/98). Nourse's leadership qualities were revealed when he raised the Kimberley



Light Horse, and later commanded the Transvaal Mounted Rifles. He also raised the Transvaal Mounted Police and during the siege of Pretoria formed Nourse's Horse. His military experiences no doubt served him in good stead when he assumed command of the SAAAA in 1894 and the S A Olympic Games Association in 1912.

Nourse took an active part in promoting athletics in Pretoria (De Volkstem 20/12/86; 26/11/86) and was part owner of Berea Park where many of the early athletic meetings were held, including the first Caledonian Sports (Transvaal Advertiser 23/5/93; ?/3/94). When Andersson convened the Pan-Britanic meeting in conjunction with the Wanderers New Year Sports in 1894, Nourse was still an active athlete and won the shot with 36ft. Oins. At the meeting a Provisional Committee was formed to draft rules, and Nourse was a member. He presided at the committee meeting and was appointed referee at the first S A Championships (Star 3/3/94; 17/3/94). He chaired the meeting of the SAAAA held in conjunction with the Championships, where it was agreed that the committee should continue to run the affairs of the association with himself as chairman. The first secretary was C L Andersson, but in May 1894, E J L Platnauer and F Hilner were appointed to act in his absence. Nourse continued to compete and won the shot (35ft. 7.1/2ins.) at the Caledonian Games held at Wanderers in May 1894 (Star 14/5/94). He was thus a contemporary of the Browns, the Blignauts, Gradwell, Charlie Jones, Tom Parker and other well-known athletes, so had their interests at heart and was aware of their needs. Nourse too had experienced the era when there were no amateur rules, and had himself competed in circumstances which later would have made him a professional and which he had to oppose vigorously. Nourse was conscious of the lack of expertise in South Africa and at the SAAAA Annual General Meeting 1895 said (Star 16/1/95): "The Association should obtain good books on training, or obtain the services of a professional gentleman to advise it," He also realised the problems of administrating a country as vast as South Africa, and appealed for clubs, "in

various parts of the Colony and Natal", to form District Associations (Star 16/1/95). At this stage clubs were affiliated directly to the national association. It was inevitable, it seems, that because of the size of South Africa, once provincial associations were established, it was they who liaised with the SAAAA, and clubs only had access to the national body through the provincial associations. At national championships, even today, athletes represent their province, not their club. This was a different pattern of development from that in England.

When Nourse recommended the establishment of 'District Associations', he obviously did not have in mind the same concepts as the Cape Colony AA and CU, which was formed as a national association for the Cape, and did not recognise the jurisdiction of the SAAAA which it felt was based in a foreign country, the Transvaal (see Chapter Twelve). A clash between the SAAAA and the CCAA and CU was inevitable and a crisis point was reached over the Whit Monday meeting of Colesburg AC in 1895, which the SAAAA refused to ratify (Star 18/5/95). A letter from Captain Young stated that Port Elizabeth would not be satisfied to be merely a sub-centre of Johannesburg (Star 5/6/95).

All the athletes who competed in the sports at Port Elizabeth on 6 June 1895 were suspended (Star 24/7/95), and Nourse faced the first real challenge in his position as chairman. Nourse and Andersson travelled to Port Elizabeth and met with CCAA and CU officials in October and the issue was settled (Star 23/10/95). It was agreed that the S A Championships would be held in the Cape in 1897.

In his report at the Annual General Meeting of the SAAAA in 1898, Nourse thanked Andersson and Platnauer for their assistance, and there is no doubt that these two, particularly Platnauer, gave Nourse support of inestimable value.

In 1898, an urgent special meeting of the SAAAA was called to

discuss the financial position, and it transpired that the Transvaal felt that they were carrying the burden alone, and other provinces were not assisting. It was suggested that the headquarters should rotate with the S A Championships, but Nourse opposed this, saying that the AAA headquarters was in London (Star 30/8/98).

Nourse did not attend the Annual General Meeting of the SAAAA held in conjunction with the S A Championships at Durban in 1899 (Star 20/5/99) but was re-elected president, and it was agreed the headquarters would remain in Johannesburg, despite criticism of the committee. Platnauer attended and defended the SAAAA.

Nourse presided at a meeting held to resuscitate the national association after the Anglo-Boer War (Star 13/5/03), and in 1904, Nourse headed the committee charged with the formation of the SAAA and CA. Other members were Andersson, Hilner, Furze and Platnauer (Star 18/2/04). In his report to the Wanderers Club, the chairman said (Star 19/3/04):

Thanks to the exertions of Mr Henry Nourse,  
the SAAAA had been recalled into existence.

In November 1904, Nourse was convicted of assault on F Farquhar, editor of the Transvaal Leader, over a newspaper article (Star 11/11/04). This may or may not have been the reason why he was unable to attend the first SAAA and CA Championships at Cape Town on 31 December/2 January, but was re-elected president.

Nourse was a firm believer in the benefits of competing against foreign athletes and, as well as heavily financing the visit of the teams to England in 1895 and 1898, he worked hard to bring visiting athletes to South Africa, albeit unsuccessfully. Nourse, Platnauer and Allsop were appointed in 1906 to investigate the possibility of bringing English university athletes, but

arrangements fell through because of financial considerations (Star 17/4/06).

When the possibility of sending a South African team to London for the 1908 Olympic Games was considered, Dr Jameson nominated Nourse as convener of a committee to discuss the invitation. Nourse chaired a meeting at Frank Hilner's office in the Old Stock Exchange Building, on 3 January 1908. At this meeting it was agreed that the chairman should "not be wedded to any particular form of sport", and Lionel Phillips chaired the next meeting (Star 18/1/08). When the storm broke over the omission of Walker from the Olympic team, however, the Star reported that a wire had been to Nourse, Chairman of the Olympic Committee (Star 6/5/08). This was an error as, a few days later, Phillips was again referred to as chairman (Star 12/5/08). When an Olympic Committee was formed in 1912 to arrange the team for Stockholm, Nourse was then elected chairman (Star 21/9/11; 24/5/12) and one of the problems discussed was how to prevent athletes turning professional after the Olympics, as Walker had done in 1910. Nourse had tried hard to keep Walker an amateur and this was the reason he had so strongly supported sending Walker to the English AAA Championships in 1909 (Star 12/4/09).

There was much dissatisfaction about the composition of the 1912 Olympic Committee, one of the most vociferous critics being 'Qrius' in The Latest, and this criticism came to a head with the announcement of the team (Latest 20/4/12). 'Qrius' felt that the connection between the SAAA and CA and the Olympic Committee was ill-defined and thus by implication was attacking Nourse (Latest 20/4/12):

The puzzle has been, however, to determine where and when that Executive ended or began and the Executive of the SAAA and CA intruded itself.

'Qrius' continued to disagree with Nourse after the Olympics, saying he could not agree with him that the public would support future Olympic teams after the successes (Latest 20/7/12) and supporting the complaints of athletes who were not allowed to compete in England after the Games were over, even though some had paid half their expenses (Latest 10/8/12).

Nourse visited Durban in July 1913 to discuss the proposed visit of the English athletic team and met with the Natal AA and CA on 14 July. He revealed that the S A Olympic Committee would probably be re-formed (Latest 19/7/13) and a year later he again visited Durban to gain support for the new committee (Latest 18/7/14). The new committee had been formed on 30 June with Nourse as chairman and S J Pitts secretary (S A Minutes, 30/6/14). The war prevented further developments, and only in 1919 were there once again moves to re-form the Olympic Committee (SAAA & CA minutes, 20/10/19).

From the preceding account it can be seen that Nourse played a central role in the establishment and development of athletics in South Africa before the First World War. He was able to do so because he was wealthy, he had the ability to lead men, he was at the centre of athletics in Johannesburg and he had influential friends.

Platnauer, Allsop and Nourse were probably the driving force of the SAAA and CA, but Allsop, as secretary was less influential. Nourse dictated policy more as president of the SAAA and CA, while Platnauer had the expertise and was able to influence events through the press. Allsop was secretary of the Wanderers Club and heavily involved with cricket, and he was sometimes criticised for his lack of attention to athletics.



## CHAPTER TWENTY

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## Introduction

In this thesis the development of South African athletics has been traced from the early days when there were only rural sports to the point where athletics became an institutionalised sport with a bureaucratic structure and was an important socio-cultural aspect of life of white South Africans.

Attention has been drawn to the early pedestrians, the celebration of public holidays and special occasions by athletic sports meetings, the establishment of clubs and controlling bodies, the growth of particular activities such as cross country running, the influence of particular aspects such as war, and the contributions of outstanding men.

## Conclusions

The British had a dominating influence on the progress of athletics. This influence was imposed through the large numbers of immigrants who arrived in South Africa from 1814 onwards throughout the nineteenth century, and by the British Army. Later on, as schools were established, the cult of athleticism developed in South African schools, and both assisted the progress of athletics and consolidated the British influence. The dynamic developments that occurred in sport in Britain in the nineteenth century were exported to South Africa, and it has been shown that they took firm root in this country. The British influence was so strong that the rules of the English AAA were



adhered to in South Africa and disputes were often referred 'home' rather than to South African bodies. The cult of athleticism, muscular christianity, racial and gender discrimination, the concern for achievement, championships and records, were all concepts that developed in South African athletics as a direct result of British influence. For most of the nineteenth century this influence was confined to the people living in towns who were mainly English-speaking, either immigrants themselves or colonial born. Towards the end of the nineteenth century, and more particularly after the Anglo-Boer War, Dutch-speaking South Africans took part in athletics and came under the British influence.

In the mid-nineteenth century sports meetings were used to celebrate holidays and special events, and the British immigrants seemed to use these occasions to create a social climate similar to that which had existed in England. Thus, on the day of celebration an English atmosphere was created, with all members of the community involved in a social activity in which all classes could participate. Later on Dutch-speaking South Africans also watched and gradually began to assimilate British culture, a process that was accelerated by the Dutch joining athletic clubs, and the establishment of schools for the Dutch, based on the English public school model. Blacks were usually, but not always, tolerated as spectators, but they were allowed to compete only in a special event. Occasionally, special sports were arranged for them. The impression gained is that the settlers wished to make the occasion as 'English' as possible and blacks intruded on the image.

In each centre there were men, usually from Britain, but sometimes 'colonial-born', who were convinced of the value of athletics and devoted time to its promotion. Without such men, athletics would not have developed. They were often prominent men in the community who had the power, authority, wealth and

charisma to make athletics an important social and leisure-time activity. It can be concluded that the influence of men such as the Shepstones in Pietermaritzburg, the Very Reverend Barnett-Clarke in Cape Town, George Farrar, Henry Nourse and Jacob Swart was of great importance. Journalists appear to have been particularly influential. Many were convinced of the value of athletics for developing manly qualities and health and, through their newspapers supported sports meetings, school athletics, harrier clubs and outstanding athletes. It has been shown that where there were men sufficiently interested, athletics in that centre flourished, but where there were no such men, it languished.

Other sports sometimes had to act as nursemaid to athletics. In Cape Town it was rugby, in Durban, soccer, in Port Elizabeth and Pietermaritzburg it was cricket. Without the encouragement, organisation and facilities that these sports offered, the development of athletics would have been impaired. Athletics also owes a debt of gratitude to cycling which, in the decade before the Anglo-Boer War, attracted the crowds to sports meetings and increased the gate-money. Horse-racing also assisted athletics, and, in the early days, athletic events were sometimes held in conjunction with race meetings and on race courses.

Finance was a crucial factor. The success of the early meetings was judged by the number of spectators who attended rather than the performances of the athletes. A large 'gate' enabled the organisers to buy prizes and equipment and improve facilities, thus attracting more athletes and a bigger crowd. The discovery of diamonds and gold not only attracted many immigrants with an athletic background, but also provided a firm economic base. Betting on athletic events stimulated interest. The De Beers Sports at Kimberley became famous for the quality of the prizes. The wealth of the Johannesburg Randlords enabled Transvaal to become the dominant athletic province. They provided facilities

(the Wanderers), prizes, money for the teams sent overseas in 1895, 1908, 1909 and 1912, and subsidised the SAAAA in its early years. The succession of economic depressions had an adverse effect on athletics and was probably partly responsible for the failure to bring a touring team to South Africa before World War One.

Other factors that emerged as influencers on the progress of athletics were the growth of transport and communications; the Rinderpest; fads and fancies such as rinking, walking and cycling; the beach developments in Durban; and war. It has also been shown that there was a relationship between athletics and politics, race, gender, religion and the half-holiday movement.

The lack of facilities was a retarding factor in the growth of athletics. Johannesburg, Pretoria and Bloemfontein were fortunate to have facilities provided by private organisations, but in the other towns local athletic enthusiasts, usually supported by the press, badgered the local Council. Facilities were eventually obtained at Cape Town (Green Point), Port Elizabeth (Westbourne Oval), Durban (Lords), Queenstown (Recreation Ground), Pietermaritzburg (Oval) and Grahamstown (City Lords). The question of the extent to which a local authority was obligated to supply recreational facilities was raised, and is still a controversial issue.

In the twentieth century the impact of the Olympic Games became increasingly important. Awakening nationalism motivated countries to participate, and South Africans were also eager to prove themselves. They were especially keen to show that they could compete on equal terms with England and the other colonies, and that the South African lifestyle was the equal of that in the older, more developed countries. Thus, the development of athletics in England and the Empire forced the institutionalisation of athletics in South Africa, whilst

international competition provided the opportunity for South Africans to display the progress they had made in British civilised pursuits. Teams were sent overseas to represent South Africa before there was such a country, showing that the British immigrants believed that they were all part of the Empire, no matter that they lived in Transvaal or Orange Free State.

Two other twentieth century influences were revealed in this study. The SAAA and CA became concerned about financial assistance from the government, particularly about the assistance given to other Olympic teams, and began to lobby the South African government for aid after the 1912 Olympics. This has become an extremely controversial issue, as the increased amounts of aid given to sport has led to increasing amounts of political interference. The second influence was the increasing awareness of the value of physical education. Several articles on this topic were published in South Africa, and the views of T W McCawley of the Transvaal Education Department received prominence.

It can thus be concluded that before World War One athletics became an integral part of South African culture which interacted with many facets of society. Athletics development paralleled and reflected developments in society, influencing and being influenced by sociological factors. It was particularly associated with the English-speaking section of society, having little influence on the Dutch-speaking and virtually none at all on the blacks. These were developments that occurred later. After cricket, football and horse racing, athletics was probably the most important physical recreation activity before World War One, and on occasions it even surpassed them in its power to attract large crowds and as a medium for celebrating special occasions. The athletic sports meeting appeared to serve for a while as a ritual by which the English-speaking were able to demonstrate their lifestyle, superiority, oneness and their English roots.

Towards the end of the period, this aspect had largely disappeared, and the sport was more concerned with performances and records.

#### Recommendations

It is hoped that this study will provide a basis for the use of others and encourage further research into the history of sport in South Africa. However, the writer recommends that if a systematic study of sport in South Africa is undertaken it would be unwise to approach it sport by sport as each writer would have to peruse the same newspapers. It would probably be much more effective if time periods or regions were selected and all the sport considered. In the course of his research the writer saw much valuable material on gymnastics, aquatics, cricket, football, cycling, golf and other activities which was irrelevant to his purpose in this particular study. It is, therefore, suggested that to avoid similar wastage, it would be advisable to study sport in Durban in the Edwardian period, or the influence of the British Settlers on sporting activities in the Eastern Cape.

This study was limited to athletics before World War One, but not all aspects could be fully covered. Further study could be made of particular aspects such as:

1. Particular clubs, e.g. the role of the Port Elizabeth AA and CA in the social life of the city.
2. The influence of organisations such as the CCAA and CU, or the Caledonian Society.
3. The provision of facilities by local authorities, and the history of particular grounds, e.g. Ramblers, Green Point Stadium.

4. Prominent men, such as J Tyzack.
5. The events and outstanding athletes, e.g. sprinting and athletes such as Rolland, Walker, Postle and Donaldson.
6. Trophies. In addition to the account of winners and races, they have significance as motivating factors and as symbols indicating the relationship between athletics and the prominent men who donated them.
7. Detailed studies of school, army and professional athletics.

In conclusion, the writer wishes to inform interested researchers that he has collected information on the overall development of athletics up to 1960 and intends to publish it. It would, therefore, seem an unnecessary duplication of effort if this was done again. However, there are many aspects of the topic which could serve as themes for study in addition to those mentioned above, such as women's athletics, the Afrikaner and athletics, black athletics and the influence of politics on athletics.

A final quotation from Mandell (1984, p. 281) seems fitting to conclude this thesis:

"At least some aspects of the vast, protean spectacle of modern sport are being caught and held for careful examination. In the future we will know more about what is going on."



## APPENDIX A

## ABBREVIATIONS

In order to facilitate reading and to avoid unnecessary cumbersome repetition, the following abbreviations have been used in the text:

- AAA : Amateur Athletic Association.
- CCAA and CU : Cape Colony Amateur Athletic and Cycling Union.
- CC and AC : City Cycling and Athletic Club.
- Border AA and CA or AA and CU : Border Amateur Athletic and Cycling Association, or Cycling Union. The same for Eastern Province, Western Province, Natal, Griqualand West, Orange Free State (Orange River Colony), Transvaal and South Africa.
- DAC : Durban Athletic Club. The same for Pietermaritzburg Athletic Club (PAC).
- DSA : Durban Sports Association.
- PEAAC : Port Elizabeth Amateur Athletic Club.
- SAOGC : South African Olympic Games Committee.
- SAAAA or SAAA and CA : see above under Border.
- TCU : Transvaal Cycling Union.

## Other terms

- AGM : Annual General Meeting.
- Hon. Sec. : Honorary Secretary.
- 1:59.1-5 : One minute fifty-nine and one fifth seconds.
- 5ft. 6ins. : Five feet six inches.
- RFU : Rugby Football Union.
- FC : Football Club.

## APPENDIX B

The original English AAA rules for the inaugural Championship Meeting in 1880, and used in South Africa until SAAAA rules were accepted, were as follows (Lovesey, 1979, p. 33):

1. No attendant to accompany a competitor on the scratch or in the race.
2. Any competitor starting before the signal to be put back at the discretion of the starter, who shall have power to disqualify him on a repetition of the offence; all questions as to starts to be at the discretion of the starter.
3. In Hurdle races each competitor to keep his own hurdles throughout the race. The hurdles to stand 3ft. 6ins. out of the ground.
4. In Sprint racing each runner to keep his own side of the course.
5. Wilfully jostling, or running across, or obstructing another so as to impede his progress, to disqualify the offender.
6. In Pole Leaping and High Jumping, three tries at each height allowed. Each height to be determined by the Judges: displacing the bar only to count as a try.
7. In Broad Jumping, Putting the Weight, or Throwing the Hammer, three tries only to be allowed. The best three competitors of the first trial to be allowed three more tries each for the final. The farthest Throw, Put, or Jump of the six attempts to win.
8. The Hammer to be thrown from a circle of 7ft. diameter: the throw to be measured from the nearest point of the edge of the circle to the edge of the pitch of the ball of the Hammer.
9. In Broad Jumping, Weight Putting, and Hammer Throwing, crossing the Scratch in the attempt to count as 'A Try'; all Broad Jumps to be measured from the scratch to the nearest place where any part of the body touches the ground.
10. The weight of the Hammer (head and handle) and Weight to be 16 lbs. respectively.
11. The Weight and Hammer head to be of iron and spherical, and the Hammer handle to be of wood.
12. The length from the end of the handle of the Hammer to bottom of the ball not to exceed 4ft. over all.

13. The Weight to be delivered from the shoulder with either hand, from a seven feet circle; no 'Put' to count if delivered or followed with any part of the body touching the ground over the mark; all puts to be measured from the nearest point of the circle, to the edge of the pitch of the Weight.

14. In Walking Races cautions and disqualifications to be left to the discretion of the Judges.

15. The decision of the Judges in each competition to be final.

16. All cases of dispute and any questions that may arise, not provided for in these rules, or the interpretation of any of these rules, to be referred to the Committee of Management at the time, whose decision shall be final.

## APPENDIX C

The results of the sports of the 6th Regiment at Chalumna Camp on 26 November 1847 (Grahamstown Journal 11/12/47):

100 yd.	Private Woodall	11 secs.
100 yd. hopping	Young	
880 yd.	Young	2 min. 10 secs.
200 yd. Hurdles (3'6")	Woodall	28 secs.
3/4 mile steeplechase	Woodall	
Long Jump	Young	18ft.
High Jump	Woodall	5ft. 2ins.

Other events included a sack race and juggling match.

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Balguy, presented the prizes.

## APPENDIX D

David S Barrable, editor of the Queenstown Free Press, wrote this editorial on 16 June 1868, which indicates how ideas on sport and physical education were beginning to be transposed from England to South Africa. If 'cars' was substituted for 'horses' it would be relevant today, and the comments on the Dutch and school athletics are interesting.

This is the season of the year for enjoying walks and outdoor sports.

It is a noticeable fact, especially patent to newcomers, that the people of this colony do not care much about out door sports, nor about any excursions which are indulged in with such zest in Europe, and go far in forming the character of the people.

Walking is not the fashion here; horses are too plentiful, and instead of using our own limbs we must mount and ride.

It has often struck us that the farmers here are not the healthy, robust men that farmers are in England and Scotland. Especially is this the case with a large proportion of our Dutch farmers. They look strong big men, but if great in stature, they are far from strong in sinew. They are overgrown, with long sharp angular bones, and sadly deficient in muscular development. How many of them could run a race?

Let our young men be trained in athletic exercises. Let them be taught to take a delight in walking, and climbing the rugged hill sides, and inspiring the life giving breezes which fan their lofty summits. Let cricketing and football become more general, and other field games such as quoits, running, leaping, and even golfing. At the same time this physical training ought to be made a part of the education given in our schools.

In English public schools, and even in the great universities such exercises are more or less encouraged and fostered, and lately more than ever.

That the first European settlers in this land have gone backwards, not only in mind, but also in body, there can be little doubt.

## APPENDIX E

In this appendix some advertisements have been included, which illustrate some of the points made in the thesis.

1. Natal Handicap 1867 and 1873 (see pages 563 and 564).

These advertisements illustrate the type of event; the military association; the involvement of the Shepstones and the handicap system.

2. Mafeking Native Sports 13 May 1900 (see page 565).

These sports were held in the siege. Note the involvement of Baden-Powell and the events which included throwing the assegai.

3. Volkspelen op Hemelsvaartsdag June 1889 (see page 566).

An advertisement of early sports in Pretoria.

4. Natal Carbineers Sports 1875 (see page 567).

This shows how foot and horse-races were combined.

5. Queenstown Hospital Holiday Sports (see page 568).

Note the rules.

Note also that the band would be playing.



**PEDESTRIANISM.**  
**NATAL HANDICAP**  
 (OPEN TO ALL COMERS).

THE above Handicap will be run on THURSDAY, 14th FEBRUARY, 1867. Distance—400 yards.

*Stewards* :—Lieut. JONES, R.A.; THOMAS HARPER, Esq.; Lieut. THOMPSON, 99th Regt.

*Judge* :—Major POLE, C.M.R.

*Referee* :—The Hon. T. SHEPSTONE, Esq.

Nominations to close to the undersigned by Noon on THURSDAY, 7th FEBRUARY, 1867.

The Handicap to be published on SATURDAY, 9th FEBRUARY, 1867.

Entrance Money of 5s. to accompany Nominations.

To be run off in heats of not more than three each.

The winners of each heat to be drawn again, and the Handicap run off.

First, Second, and Third Prizes.

JOHN D. BURNETT,

Hon. Secretary.

PIETERMARITZBURG  
ATHLETIC SPORTS.

SECOND DAY, SATURDAY, JULY 12, 1873.

ALEXANDRA PARK.

*Committee of Management :—*

A. R. BUTTON,  
J. T. SPEFFIGUE,  
J. D. BURNETT,  
C. G. LEVY,

A. MOODIE,  
W. D. S. DOIG,  
W. LONDON.

*Judge :—*HON. T. SHEPSTONE, C.M.G. | *Referee :—*A. MOODIE.

*Starter :—*W. D. S. DOIG.

*Clerk of the Course :—*W. LONDON.

*Secretary and Treasurer :—*T. J. K. SCODNER.

HANDICAP, 300 yards (2 p.m.)

*First Heat.*

T. Bennitt, 4 yards,  
J. G. Shepherd, 13 yards,

C. Pistorius, 14 yards.

*Second Heat.*

W. H. Shepherd, 9 yards,  
F. Berning, 11 yards,

A. L. Scott, scratch.

*Third Heat.*

J. Hall, 8 yards,  
W. London, 17 yards,

F. Kahts, 20 yards.

*Fourth Heat.*

T. D. Wheeler, 12 yards,  
A. J. Stacey, 13 yards,

W. Gem, 37 yards.

[OVER]

Under the Patronage of  
COLONEL R. S. S. BADEN-POWELL  
AND OFFICERS OF THE GARRISON,

**A SPORTS MEETING  
OPEN TO ALL NATIVES,**

WILL BE HELD ON

**SUNDAY, MAY 13TH, 1900,**

AT THE

RECREATION GROUND,

At 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

JUDGES: C. G. H. Bell, Esq.; Lieut.-  
Col. C. O. Hore; Lieut.-Col. J.  
A. H. Walford.

REFEREE: Captain B. W. Cowan.

STARTERS: J. A. P. Feltham, Esq.;  
H. M. B. Currie, Esq.; A. Mac-  
kenzie, Esq.

Miss Cowan has kindly consented  
to distribute the prizes.

PROGRAMME:

1. 300 Yards Race. Prizes 15s.,  
10s., 5s., 2s. 6d.
2. Long Jump. Prizes 10s., 5s., 3s.,  
2s.
3. Schildpad Trek (teams of four).  
Prizes £1, 10s.
4. First Heats, Tug of War.
5. Three-legged Race. Prizes 15s.,  
7s. 6d.
6. Bicycle Race. Prizes £1, 10s.,  
5s.
7. Wrestling. Prizes £1, 10s., 5s.
8. Best Dressed Girl. 1st prize £1,  
further prizes according to en-  
tries.
9. Final for Tug of War. Prizes  
£1 10s., 15s.
10. Lloyd Lindsay at Bottles (Teams  
of four). Prizes £1, 10s.
11. Throwing the Assegai and Kerry  
(Assegai for distance, Kerry at a  
mark). Prizes £1 and 10s.; £1  
and 10s.
12. Greasy Pole. Prizes 4 lbs.  
Sausage and 10s., 5s.

By kind permission of the Officer  
Commanding, the Band of the Colo-  
nial Contingent will play during the  
afternoon.

# Fabriek en Magazijn van Brandkasten.

Opgerecht in 1830.

## G. VAN HEERDE.

DE enige Nederlandsche Firmt bekroond met de GOUDEN MEDAILLE  
 BRANDWAARBORGKASTEN, op de Internationale Koloniale en  
 handel Tentoonstelling te Amsterdam in 1883.

Aan de voornaamste Binkinstellingen en Kantoren in Nederland. Te Ko-  
 men zijn de Brandkasten, Kluisdeuren, en Brandkelders dierdeze Fabrikage  
 M-11

# BEREA PARK.

## Volksspelen op Hemelvaartsdag.

### COMMISSIE: DE HEEREN

P. J. JOUBERT, Commandant-Generaal.  
 W. FRANCIS,

Kapitein Z. ORTEL,  
 T. W. BUCKEET,

J. SMIT, Voorzitter,

A. ROFF, Singschrijver.

F. STIEMENS, Schiedsrichter.

Wedstrijd van 100 yards op den vlakken grond. — Hoog Springen.  
 Ver Springen. 250 yards Handicap. — Wedloop met Hindernissen. — Zwa-  
 loopen. — Wedstrijd aan den Rekstok. — Hinken. — Menagerie Race. — 160 yards  
 Zwemwedstrijd (gekleed) in partijen, eerste en tweede aankomenden  
 afzonderlijk om den prijs te kampen. — 80 yards Zwemwedstrijd. — 120 yards  
 Zwemwedstrijd voor jongens onder de 12 jaar. — Duiken. — Eendenjacht.  
 Boegsprietloopen.

.Alle zwemwedstrijden moeten zijn in broek en tot aan de knieën en bootschakel.  
 Iedere deelnemer zal hierna niet voldot zal niet worden toegelaten.

Inleg voor ieder wedstrijd 25. 00., behalve voor de Zwemwedstrijd voor Jon-  
 gens, Eendenjacht en Boegsprietloopen.

Begin ten 10 ure precies.

Zich aan te melden aan het kantoor van de *Transvaal Aleeftier* tot den 28sten  
 dezer.

383-41M

# Natal Carbineers' Sports.

Saturday, 24th April, 1875; to commence at 1 o'clock p.m.

## MANAGING COMMITTEE.

Capt. Shepstone, Corporal London, Sergeant G. Whitelaw, Trooper W. D. S. Doig.  
 Judge: Capt. Shepstone; Starter: A. Moodie; Clerk of Course: Tr. Scott.

## ATHLETIC SPORTS.

1. ONE HUNDRED YARDS' RACE.—In Uniform, without arms. For Carbineers only. 1st Prize, £1; 2nd do., 10s.
2. THREE HUNDRED YARDS' RACE.—Open to all Volunteers, Mounted Police, and 15th Lt. 1st Prize, £1; 2nd do., 10s.
3. TWO HUNDRED YARDS' RACE, over

Three Hurdles. For Carbineers only. 1st Prize £2; 2nd do., £10s.  
 4. FOUR HUNDRED YARDS' RACE, over Eight Hurdles, 3 feet high. For Carbineers only. 1st Prize, £2; 2nd do., 10s.  
 5. FIVE HUNDRED YARDS' RACE, over Ten Hurdles, 3 feet high. For Carbineers only. 1st Prize, £2; 2nd do., 10s.

## HORSE RACES.

1. 25 SPECIAL PRIZE.—Presented by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. Half-mile in full marching order. Open to all horses the bona-fide property of Natal Carbineers since the 1st April, 1875, or horses ridden in last Quarterly Drill. Entrance, 5s.; to go to the second horse. Each trooper to ride his own horse. Each trooper to carry carbine and holster, regulation cap and blanket strapped to the saddle, haversack, cross and waist belts, halter, nosebag, pannikin and cloak. First prize, £5; 2nd do., £2 10s.

Corporal Royston's *Lancel*  
 Trooper Pannewitz's *Lilla Rook*  
 Sergeant Whitelaw's *Guerie*  
 Sergeant-Major Taylor's *Charlie*  
 Trooper Bower's *Straight*  
 Captain Shepstone's *Commandant*  
 Corporal London's *Robin*  
 Trooper Doig's *Young Natal*  
 Trooper Doig's *Sir Garnet*  
 Trooper Materson's *Tempest*

2. CARBINEER PLATE.—Half-mile Race, in uniform, without arms. Open to Natal Carbineers who attended the last Quarterly Drill. Horses as in Race No. 1. Cross and waist belts. Any trooper may ride if over 9st. without saddle. First prize, £1; 2nd do., £1 5s.

Corporal Royston's *Lancel*  
 Sergeant Whitelaw's *Guerie*  
 Trooper Bower's *Straight*  
 Corporal London's *Robin*  
 Trooper Doig's *Young Natal*  
 Trooper Doig's *Sir Garnet*

3. HURDLE RACE.—Three-quarter Mile, over Four Hurdles, 3 feet high. In Uniform. Open to all Natal Carbineers and Horses who

attended the last Quarterly Drill. Without belts. Same conditions as to riders and weights as in Race No. 2. First Prize, £5, 2nd do., £1 10s.

Trooper Pannewitz's *Lilla Rook*  
 Sergeant Bilton's *Fraser*  
 Trooper Leask's *Wellington*  
 Trooper Payer's *Black Jack*  
 Captain Shepstone's *Commandant*  
 Trooper Doig's *Sir Garnet*  
 Trooper Materson's *Tempest*

4. MARITZBURG RACE.—One Mile, Open to all Carbineers, and to any Mounted Police Horses not winners at any Race Meeting. Minimum weight, 9st. Riders must be in Uniform or Colors. First Prize, £1; 2nd do., £1

Mr. Harper's *Sir Don*  
 Mr. Whitelaw's *Guerie*  
 Lord Gillies's *Dieter's Noddy*  
 Mr. T. Shepstone jun.'s *Preceder*

5. TROOP RACE.—One Mile, Open to Carbineers only. For Horses the property of Troopers since 1st March, 1875. Same conditions as for No. 4. First Prize, £1 5s; 2nd do., £1 5s.

Trooper Hupfield's *Jack*  
 Sergeant Whitelaw's *Guerie*  
 Trooper Leask's *Wellington*  
 Trooper Murphy's *Clara Pollock*  
 Sergeant-Major Taylor's *Charlie*  
 Trooper Bower's *Straight*  
 Trooper Payer's *Black Jack*  
 Corporal London's *Robin*  
 Trooper Doig's *Sir Garnet*  
 Trooper Doig's *Young Natal*

All disputes to be settled by the Committee on the ground.

# HOSPITAL HOLIDAY.

## ATHLETIC SPORTS, QUEENSTOWN.

WEDNESDAY, 11th OCTOBER, 1882.

NEAR THE CRICKET GROUND, COMMENCING AT 11 A.M. SHARP.

PRESIDENT—H. J. VAN BREDÁ, Esq., C.C. and R.M.  
 VICE-PRESIDENTS—D. S. BARRADLE, Esq.; C. C. HENSHAW, Esq.  
 HON. SECRETARY and TREASURER.—ALFRED W. SOLE, Esq.  
 STARTERS—Capt A. P. TAINTON; J. BRADY, Esq.  
 JUDGES—F. H. JONES, Esq.; J. W. MORRIS, Esq.  
 REFEREES—F. W. SHEPSTONE, C. W. LEACH, C. DAVIES, A. D. WEBB, G. STIRTON, jr., Esq.  
 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—Dr. WEAKLEY, C. E. BESTALL, F. G. GOAD, G. E. VICKERS, G. HAY,  
 J. HARGRAVES, and J. D. SHEARER, Esqrs.

### GENERAL COMMITTEE:—

G. Stillwell, Esq	— Abrey, Esq	G. Harding, Esq	— Fellow, Esq	G. Peacock, Esq
J. Harris, Esq	J. Blackler, Esq	T. H. Buntley, Esq	J. Doig, Esq	H. S. Waugh, Esq
C. Malter, Esq	H. Bagnall, Esq	W. Leach, Esq	Henry White, Esq	O. F. Belgood, Esq
S. C. Bell, Esq	O. F. Sessor, Esq	W. Frost, Esq	G. Barnes, Esq	J. McBean, Esq
H. Tiffin, Esq	Dr. Berry	— Daly, Esq	G. Flowers, Esq	J. R. Hood, Esq
G. H. Farrer, Esq	T. W. Smith, Esq	J. Newick, Esq	C. H. Driver, Esq	M. J. Langfield, Esq
A. McDonald, Esq	S. Morum, Esq	E. Crouch, Esq	J. Craig, Esq	J. Wise, Esq
A. Barfield, Esq	T. Green, Esq	A. R. Driver, Esq	F. C. Bate, Esq	— Middlewick, Esq
T. W. Atkins, Esq	J. Kincaid, Esq	T. Bailey, Esq	Dr. Rhind	R. Quigley, Esq
J. J. Kelly, Esq	J. Staples, Esq	H. Callaghan, Esq	J. G. Hallier, Esq	

### PROGRAMME.

NO.	T MR.	EVENT.	OPEN TO	1ST PRIZE, VALUE.	2ND PRIZE, VALUE.	ENT. FEE	REMARKS.
*1	11 A.M.	Bagpipe Playing	All Comers	£2 2s	...	2s 6d	
2	11-15	120 yards Flat Race (handicap)	do.	Sl Cup £5 5s	£2 10s	5s	12 yds limit, in heats of 4
3	11-30	440 " Flat Race (handicap)	Boys under 16	Sl Cup £3 5s	£1	2s 6d	10 yards a year allowed
†1	11-40	½-Mile Flat Race	All Comers	Sl Cup £7 7s	£2 2s	21s	Challenge Cup, vt 50 gns
5	12 noon.	Long Jump	do.	£1	...	2s 6d	Run and stand combined
*6	12-10 p.m.	Tossing the Caber	Caledonian & Kindred Soc.	£4 4s	£2	2s 6d	
7	12 20	Putting the Shot (16 lbs)	All Comers	£2	...	2s 6d	
8	12 30	120 yards Flat Race (handicap)	Boys under 12	£1	10s	Free	4 yards a year allowed
	12 45	Final Heat, 120 yds Flat Race					

### INTERVAL FOR REFRESHMENTS.

9	2 p.m.	Throwing Cricket Ball	All Comers	£1 10s	...	2s 6d	
*10	2 15	Throwing the Hammer	do.	£2	£1	2s 6d	
11	2 30	440 yards Flat Race (handicap)	do.	Sl Cup £5 5s	£2 10s	5s	40 yards limit
12	2 45	High Jump	do.	£2	...	2s 6d	Run and stand combined
13	3 0	Kafr Race	do.	£1	10s	Free	Obstacle
14	3 15	120 yards Hurdle Race (handicap)	do.	£3	£2	5s	8 flights 3ft Gin. in heats
15	3 45	Pole Jump	do.	£2	...	2s 6d	(over 12 yards)
16	4 0	1 Mile Flat Race (handicap)	do.	Sl Cup £10 10s	£3	5s	120 yards limit
17	4 15	Tug of War	do.	£3	...	10s	Team of ten
*18	4 30	Scottish Dancing	do.	£3	£1	2s 6d	
19	4 45	1 Mile Walking Race (handicap)	do.	Sl Cup £5 5s	£2 10s	5s	120 yards limit
	5 0	Final 120 yards Hurdle Race					
	5 10	Final Heat, Tug of War					

\* A Committee appointed by the Caledonian Society, consisting of Messrs. George Hay, W. Key, and J. McBean will be the Judges for the four Scottish Events.

† Queenstown Half-mile Challenge Cup, value Fifty Guineas, with Presentation Cup, value £7 7s. The above Cup to be run for annually, and to remain the property of the donors. The Winner to hold the same for one year only. Copy of Regulations to be had from the Secretary.

NOTE.—A Bell will ring Five Minutes before each event, and any Competitor not at the Starting Post at specified time will not be allowed to compete.

### RULES.

- 1.—The above events are open to Amateurs only. The Committee reserve the right of refusing any entry.
- 2.—In all events, Two Competitors or no Prize; Three Competitors or no Second Prize.
- 3.—Competitors to be clothed from shoulder to knee; no tights allowed.
- 4.—In Walking Race, two warnings given; third offence disqualified.
- 5.—No attendant to accompany any Competitor on the Scratch or in a Race.
- 6.—All Races to start by report of Pistol.
- 7.—Any Competitor starting before the Pistol is fired will be put back one yard; second offence two yards; third time disqualified.
- 8.—In Hurdle Races each Competitor to keep his own Hurdle.
- 9.—Jostling, running across, or wilfully obstructing another so as to impede his progress, will disqualify the offender.
- 10.—The decision of the Judges in all cases to be final.
- 11.—In Pole Leaping and High Jumping, three tries at each height.
- 12.—In Putting the Shot and Wide Jumping, three tries allowed.
- 13.—In Putting the Shot and Throwing the Hammer, a run of seven feet allowed; weight to be delivered from the shoulder; no follow allowed.
- 14.—No tries and no throws to count as tries.
- 15.—Entries close on Monday, 2nd October, 1882, at noon. Special forms of entry can be obtained from the Secretary, to whom all entries must be addressed, and no entries will be accepted unless on the above mentioned forms.
- 16.—No Post Entries accepted.

The Queenstown Band will play at intervals during the day.

ALFRED W SOLE,

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.



## APPENDIX F

The results of the first Athletic Sports of the Cape Town Amateur Athletic Club, 27 November 1875.

100	H O Kay	11,0 secs.
1/4 mile	P M Scott	59,0 secs.
1/2 mile	P M Scott	2:05,0
Mile	W Lacon	5:40,0
2 miles walk	W Lacon	21:45,0
120 yards hurdles	O H Ellis	19,0 secs.
High Jump	O H Ellis	4ft. 10ins./1,475m
Long Jump	O H Ellis	16ft. 9 1/2ins./5,12m
Cricket Ball	H O Kay	99 yards/90,53m
Hammer	O H Ellis	55ft. 7ins./16,94m

(Cape Argus 30/11/75)

## APPENDIX G

The balance sheet of the Queenstown Hospital Sports held on 10 November 1887, published in the Queenstown Free Press, 24 January 1888.

Income	£	s	d
Subscriptions collected	46	6	6
Entries	13	14	0
Gate money	21	4	6
Programmes	2	12	0
Sale of booths	4	15	0
Dramatic entertainment	3	17	4
	<hr/>		
	92	9	4
	<hr/>		
 Expenses	 £	 s	 d
21 Silver cups from England	33	0	0
Dodgson and Balzam	4	7	0
Printing and advertising	10	14	9
Band	5	0	0
Removing Zareba	0	7	6
Preparing ground, gate, etc.	10	9	2
Police refreshments	1	7	9
T Bailey and Co.		19	6
Marshall Bros.	6	0	0
Blank cartridges - yet to be paid for			
	<hr/>		
	72	5	8
	<hr/>		
 Balance in Cape of Good Hope Bank	 20	 3	 8

## APPENDIX H

The custom of holding public sports to celebrate a public holiday or special occasion spread to many towns in South Africa and appeared to reach a peak just prior to the Anglo-Boer War. Although the following list is neither complete nor accurate, it gives an indication of when sports of this nature were first held, and may be of value to other researchers.

Aberdeen 1886	Ladybrand 1886
Alexandria 1883	Ladysmith 1873
Alice 1884	Lydenburg 1884
Aliwal North 1885	Malmesbury 1887
Bethlehem 1887	Mossel Bay 1860
Bloemfontein 1882	Napier 1887
Boksburg 1894	Newcastle 1897
Boshoff 1888	Nigel 1893
Boston 1884	Paarl 1895
Brakpan 1894	Pietermaritzburg 1871
Caledon 1887	Pilgrim's Rest 1877
Camperdown 1868	Pinetown 1898
Cape Town 1875	Port Elizabeth 1860
Clanwilliam 1873	Potchefstroom 1877
Colesburg 1876	Pretoria 1876
Cookhouse 1886	Queenstown 1876
Cradock 1894	Richmond 1894
De Aar 1887	Robben Island 1895
Dundee 1883	Roodepoort 1893
Durban 1873	Somerset East 1890
East London 1883	Springbok 1887
Ficksburg 1891	Steytlerville 1894
Fort Beaufort 1857	Uitenhage 1881
Fort Peddie 1847	Vereeniging 1897
Germiston 1898	Verulam 1869
Grahamstown 1860	Vryheid 1890
Graaff-Reinet 1863	Worcester 1887
Greytown 1868	
Harrismith 1883	
Heidelberg (Cape) 1887	
Heilbron 1892	
Howick 1885	
Ixopo 1894	
Jagersfontein 1887	
Johannesburg 1888	
Kimberley 1871	
King William's Town 1866	
Klerksdorp 1889	
Kroonstad 1890	
Krugersdorp 1889	

**Note** that several of these were sports to celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887.

## APPENDIX I

The results of the first S A Championships held at Johannesburg on 24 March 1894.

100 yards	C W Jones	10.1/5
440 yards	P Blignaut	51.3/5
880 yards	T P Parker	2:18.2/5 (walk-over)
1 Mile	G Melvill	4:48
3 Miles Walk	L Thornton	23:47
120 yards Hurdles	W Kidger	18.4/5
Shot	J Hazlehurst	40ft. 0ins./12,19m
Hammer	D McCrae	85ft. 1.1/2ins./25,94m
Long Jump	A M Tait	19ft. 5ins./ 5,92m
High Jump	G W Grant	5ft. 4.3/4ins./ 1,64m
Pole Jump	T B Parker	9ft. 0ins./ 2,74m
1 Mile Cycle	J L Johnston	2:29.4/5
5 Miles Cycle	J L Johnston	13:43

(Parker 1897, p. 110; Star 24/3/94)

## APPENDIX J

Poem on cross country running in the Star, 15 November 1898.

"Oh worn and weary are their limbs indeed,  
As spruits deep, with boulders filled impede,  
Oho! what laughter rings along the breeze,  
As oft a comrade sticks up to his knees  
In mud of slimy and tenacious grip,  
Where hard it is avoiding such a slip.  
The pain and weariness of miles traversed,  
The tumbles and the jars by each one cursed."

## APPENDIX K

The 'Walking Craze', 1903. This is a list of reported walks. Others were probably held.

Cape Town (Cape Times 1/7/03 to 25/9/03; Star 11/7/03)

10/7/03 Stock Exchange Clerks  
 13/8/03 Spartan Harriers 50 Miles  
 Chemist Store Boys  
 Railway Workers  
 Early Closing Shop Assistants  
 Simonstown Walk for Women

Johannesburg/Pretoria (Star 11/7/03 to 2/11/03).

17/ 7/03 Stock Exchange (Johannesburg to Pretoria)  
 3/ 8/03 Banks Race (Johannesburg to Roodepoort and back)  
 9/ 8/03 CSAR Stores (Johannesburg to Germiston)  
 20/ 8/03 Land and Estate Agents (Krugersdorp to Johannesburg)  
 26/ 8/03 Pretoria  
 30/ 8/03 CSAR (Johannesburg to Pretoria)  
 26/ 9/03 Civil Service (Johannesburg to Pretoria)  
 29/ 9/03 Veterans 25 miles race  
 3/10/03 Rand Daily Mail  
 16/12/03 Pretoria to Johannesburg team event

Durban (Cake Walks) (Natal Mercury 26/8/03 to 2/11/03; Star 6/10/03)

12/ 9/03 Durban to Isipingo and back  
 26/ 9/03 Harvey, Greenacre & Co.  
 3/10/03 Verulam, for ladies  
 5/10/03 Natal Government Railways  
 14/10/03 United Banks  
 17/10/03 Point Walk  
 24/10/03 NGR Indian Football Club

Pietermaritzburg (Natal Witness 1/7/03 to 25/1/04)

18/10/03 United Banks  
 9/12/03 Outfitters  
 16/12/03 NGR  
 19/12/03 Printers  
 25/ 1/04 Electricians

#### Others

Bloemfontein Banks (Friend 24/8/03)  
 Bloemfontein Pelican (Friend 10/9/03)  
 East London (Star 24/9/03)  
 Grahamstown (Journal 2/11/03)  
 Kimberley (Diamond Field News 13/8/03)  
 King William's Town (Cape Mercury 14/9/03; 29/9/03; 4/10/03)  
 Kroonstad (E P Herald 5/8/03)  
 Modderfontein (Star 8/9/03)  
 Port Elizabeth (E P Herald 24/10/03)  
 Vryburg (Star 4/9/03)



## APPENDIX L

## Results of South Africans competing overseas

The information is incomplete but has been recorded for future use.

## 1895 TOUR

## 24 June, London AC Summer Meeting, Stamford Bridge

Gradwell	Shot	3rd	41ft. 3ins.
----------	------	-----	-------------

## 1 July, Scottish Games, Stamford Bridge

Gradwell	Shot	1st	42ft. 4.1/2ins.
Hunter	PV	1st	8ft. 9.1/2ins.

## 6 July, AAA Championships

Gradwell	Shot	2nd	43ft. 1ins.
Hunter	PV	2nd	9ft. 0ins.
Hunter	120h	2nd	
Hunter	HJ	5th	
Hunter	LJ		
Phil Blignaut	440	3rd	
Piet Blignaut	440	6th	

## 10 July, Westminster Hospital Sports

Phil Blignaut	440	2nd	50.2/5
---------------	-----	-----	--------

## 13 July, Essex County Sports, Chelmsford

Hunter	100 (off 6.1/2)	4th	
--------	-----------------	-----	--

## 18 July, Addlestone

Hunter	120h	1st	
Phil Blignaut	100 (off 4)	1st	
Piet Blignaut and Hunter	100	2nd tie	

## 21 July, Paris

Phil Blignaut	100m (off 1m)	1st	11.2/5
Phil Blignaut	400m	1st	51.2/5
Piet Blignaut	Shot	1st	Gradwell injured
Hunter	LJ/PV	1st	

## 27 July, Stamford Bridge

Piet Blignaut	100/150/300	1st	(off 2, 3.1/2, 2
Phil Blignaut	150	2nd	yards)
	300	3rd	
Hunter	150	3rd	

## 28 July, West Brompton

Piet Blignaut	100/150	1st
Phil Blignaut	100	2nd
Piet Blignaut	400 (off 6)	1st

## 30 July, Crewe, Alexandria

? Blignaut	400	1st	51.2/5
------------	-----	-----	--------

## 3 August, Cardiff

Phil Blignaut	440 (off 8)	1st	48.3/5
---------------	-------------	-----	--------

## 3 August, London

Piet Blignaut	Unsuccessful
---------------	--------------

## 5 August, Newport

Hunter	120h (owe 16)	1st
--------	---------------	-----

## 5 August, Wembley

Piet Blignaut	100	2nd	10.3/5
Piet Blignaut	250	1st	26.4/5
Piet Blignaut	300	2nd	29.4/5

(Piet ran 1st in 300ht in 30secs : special medal.)

## 6 August, Gloucester

Piet Blignaut	440 (off 13)	2nd
Hunter	120h	2nd

Information from Sporting Life (24/6/95; 1/7/95), The Sportsman (?/7/95), Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News (6/7/05; 20/7/95; 10/8/95), AAA Minutes and Diamond Field News (10/9/95).

## 1898 TOUR

This tour was not successful and only sketchy results could be obtained. Two athletes and the cyclist, J M Griebenow were sent.

## July, Civil Service Sports, London

Morkel	120h	dropped out	
Phil Blignaut	440	1st	51

Blignaut beat all the recognised quarter-milers and became favourite for the AAA Championships.

## 9 July 1898, AAA Championships

Blignaut	100 heat	2nd	
	440 heat	1st	52.3/5
	440 final	dropped out	

Blignaut started too fast and became exhausted  
 Morkel 120h stumbled and dropped out

## July, Paris

Blignaut won 400m at an International Meeting in 53secs  
 and ran 100m in 10.4/5.  
 Morkel won the 110m hurdles in under 17secs., beating  
 the French record.

## July, Newport

Blignaut	440 (off 7)	1st	49.4/5
----------	-------------	-----	--------

The athletes obviously lacked racing experience before the AAA Championships.

Information from The Field (9/7/98), Sporting Sketches (15/6/98; 20/7/98; 27/7/98), AAA Records and the Star (20/6/98; 9/8/98).

## 1904 OLYMPIC GAMES, ST LOUIS

Marathon	Lentauw	9th
	Yamasani	12th

B W Harris did not finish  
 (See Van der Merwe, 1978, pp. 29-30.)

## 1906 OLYMPIC GAMES, ATHENS

110m hurdles	V Duncker	3rd	16,2
Marathon	J N Cormack (Pretoria Harriers)		

According to the Cape Times (15/4/08) he was 14th.  
 According to the Pretoria News (5/6/06) he was 10-12th.

## 1908 OLYMPIC GAMES, LONDON

Details of the performances of the South African team in the Olympic Games have been given by van der Merwe (1978, pp. 37-74). Performances in other events were:

## 9 June 1908, Polytechnic Sports, London

Stupart	100	1st	(off 7.1/2 yards)
Stupart	120h	1st	
Hefferon	3 miles	2nd	

## 20 June 1908, Civil Service Sports, London

Duncker	120h	1st	(owed 17 yards)
Stupart	120h	2nd	(owed 18 yards)

## 27 June 1908, London AC Sports, Stamford Bridge

Walker	100	2nd	(1st. Kerr, Canada)
--------	-----	-----	---------------------

## 4 July, AAA Championships, London

Mole	2 miles walk	dropped out	
Duncker	120h	1st	
Stupart	120h	5th	
Stupart	LJ		(gained a standard medal)
Duffy	100 heat	unplaced	
Phillips	100 heat	unplaced	
Walker	100	2nd	(Kerr, Canada, 1st)
Hefferon	4 miles	5th	(beat SA Rec. by 40 secs.)

## 11 July 1908, Birmingham

Walker	100	1st	10secs.
--------	-----	-----	---------

## 29 July 1908, Darlington

Walker	120	1st	(11.3/5 (fastest ever on grass))
--------	-----	-----	----------------------------------

## 31 July 1908, Tooting Sports

No results

## 1 August 1908, Rangers FC Sports, Glasgow

Walker	100	unplaced	bad start
--------	-----	----------	-----------

## 3 August 1908

Walker	100	1st	9,4/5secs. (equals Scottish record)
--------	-----	-----	--

## 4 August 1908, Abergevenny, Wales

Walker	100	1st	9.2/5secs. (track 2ins. over 100 yards; sloped 9ins. World Record)
--------	-----	-----	---

## 8 August 1908, Celtic Sports, Glasgow

Walker	100	3rd	(reportedly 1st but placed 3rd)
--------	-----	-----	---------------------------------

## 10 August 1908, Halifax

Walker	100	1st	9.3/5 (wind, downhill)
--------	-----	-----	---------------------------

## 22 August 1908, Nottingham RFC Sports

Walker	100	1st	10.1/5
--------	-----	-----	--------

## 29 August 1908, Manchester

Walker	100	2nd	
--------	-----	-----	--

Information from the Star (9/6/08; 22/6/08; 26/6/08; 29/6/08; 6/7/08; 13/7/08; 20/7/08; 21/7/08; 22/7/08; 23/7/08; 24/7/08; 25/7/08; 31/7/08; 3/8/08; 6/8/08; 11/8/08; 31/8/08), and the Latest (4/7/08; 11/7/08; 18/7/08; 1/8/08; 29/8/08; 5/9/08; 12/9/08; 22/11/08).

## 1909 WALKER AND DUNCKER IN EUROPE

Sam Wisdom was again the trainer. He withdrew Walker from the 220 at the AAA Championships. Walker joined and ran for Broughton Harriers and AC, Manchester.

## 11 June 1909, Abergevenny

Walker	120	3rd	(still unfit)
--------	-----	-----	---------------

## ? June 1909

Walker	120	unplaced	
	220	second	

## 19 June 1909, London AC Sports

Duncker	120h	2nd	
---------	------	-----	--

## 19 June 1909, Crew

Walker	100	1st	10secs. (beat Cartnell)
--------	-----	-----	----------------------------

## 26 June 1909, Manchester

Walker	100	1st	10.1/5
--------	-----	-----	--------

## 7 July 1909, AAA Championships

Walker	100	1st	10secs.
(N J Cartnell 2nd and Kerr 3rd)			
Duncker	120h	3rd	(hit 9th hurdle)

5 October 1909

Walker	100	1st	10.1/5
Duncker	120h	1st	16.1/5

Information from the Star (5/7/09; 13/9/09; 14/9/09; 8/11/09), Latest (19/6/09; 3/7/09; 10/7/09; 24/7/09; 31/7/09; 7/8/09; 14/8/09; 21/8/09; 4/9/09; 18/9/09), Friend (2/6/09 to 30/9/09), Cape Times 1/8/09 to 30/9/09).

**1910 WALKER IN EUROPE**

4 June 1910, Herne Hill,

100	unplaced in heats
-----	-------------------

24 June 1919, Wolverhampton

100	10.1/5 (beat F L Ramsdell)
-----	-------------------------------

2 July 1910, AAA Championships, London

100	2nd (1st Ramsdell)
-----	--------------------

6 July, Glasgow

100	1st (beat Ramsdell)
-----	---------------------

12 July 1910, Brussels

100	1st 11.1/5
-----	------------

22 July 1910, Manchester

100	1st 10.4/5 (beat Ramsdell)
-----	-------------------------------

August, Chertsey

120	12.1/5
220	22.1/5

6 August 1910, Glasgow

100	2nd (winner off 3 yards)
-----	--------------------------

20 August 1910, Redhill

220	1st 22.4/5
-----	------------

Information from the Star (27/6/10; 4/7/10; 2/8/10; 6/8/10), Latest (25/5/10; 2/7/10; 16/7/10; 13/8/10; 27/8/10), Friend (25/5/10).



## OTHER SOUTH AFRICANS ABROAD

1888 A Vigne

Attended Dublin University and became the Irish Spring Champion and English Northern Counties Champion. Lived at Fort Beaufort (Natal Mercury 4/10/88).

1893 A W Bumpus

Won five events at the Engineering Sports, Crystal Palace, London (Cape Times 16/7/93).

1894 A W Barlow

Won cricket ball throw at Royal College of Science Sports, 120 yards 1 inch (Friend 11/9/94).

1904 J C Landers

Went to England with the Natal Bisley Team. Won an 880 yards race (Wallace, 1907).

1908 H Inglis and W H Timbrell

"Ran with success" in Lourenco Marques (Pretoria Harriers minutes, 22/7/08).

1910 A W Andrews

Ex-Pretoria Harriers. Won 440 and 880 at Hong-Kong Championships, and 880 at the 'Olympic Games of the Orient', Manila (Pretoria News (2/3/10).

1911 H V L Houghting

Won 100 at Thames Nautical Training College, London (Latest 16/9/11).

1912 G H Patching

Awarded the Harvey Memorial Trophy at the AAA Championships held 22 June 1912. 100ht. 9.4/5 (record); 440, 2nd; 220, 3rd. (Star 24/6/12).

W L Hunter

Won 100, 220; 2nd in hurdles and long jump at Edinburgh University Sports (Latest 27/7/12).

1913 J A Stegmann

Won hurdles, 2nd long jump at Edinburgh University (Latest 21/6/13).

**B Rudd**

Won 440 in 50.1/5 (record) at Oxford University Freshman Sports. Also 100, 2nd; 880, tie 1st (Latest 1/11/13).

1914 W L Hunter

Won 100, 220, hurdles, HJ and LJ at Edinburgh University Sports (Latest 22/8/14). Won 120h at Scottish Championships 15.2/5 (record).

**J A Stegmann**

2nd in 120h at Scottish Championships. (Latest 22/8/14).

**A C St Norman**

Won London to Brighton and back walk (104.1/2 miles) in 21:18:45. Gold medal for beating 22 hours.

**G H Patching**

AAA Championships. Did not qualify for finals. 22 July 1914 Haywards Heath 100, 1st, 10.1/5 (off 3/4 yard). (Latest 11/7/14).

1917 S A Brigade Sports, Woking, England

Sgt G Glencross 1st 100, 220, 440.

Private F J Spencer 2nd 880 (handicap) (Latest 20/10/17).

1918 R Walker

Won 100 and 220 at S A Infantry Sports, 'Somewhere-in-France' on 10 August. (Latest 5/10/18).

**D A R Leathern**

Won mile at Woking, 6 July, and in France, 10 August. (Latest 7/9/18; 5/10/18).

## APPENDIX M

In this appendix brief sketches will be given of men who were prominent in the promotion of athletics as administrators and journalists. A choice had to be made and some deserving men have probably been omitted. The leading figures in each centre are given first, followed by journalists who were particularly involved.

## CAPE TOWN

The Very Reverend C Barnett-Clarke.

Born in Britain, Barnett-Clarke became Dean of Cape Town in 1871 and "encouraged all branches of manly outdoor sports" (Men of the Times, 1906, p. 90). He led the movement to obtain recreational facilities in Cape Town and in 1875 helped form and became the first secretary of the Cape Town AAC.

Professor C E Lewis.

Lewis was English and joined the staff of the S A College in 1879. He became president of the City C and AC, for many years the leading club in Cape Town, and played a prominent role in obtaining Green Point Stadium. He helped form and became president of the Western Province AA and CA and served frequently as an official (often referee) at sports meetings throughout the Western Province. Lewis and Tyler (secretary of the WPAA and CU) established athletics in Cape Town on a sound basis and were rewarded when the S A Championships were allocated to Cape Town in 1899. He continued to serve after the Anglo-Boer War.

W V Simkins.

Although more concerned with rugby and cricket, Simkins helped foster athletics in Cape Town. He became involved when the W P Rugby Football Union organised annual sports and in 1894-95 helped revive the Cape Town AAC. Simkins represented the Cape at a meeting of the SAAAA in July 1895 and persuaded Cape Town clubs to support the national body rather than the CCAA and CU. Simkin officiated regularly at sports meetings and worked closely with Lewis to obtain Green Point Stadium. He became chairman of WPAA and CU in 1901.

## EASTERN CAPE

W Anderson.

Anderson was one of the founders of the PEAAC and the Uitenhage AAC. He later became chairman of the PEAAC and acted as starter

at local meetings. He wrote a booklet, Hints on Athletic Training, which was available in Eastern Province and Border towns.

#### M M Loubser

Loubser was president of the PEAC and of the newly-formed CCAA and CU. With the secretary, T Q W Harvey, he conducted the negotiations with the SAAA and CA which led to an agreement between the two bodies. He was honoured for his services to athletics in 1896 and helped with the revival of athletics in Port Elizabeth after the Anglo-Boer War. He was still officiating in 1911.

#### Loton Tipper

Tipper was also a founder member of the PEAC and retained his interest for many years, helping to revive the club after the Anglo-Boer War. He served the club as chairman, secretary and treasurer and helped organise the regular spring and autumn meetings that made Port Elizabeth a leading centre. Tipper was a member of the committee that obtained the Westbourne Oval and assisted with reviving the PEAC again in 1911. He was active for some years after World War One.

#### Sid Panther.

An English immigrant, Panther became a prominent member of Celtic Harriers in 1908 and helped Gordon's Gymnastic Club form a harrier section in 1913. Later that year he moved to Port Elizabeth and formed the Panther Athletic Club. He formed the Unity AC in 1915 and was instrumental in keeping athletics alive in Port Elizabeth during World War One. He helped with the full recovery of athletics after the war.

#### The Browns

The three Brown brothers, H W, Stephen and Jim, played a leading role in promoting athletics in the whole of Cape Colony, and H W had much to do with preparing the way for the formation of the SAAAA. They were sheep farmers at Cathcart but seemed to have the time to compete throughout South Africa. H W was first mentioned in 1875 in a 100 yards race but he competed mainly in walking races. He was involved in a series of disputes about his style in Kimberley, but won the S A One Mile Walk Championship Trophy at Port Elizabeth in 1887 and 1889.

Stephen Brown was a successful sprinter, but the star of the family was Jim, who dominated middle distance running in the Eastern Cape for several years. His epic race against Lieutenant T T Pitman at Pietermaritzburg in 1891 created widespread interest and the dinner that followed was a key feature, leading to the formation of the SAAAA. He won the 440 and 880 at the Kimberley Exhibition South African Championship Sports in 1892, and a few days later ran 1:57.1/2 for 880 yards at the De Beers Sports.

'H W' gained experience on his travels, often writing to the English AAA to have an issue clarified. He continually spoke on the need for a national association and was present at the inaugural meeting. After the Anglo-Boer War he was a member of the ORCAAA in Bloemfontein.

#### BLOEMFONTEIN

##### Lionel Richardson

Lionel 'Doddy' Richardson was an outstanding sportsman who arrived from England in 1890. He was S A tennis champion in 1891 and 1892, and became secretary of Bloemfontein AAC in 1891. He was also secretary of Ramblers and organised most of the important sports meetings in Bloemfontein until he left in 1898. Richardson returned in 1906, became secretary of the ORCAA and CU and helped revive athletics in Bloemfontein. Athletics declined again when he resigned in 1908 and left for Canada. 'Qrius' praised Richardson for his contribution to athletics (Latest 17/12/12).

##### J B Brady.

While Richardson was away from Bloemfontein between 1898 and 1906, Bloemfontein was fortunate to have J B Brady, who was extremely active from 1903 to 1907. He arrived from Ireland in 1903 to teach at Grey College where he organised athletics and arranged an inter-school match with St Andrew's College, Grahamstown. He became secretary of Ramblers AAC and achieved prominence by initiating the inter-capital sports between Bloemfontein and Pretoria. Brady ran second in the 440 and 880 yards at the S A Championships in 1904 and was elected on to the ORCAAA, and remained active until 1907.

#### NATAL

##### The Hon. T Shepstone and T Shepstone Junior.

The interest that these two prominent men showed in athletics in Pietermaritzburg did much to promote and popularise athletics. Shepstone junior was an active athlete in 1866 and Sir Shepstone Senior acted as a referee. They both officiated at the first annual sports in Pietermaritzburg and were involved with events leading to the formation of an athletic club. Shepstone junior served on the committee that obtained a pavilion at the Oval and an access bridge to the ground over the river. Both were active as officials over a long period of time.

##### Joshua Herschenson.

Although only prominent for two or three years, Herschenson

played a vital role in the formation of the SAAAA. After the Pitman vs Brown meeting in 1891 in Pietermaritzburg, the PAC secretary, Terry, began moves to form an association. When he fell ill, Herschenson took over and decided to form a national association. Although it was later decided to first make a success of a Natal AAA, Herschenson's letters and ideas received wide publicity and created much interest, helping to create the positive climate which was of value a year later. Herschenson upset many people with his impulsive and independent actions and disappeared from the scene in 1892.

#### George Bull

George Bull served athletics as an official and as a journalist, writing under the pseudonym 'Meteor' in the Natal Witness. He became secretary of Pietermaritzburg AC in 1895, a position which he held until 1900 when he was elected chairman. He acted as secretary of the Natal AAA for several years and was recognised for his contribution to athletics at a presentation in 1902. Bull maintained an active interest in athletics until he left Pietermaritzburg in 1911, and in 1909 chaired a meeting of the Natal AA and CA. He was the prime mover in obtaining the new track in Alexandra Park.

#### R F 'Pooh-Bah' Smithers.

Smithers worked closely with Bull in promoting athletics but he was also involved with many other sports and was nick-named the 'Pooh-Bah' of Pietermaritzburg sport by 'Qrius' (Latest 1/10/10). He became secretary of Pietermaritzburg AC in 1900 and retained that position when the club was resuscitated after a period of inactivity in 1907. The same year he was elected treasurer of Natal AA and CA in 1907, and secretary of the Midlands District, a position he resigned from in 1908 as he was elected secretary of the provincial association. 'Qrius' praised Smithers for the amount of work he accomplished (Latest 7/1/11). He left Pietermaritzburg in 1911, and he and Bull represented the Natal AA and CA on the executive of the SAAA and CA in 1912. In 1913 he was secretary of the Pretoria Centre of the TAAA.

#### Reverend J G Aldridge

According to Wallace (1907), Aldridge had been associated with the English AAA and NCU, and the Rhodesian AAA, before going to Durban. He helped solve the dispute threatening the holding of the S A Championships in 1907 and served on the organising committee. He was elected president of the newly-formed Natal AA and CA, and of the Southern Districts. In 1908 he was invited to become a member of the SA Olympic Games Association, and remained chairman of the Natal AA and CA until at least 1909. He succeeded in bringing stability and harmony into Natal athletics and cycling and was highly praised for his ability to solve disputes by 'Qrius' (Wallace, 1907, p. 21). He was killed in France in 1918 by one of the last shells fired in the war (Latest 16/11/18).



## J Cumming

Cumming arrived in Natal in 1880 and soon became involved in soccer and athletics. In 1882 he organised the Wasps' Sports, and in 1883 was elected secretary of the Natal Football Association (Mercury 18/1/83). Until 1894, he wrote under the pseudonym 'Umpire' in the Natal Mercury, and this position combined with his official positions in soccer and athletics enabled him to have great influence on the progress of Durban and Natal athletics. He was secretary of Natal Wasps; persuaded the Caledonian Society to hold Highland Sports; tried to introduce cross country racing in 1884; served on the 'cinder-path' committee to obtain a track; was chairman of the committee coordinating sports days; officiated regularly; proposed the formation of a Natal AAA in 1883; stressed the need for an athletic club in Durban; provided and printed information on athletics from books and magazines; and proposed the formation of a national athletic association (Mercury 18/12/91). In the decade from 1884 to 1894, Cumming played a key role in the rapid growth of athletics in Durban.

## B W Greenacre, MEC; MLC.

As a mayor of Durban, a city councillor for many years and member of the Natal Legislative Council, his time was limited, but he was still able to assist athletics and wielded influence which persuaded committees to grant money for facilities. He took an interest in the Wasps' Sports and at the prize giving in 1885 appealed to the mayor to make ground available for a track, so starting the campaign of agitation for a proper athletic ground. He became chairman of the DAAA in 1891 when it was formed and was able to play a leading role in obtaining the Lords ground. He retained his interest and was a member of the organising committee of the S A Championships in 1907.

## J Morley

John Morley became secretary of the DAAA in 1896 and became intimately concerned with the development of Lords, which was under his control, and the presentation of sports events there. He was an able and successful organiser and was highly praised for his efforts. Two John Morley Benefit Sports Meetings were organised by the DAAA in 1897 and 1899 to show appreciation for his services. He was involved in a dispute with cyclists in 1898, and as secretary of the DSA, which replaced the DAAA after the Anglo-Boer War, again clashed with the cyclists in 1906.

## D Taylor

Dan Taylor appeared on the scene as a member of the delegation to the Council in 1887 that wanted to obtain the use of ground for athletics in Albert Park. From then on he played an active role as an official, on committees, and in 1898 became president of Durban AC, a position he retained when the club was revived after the Anglo-Boer War. He supported the attempts to form the Natal

AAA before the war, and with Wallace was responsible for the final successful formation in 1904. Taylor became president of the newly-formed Albion Harriers in 1907, although he was still president of the DAC, and acted as peace-maker in the DSA/cyclists dispute in 1908. He was elected secretary of Southern Districts of the Natal AA and CA and remained active well after World War One.

#### J Tyzack

The impression gained of J Tyzack was of a man who kept in the background but came forward to assume leadership when it was needed. He spanned a long period, from being captain of the Wasps Club in 1884 to president of the SAAA and CA in 1930-32. He served on the sports ground committees, acted as an official, and was a founder member of Durban AC. Tyzack was a member of the DAAA and was their representative in the unsuccessful attempt to form the Natal AAA in 1898. He helped revive the DAC after the Anglo-Boer War and was elected a brother of the Foresters for his assistance with their sports over the years (Mercury 2/6/03). Tyzack assisted Wallace and Taylor to form the Natal AAA in 1904, and that year was presented with an illuminated address to mark his twenty-seven years of service to sport (Mercury 19/3/04). He became chairman of the DSA when it was formed in 1906. He chaired a meeting of the Natal AA and CA (Southern Districts) in 1907 and played a prominent role in organising the S A Championships that year. He became president of DAC in 1908. a position he held until 1914 and, when the Natal AA and CA headquarters were transferred to Durban in 1911, he was elected chairman and again had the responsibility of presenting the S A Championships. Born in 1860, he died in the same year as J T Wallace, 1951.

#### TRANSVAAL

##### R Baikie

Pretoria made a late start in athletics, and without a suitable ground, progress was slow. In 1895, R Baikie of the Caledonian Society submitted a scheme for the purchase of ground in Arcadia for sports and recreation, and the 'Caley' (Callies) was opened in 1898. In 1899 he tried to form clubs in various branches of sport based at Callies but the Anglo-Boer War began. After the war, Baikie returned to Pretoria and raised money to repair the damage to Callies, caused by military occupation. He organised numerous sports meetings and supported the inter-capital sports meetings suggested by Brady. In 1904, he began the association which eventually led to the Pretoria and District C and AAA, and culminated in Pretoria becoming, first a sub-centre of the TAAA, and later the full province, Northern Transvaal. He was also a founder member of Pretoria Harriers.

##### L M Levy

Although he was active in athletics for only eight years, Louis Levey made a significant contribution to the sport. Born In

England in 1881, he came to South Africa in 1889, then returned to England for his schooling. The Levy family moved to Cape Town just before the Anglo-Boer War and Levy joined Spartan Harriers in 1901, the fourth paid-up member. He was elected treasurer and as a member of the committee, struck up a fruitful relationship with Platnauer, a man whom he obviously admired. When Platnauer moved back to Johannesburg in 1903, Levy moved with him, and when Platnauer formed Johannesburg Harriers, in 1904, Levy became secretary. Platnauer also formed the TAAA of which Levy became a committee member in 1905 and assistant secretary later that year. Platnauer resigned as secretary in 1906, and Levy took his place, until 1908. He assisted Platnauer with the organisation of the first TAAA cross country championships.

#### O Schuller

Despite his German name, Otto Schuller was born in England and served in the British Army. He became president of the TAAA in 1909, a post he held until 1915. During this time he had to deal with difficult issues, such as the professional boom and the reinstatement of amateurs; a dispute with Pretoria; the payment of expenses; preparations for the Olympic Games; improved facilities at Ellis Park (TAAA minutes, 13/2/13; 28/2/13); and the effects of World War One. He offered to resign because of his German name in 1915 but was unanimously requested to continue.

#### Captain W Wetherall

Although he influenced the progress of athletics in Pretoria, Captain Wetherall's main contribution was the establishment of athletics in the army. After the Anglo-Boer War the British Army maintained a garrison in South Africa with its headquarters at Roberts Heights (now Voortrekkerhoogte). Wetherall was appointed to South Africa as Superintendent of Gymnasia in 1908, to implement the new physical training programme (Pretoria News 23/9/08; 22/6/10). Wetherall promoted athletics and organised the first Army Athletic Championships in 1908, assisted by Platnauer. He also involved himself in civilian athletics and in 1909 was elected president of the Pretoria centre of the TAAA. He was secretary/treasurer of the McArthur fund in 1910. When he left South Africa in 1910 he received many accolades, tributes and presentations (Pretoria News 22/6/10; 23/6/10; 24/6/10). Wetherall was manager of the South African 1912 Olympic Team and represented South Africa at the inaugural meeting of the IAAF in Berlin in 1913 and at the Third IAAF Congress at Lyons in 1914.

#### R Naylor

Rufe Naylor built 'The Stadium' for professional athletics in Johannesburg in 1909 and was largely responsible for the boom in that sport. He came to South Africa with Postle in 1908, formed the Johannesburg AC and developed professional athletics into a thriving, popular activity. His activities were severely curtailed by the 1909 Betting Restriction Act, but kept interest

alive by attracting some of the world's leading professional athletes to compete in South Africa. Between 1909 and 1912, professional athletics was more popular than amateur athletics, especially in Johannesburg, and Naylor was a powerful figure.

#### C L Anderson

Gutsche (1966) has recorded the contribution which Andersson made to the Wanderers Club. Andersson was responsible for calling the meeting in 1894 which led to the formation of the SAAAA and the holding of S A Championships, and was secretary from 1895 to 1898. Together with Nourse, he negotiated the settlement between the SAAAA and the CCAA and CU in 1895.

#### F Hilner

Frank Hilner was the first secretary of the SAAAA until Andersson was able to act in 1895. Most of the executive meetings were held in his office and he was a member of the executive until 1908, representing Natal, and later the ORC. The meeting to form the S A Olympic Committee was also held in his office (Star 4/1/08). Hilner, together with Platnauer, Allsop and Nourse, was as central figure in the SAAAA (SAAA and CA) and took the chair in 1904 when there were attacks on Nourse in the press (SAAAA minutes, 15/11/04). He acted as chairman again in 1907.

#### G Allsop

As long-serving secretary of Wanderers, Allsop was a dominant figure in sport circles. His career was recorded in detail by Gutsche (1966). He gave tremendous service to athletics as secretary of the SAAA and CA from 1898 (Star 30/8/98; 13/9/98) until 1920 (SAAA and CA minutes, 15/3/20), and became the first life member of the association in 1921 (SAAA and CA minutes, 30/9/21).

Allsop was more concerned with cricket than with athletics. In addition to playing cricket, he was secretary of the S A Cricket Association and managed South African teams to England in 1904, 1907 and 1912. In 1906, he was the S A Rugby Union Secretary (Star 24/1/06), and also became secretary of the S A Olympic Games Association (Star 21/9/11). His activities with other sports and organisations brought criticism that he was neglecting athletics (Cape Times 20/4/08; 13/1/10), and at the Annual General Meeting of the SAAA and CA his annual stipend of sixty-five pounds was queried. The executive confirmed that it was justified (SAAA and CA minutes, 24/4/14; 30/6/14). When the First World War began, Allsop informed the SAAA and CA that in view of the war situation, he would act in an honorary capacity, but would expect payment for typing and out-of-pocket expenses, an offer which was accepted (SAAA and CA minutes, 6/12/14).

Although there was some justification for the criticism he incurred, Allsop was a meticulous, stable and experienced secretary who guided the SAAA and CA through a difficult period.



A more involved person, more committed to athletics, may have arranged for visiting teams and a more dynamic programme, but he carried out his duties diligently and faithfully.

#### JOURNALISTS

In addition to Platnauer and Wallace, there were other journalists who played prominent roles in the development of athletics. They often wrote under pseudonyms: 'Qrius', 'Umpire', 'Spike', 'Chiel', 'Pneumatic', 'Juggins', 'Meteor', 'Harrier', 'Nimrod', 'Rapier', 'Hobo', 'Recorder', which made identification difficult.

#### David S Barrable

Parker (1897, p. 122) referred to Queenstown as "the birthplace of athletics" which, while clearly incorrect, indicates the importance of that town in the nineteenth century. Much of its early prominence was due to Barrable, the editor of the Queenstown Free Press, and also for a while, mayor. He reported early athletic activity in detail and was a devotee of athleticism and physical recreation. He was chairman of the committee that instituted and developed the Hospital Holiday Sports, and supported the formation of an athletic club in 1883. He also served on the committee that negotiated with the Council to obtain a track at the Recreation Ground. Barrable wrote on a wide variety of topics related to athletics and promoted the sport at every opportunity.

#### G Bull and J Cumming

For details of these two men, who wrote under the names of 'Meteor' and 'Umpire' respectively, in Pietermaritzburg and Durban, see the Natal section above.

#### L A Cox

The writer has been unable to resolve some confusion surrounding Leslie Cox. A George Roberts, born in England in 1875, arrived in South Africa in 1881, and won the Cape Colony 100 yards twice. He reportedly wrote for the Cape Times under the pseudonym 'Leslie Cox', and was involved with the administration of athletics. In 1906 an L A Cox was manager of the Western Province athletes at the CCAA and CU Championships. From 1906 until 1914, a Leslie Cox wrote frequently on athletics in the Cape Times and was involved in progressive schemes. An L Cox served on the SAAA and CA in 1920, and an L Cox was a prominent journalist in Natal who became secretary of the SAAA and CA in 1936 (SAAA and CA minutes, 24/3/36). It seems unlikely that they were all the same person because of the long time span, and the fact that from 1906 onwards the name Cox was used on committees as a proper name and not a pseudonym. Cox was highly praised for his management of Western Province teams and his contribution to athletics. He was directly responsible for the introduction of the Collison Cup

competition in 1913 and the Western Province Inter-Schools Championships. Cox wrote many knowledgeable articles on athletics and, like Wallace, was often critical of the SAAA and CA.

T J Greenwood

Greenwood was 'Pneumatic' in the Star and Sporting Star. As the name suggests, he was more concerned with cycling, but wrote at length on athletics, often crossing swords with Wallace and Platnauer. He came to South Africa from England in 1881 and returned in 1911 (Latest 26/8/11; 14/10/11), and served as secretary of the Transvaal Cycling Union (Star 25/1/98). His columns carried extensive reports on sports meetings and the issues of the day, and he was a firm supporter of motor-pacing for cyclists (Star 11/9/05; Latest 28/11/08), and expenses for athletes (Sporting Star 24/9/10). Greenwood did not appear to be involved in the administration of athletics.

H B Kearthland

In a personal interview, Bert Kearthland said he was born in London in 1887 and came to South Africa in 1909 because of his interest in Reggie Walker, with whom he had become acquainted in England in 1908 when assisting the South African Olympic team. He went to Durban as sports editor of the Natal Advertiser.

Kearthland was a keen student of athletics and prided himself on his ability to discover athletic talent and develop it. He became Hefferon's manager in 1909 when the Olympic runner turned professional and promoted his visit to England (Latest 8/1/10). Kearthland said that he became involved with athletics again in 1911 when the S A Championships were held in Durban and he assisted some of the visiting Transvaal athletes. He claimed that this persuaded the S A Olympic Games Association to write to him asking him to accompany the team to Stockholm. There is a discrepancy there, as the Latest (17/10/10) reported that in 1910 Kearthland announced he was bringing Gardiner and Walker to South Africa to compete as professionals. The same year he published articles on athletics in the Latest (22/10/10). Furthermore, the Star reported (19/1/12) that it was Kearthland who wrote to the SAAA and CA offering his services as trainer. He was appointed in March 1912, by which time Kearthland and Walker, then a professional, had moved to Johannesburg. Kearthland's appointment was greeted with some opposition as some people felt that a local man should have been appointed, such as Tincler or Grady, and letters of protest were received (Latest 2/3/12).

While in Johannesburg, Kearthland claimed that he saw Gitsham training at the Wanderers and picked him out as a natural marathon runner. He persuaded Nourse and the selection committee to enter Gitsham for the marathon, although up to that time Gitsham had not raced further than 10 miles (16 kilometres). Kearthland said that after the 1908 Olympics he realised that the British runners were insufficiently trained for the marathon so, when Gitsham and McArthur arrived in England, he trained them



hard for a month. 'Qrius' (Wallace) later disagreed with Kearthland on this point and claimed that McArthur trained according to a schedule prepared by himself under Tom Perry (Latest 17/8/12).

Kearthland also persuaded the Olympic committee to allow the sprinters in the team to train with Reggie Walker, a move not popular with purist amateur administrators (Latest 29/6/12). Some of the team members later criticised Kearthland because it was felt he was "aping the Americans" in his approach (Latest 10/8/12), and Kearthland also clashed with Wetherall, manager of the team (personal interview).

After the Olympics, Kearthland linked up again with Reggie Walker and returned to Durban as sports editor of the Daily News until he enlisted at the outbreak of World War One. While in Durban, Kearthland wrote to the SAAA and CA asking to be appointed as trainer for schools and athletes on the Witwatersrand (SAAA and CA minutes, 26/6/13). Nourse contacted Kearthland and reported that he wanted his expenses paid to coach young athletes at centres throughout South Africa (SAAA and CA minutes, 5/8/13).

After World War One, Kearthland became sports editor of the Star, and served on the executive of the SAAA and CA, acting as chairman in 1923.

## REFERENCES

- Allsop, G. A. (1929). The History of the Wanderers' Club, Sports and Sportsman. Cape Times, Cape Town.
- Anon. (1906). 20th Century Impressions of Natal. Lloyds Greater Britain, London.
- Anon. (undated). Rudyard Kipling's Verse, Inclusive Edition, 1885-1918. Hodder and Stoughton, London.
- Bebbington, W. G. (ed) (1969). Famous Poems. Juta, Cape Town.
- Belle, M. A. (1981). Handbook of Athletic Sports. Vol 5. Geo Bells and Son, London.
- Berkhofer, R. F. (1969). Historical Analysis: A Behavioural Approach To. The Free Press, New York.
- Best, J. W. (1970). Research in Education. Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs.
- Berwick, F. [1898]. Guide to Queenstown. (Queenstown).
- Board of Custodians (1906). Sport in Queenstown. (Queenstown).
- Boeseken, A. J., Oberholster, J. J., van Schoor, M. C. E. and Olivier, N. J. (undated). Geskiedenis vir die Senior Sertifikaat. Nasionale Boekhandel, Kaapstad.
- Bond, L. C. and Chamberlain, D. C. (1950). Star-studded Story of Wanderers' Athletics, Wanderers' Club Magazine, November, pp. 49-57.
- Brailsford, D. (1969). Sport and Society. Routledge and Kegan Paul, London.
- Brailsford, D. (1975). Some Factors in the Evolution of Sport and Games Proceedings: 4th International HISPA Seminar. Renson R, de Nayer P P and Ostyn M (eds), Lueven, 1 - 5 April, pp. 129-134.
- Brasch, R. (1972). How Did Sports Begin. Longman, London.
- Brink, J. N. (1904). Recollections of a Boer Prisoner-of-war at Ceylon. Hollandsch-Afrikaansche.
- Brümmer, N. J. and Smith, J. J. (1918). Gedenkboek van het Victoria-Kollege. Nasionale Pers, Kaapstad.
- Bryant, A. (1945). English Saga 1840-1940. Collins, London.
- Bryant, A. (1954). The Age of Elegance 1812-1822. Collins, London.

- Burger, W. J. (1968). Sport and St. John's, Venture of Faith, Lawson, M. A. (ed). St. John's College, Johannesburg, pp. 379-383.
- Caillos, R. (1971). The Classification of Games, The Sociology of Sport, Dunning, E. (ed). Frank Cass, London, pp. 17-39.
- Cape Times (1929). Sports and Sportsmen. Cape Times, Cape Town.
- Central Council of Physical Education (1960). Sport and the Community.
- Clarke, D. H. and Clarke, H. H. (1970). Research Processes in Physical Education, Recreation and Health. Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs.
- Cox, L. [1950]. Fifty years of Natal Sports and Sportsmen 1900-1950 (Durban).
- Crisp, R. (1964). The Outlanders. Peter Davies, Johannesburg.
- Currey, R. F. (1955). St. Andrew's College, Grahamstown 1855-1955. Blackwell, Oxford.
- Currey, R. F. (1970). Rhodes University 1904-1970. Rhodes University, Grahamstown.
- Damm, H. (1970). Sport and Games in Primitive Culture and Societies The Cross Cultural Analysis of Sport and Games, Luschen, G. (ed). Stipes, Champaign. pp. 52-69.
- Davenport, T. R. H. (1978). South Africa :A Modern History. McMillan S A, Johannesburg.
- De Kock, V. (1955). The Fun They Had. Howard Timmins, Cape Town.
- Dickson, R. F. (1980). Rhodes University Athletic Club. Unpublished Honours Thesis, Rhodes University.
- Dobbs, B. (1973). Edwardians at Play. Pelham Books, London.
- Doherty, K. (1953 and 1963). Modern Track and Field. Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs.
- Dunning, E. (ed) (1971). The Sociology of Sport. Frank Cass, London.
- Du Toit, S. J. [1970]. Skole Atletiek in Wes-Kaap.
- Elliott, C. J. (1922). How Inter-High in Johannesburg Originated from Cross Country, The Johannian, Vol 1, No 5, pp. 6-9.
- Emery, I. G. and Morris, J. A. T. (1947). Springboks...Past and Present (1888-1947). S A Olympic and British Empire Games Association, Pietermaritzburg.
- Fairweather, A. M. (1906). Athletics, Sport in Queenstown. Board of Custodians, Queenstown, pp. 61-69.

- Geen, M. S. (1961). The Making of South Africa. Maskew Miller, Cape Town.
- George, W. G. (undated). The "100-up" Exercise. Athletic Publishers, London.
- Geyer, G. J. (1970). Liggaamlike Opleiding in die Unieverdedigingsmag 1912-1946, Militaria, Vol 2, No 3, pp. 1-140.
- Geyer, G. J. (1973). Historiese Oorsig oor die Ontwikkeling van Sport in die Suid-Afrikaanse Weermag, Militaria, Vol 4, No 1, pp. 71-88.
- Good, C. V. (1966). Essentials of Educational Research. Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York.
- Gutsche, T. (1966). Old Gold: The History of the Wanderers' Club. Howard Timmins, Cape Town.
- Hailey, A. (1962). In High Places. Michael Joseph, London.
- Hargreaves, R. (1941). Divertissement, The Cavalry Journal, Vol xxxi, Jan to Nov, p. 204.
- Harris, H. A. (1964). Greek Athletes and Athletics. Hutchinson, London.
- Hattersley, A. F. (1969). Illustrated Social History of South Africa. Balkema, Cape Town.
- Henning, C. G. (1975). Graaff Reinet: A Cultural History. Bulpin, Cape Town.
- Hoffman, J. W. F. (1914). Cycling. South African Sport, Swaffer H P (ed). Transvaal Leader, Johannesburg, pp. 100-106.
- Honey, J. R. de S. (1972). Tom Brown in South Africa. Rhodes University, Grahamstown.
- Howell, M. L. (1971). Sports and Games in Ancient Civilizations. Proceedings: 2nd International Symposium on the History of Sport and Physical Education, Lindsay, P. (ed). Banff, 31 May - 3 June, pp. 31-34.
- Hopkins, J. (1966). The Marathon. Stanley Paul, London.
- Huizinga, J. (1971). The Play Element in Contemporary Sport, The Sociology of Sport, Dunning, E. (ed). Frank Cass, London, pp. 11-16.
- Human, E. (1984). die Paarl se Boxing Day sports. San, Kaapstad.
- Jacobs, E. (1966). Athletics, Marist Centenary Digest.
- Jones, V. (1969). Durban Athletic Club, Durban.
- Kent, V. (1950). The story that is the Wanderers 1888-1950, Wanderers' Club Magazine, November, p. 5.

- Kilian, H. de V. (1949). 'n Historiese-kritiese Onderzoek na die Onderrig van Seuns aan die Transvaalse Middelbareskole. Unpublished M Ed Thesis, UNISA, Pretoria.
- Lawson, K. C. (1968). Ventures of Faith. Council of St. John's College, Johannesburg.
- Liebenberg, B. J. (1976). Historical Method. UNISA, Pretoria.
- Lindsay, P. (ed) (1971). Proceedings: the 2nd World Symposium on the History of Sport and Physical Education. Banff, 31 May - 3 June.
- Linnegar, J. (1979). S A C S 150 years. S A College School, Cape Town.
- Longden, H. W. D. (1950). Red Buffalo. Juta, Cape Town.
- Lovesey, P. and McNab, T. (1969). The Guide to British Track and Field Literature 1275-1968. Athletics Arena, London.
- Lovesey, P. (1970). Wobble to Death. McMillan, London.
- Lovesey, P. (1979). The Official Centenary History of the AAA. Guinness Superlatives, London.
- Luschen, G. (ed) (1970). The Cross Cultural Analysis of Sport and Games. Stipes, Champaign.
- MacDonald, W. (1932). The Romance of the Golden Rand. McDonald, Johannesburg.
- Magnusson, R., Mengoni, L., Sykova, M. and Terry, D. (1972). World and National leaders in Track and Field Athletics 1860-1972. Lanfranco Clocca, Macerata.
- Mandell, R. D. (1984). Sport: A Cultural History. Columbia University Press, New York.
- McIntosh, P. C. (1952). Physical Education in England Since 1800. Bell, London.
- McIntosh, P. C. (1963). Sport in Society. Watts, London.
- McIntosh, P. C. (1979). Fair Play. Heinemann, London.
- McIntosh, P. C. Dixon, J. G. Munrow, A. D. and Willetts, R. F. (1981). Landmarks in the History of Physical Education. Routledge and Kegan Paul, London.
- McNair, D. (1975). Suggestions and Sources of Diffusion of Physical Education, Sport, and Physical Recreation from and into Great Britain. Proceedings: 4th International HISPA Seminar, Renson R, de Nayer P P and Ostyn M (eds). Leuven, 1-5 April, pp. 227-236.
- McWhirter, R. and McWhirter, N. (1951). Get to Your Marks. Nicholas Kaye, London.

- Meade, G.P. (1966). Athletic Records. Vantage Press, New York.
- Merwis, J. (1950). The Story of the Wanderers' Club, Wanderers' Club Magazine, November, pp. 7-26.
- Metcalf, A. (1971). Sport in Nineteenth Century England: An Interpretation. Proceedings: 2nd International Symposium on the History of Sport and Physical Education, Lindsay, P. (ed). Banff, 31 May - 3 June, pp. 55-63.
- Metcalf, A. (1972). The Foundation Stone of Organised Sport. Proceedings: International Seminar on the History of Physical Education and Sport, U.N.E.S.C.O. Paris, 17-20 May, Vol II, No 16.
- Milroy, A. (1984). Littlewood's Six Day Record Broken, Athletics Weekly, Vol 38, No 40, 6 Oct., pp. 16-17.
- Moodie, J.W.D. (1935). Ten Years in South Africa. Richard Bentley, London.
- Mouly, G.J. (1963). The Science of Educational Research. American Book Co., New York.
- Minnaar, I.J. (1936) Op St Helena, Die Huisgenoot, 4 December, p. 39.
- Nelson, C. and Quercetani, R. (1973) Runners and Paces. Tafnews, Los Altos.
- Nienaber, P.J. (1950). Boere op St Helena. Nasionale Boekhandel, Kaapstad.
- Oppenheim, F. (1970). The History of Swimming. Swimming World, North Hollywood.
- Pallett, G. (1955). Women's Athletics. Normal Press, London.
- Parker, G.A. (1897). South African Sports. Sampson Low, London.
- Peacock, M.A. (1972). Some Famous Schools in South Africa. Longmans, South Africa.
- Pienaar, W.J.B. (1945). Die Britse Stamverwantskap en Kulturele Beïnvloeding, Kultuurgeskiedenis van die Afrikaner. Nasionale Pers, Kaapstad, p. 246.
- Platnauer, E.J.L. (1908). Sport and Pastime in the Transvaal. Geo. Wunderlick, Johannesburg.
- Platnauer, E.J.L. (1914). Athletics, South African Sport, Swaffer, H.P. (ed). Transvaal Leader, Johannesburg, pp. 79-95.
- Potgieter, J.R. (1972). Evolvement of Physical Education in South Africa. Unpublished M A Thesis, University of Alberta.



- Quercetani, R. L. (1964). A World History of Track and Field Athletics (1864-1964). Oxford University Press, London.
- Race Walking Association (1962). The Sport of Race Walking. Race Walking Association, Ruislip.
- Radford, P. F. (1984). 1000 miles in 100 hours, Athletics Weekly, Vol 38, No 41, 13 October, pp. 42-46.
- Randall, P. (1982). Little England in the Veld. Raven Press, Johannesburg.
- Redmond, G. (1971). The Caledonian Games and American Track and Field in the Nineteenth Century. Proceedings: 2nd International Symposium on the History of Sport and Physical Education, Lindsay, P. (ed). Banff, 31 May - 3 June, pp. 31-34.
- Rees, R. (1975). Organisation of Sport in Nineteenth Century Liverpool. Proceedings: 4th International HISPA Seminar, Renson, R., De Nayer, P. P. and Ostyn, M. (eds). Leuven 1 - 5 April, pp. 237-247.
- Renson, R. De Nayer, P. P. and Ostyn, M. (eds) (1975). Proceedings: 4th International HISPA Seminar. Leuven, 1 - 5 April.
- Rostron, F. W. (1933). Springbok Olympians. S A Olympic and British Empire Games Association, Johannesburg.
- Sasajima, K. (1968). National Aspects of the History of Sports in Japan. Proceedings: 1st International Seminar on the History of Physical Education and Sport. Netanya, 9 - 11 April, pp. 14 - 1 to 14 - 8.
- Scholefield, A. (1972). Wild dog Running. Granada, London.
- Shrubb, A. (undated). Running and Cross Country Running. Health and Strength, London.
- Shuy, P-Y. (1975). The Early Development of Modern Physical Education and sports in the Ching Dynasty in China. Proceedings: 4th International HISPA Seminar. Leuven, 1 - 5 April, pp. 338-344.
- Smith, W. D. (1974). Stretching their Bodies. David and Charles, Newton Abbot.
- Snyder, E. E. and Spreitzer, E. A. (1983). Social aspects of Sport. Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs.
- Stalker, J. (1912). The Natal Carbineers. P Davis and Sons, Durban.
- Stent, R. K. (1975). 100 years of rugby. Old Mutual (SAM), Cape Town.
- Stent, R. K. and Lee, M. (eds) (undated). Southern Africa at Sport. Cripple Care Association, Cape Town.

- Strutt, J. (1801). The Sports and Pastimes of the People of England, in Cox, J. C. New Edition 1903, Methuen, London.
- Swaffer, H. P. (ed) (1914). South African Sport. Transvaal Leader, Johannesburg.
- Thompson, J. de L. (1976). The Story of Rhodesian Sport. Books of Rhodesia, Bulawayo.
- Van der Merwe, F. J. G. (1976). Suid-Afrika se Deelname aan die Britse Ryks- en Statebondspele: 1930-1958. Unpublished M A Thesis, Potchefstroom University.
- Van der Merwe, F. J. G. (1978). Suid-Afrika se Deelname aan die Olimpiese Spele 1908-1960. Unpublished Ph D Thesis, Potchefstroom University.
- Van der Merwe, F. J. G. (1984). Honderd Jaar Matie-atletiek 1885-1985. Stellenbosch University.
- Van Rooyen, G. H. (1965). Voortrekkervermaak en Feestelikhede, Tydskrif vir Volkskunde, January, pp. 35-45.
- Vogt, W. (1951). Early Athletics and Cycling in South Africa, Vigor, Vol IV, No 2, pp. 37-38.
- Vogt, W. (1955). Championships and Official Records. South African AA and CA.
- Walker, R. E. (1912). Textbook of Sprinting, Health and Strength. London.
- Wallace, J. T. (1907). S A Champions and Springbok Athletes. P. Davis and Sons, Durban.
- Wallace, J. T. (1914). Pedestrianism, South African Sport, Swaffer H P (ed). Transvaal Leader, Johannesburg.
- Watman, M. (1964). The Encyclopedia of Athletics. Robert Hale, London.
- Watman, M. (1968). History of British Athletics. Robert Hale, London.
- Webster, F. A. M. (1929). Athletics of Today. Frederick Warne, London.
- Webster, F. A. M. (1938). Coaching and Care of Athletes. George C Harrap, London.
- Webster, F. A. M. (1947). Great Moments in Athletics. Country Life, London.
- Wiles, C. C. (1944). Graeme College. Rustica Press, Wynberg.
- Wilkinson, H. (1906). High School athletics. Sport in Queenstown. Board of Custodians, Queenstown, p. 81.

Wolfenden Committee on Sport (1960). Sport and the Community. Central Council of Physical Education, London.

Woody, T. (1947). Of History and its Method. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Young, F. B. (1937). They Seek a Country. Heinemann, London.

Young, F. B. (1939). City of Gold. Heinemann, London.

Young, P. M. (1968). A History of British Football. Stanley Paul, London.

Zeigler, E. F. (1971). The Historical Role of Sport in Selected Societies. Proceedings: 2nd International Symposium on the History of Sport and Physical Education, Lindsay, P. (ed). Banff, 31 May - 3 June, pp. 115-125.

Zeigler, E. F. (1979). History of Physical Education and Sport. Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Amateur Athletic Association Record Book, AAA Headquarters, London.
- Athletic News, 1895. British Museum.
- Bailey, C. S., 1978. Personal Interview.
- Bailey, C. S., Stock Exchange Walk.
- Bailey, C. S., Scrap-book.
- Beet, G. History of the Diamond Fields.
- Bloemfontein Pelican, 1904-1906.
- Bloemfontein Post, 1900-1904.
- Bond, L. C. Transvaal Athletics.
- Border Amateur Athletic Association minutes, 1909-1914.
- Britton A. Letter to Dundee Town Council, 1894.
- Burton A W. King William's Town Athletic and Gymnastic Club, 1963.
- Caledonian Scottish Sports, King William's Town, 26 October 1895. Handbill.
- Cape Argus, 1857-1884; 1900-1901.
- Cape Colony Amateur Athletics and Cycling Union minutes (Eastern Province Centre), 1899-1920.
- Cape Mercury, King William's Town, 1857-1884; 1900-1903.
- Cape Times, 1885-1920.
- Cape Town City Council Record Books, 1894-1895 (Cape Archives).
- City Cycling and Athletic Club Sports. Programme, 9 November 1903.
- Commercial Advertiser, Cape Town, 1835-1856.
- Daily Dispatch, East London, 1872-1914 (not 1874-1880; not 1893-1895).
- Daily Independent, Kimberley, 1887-1889.
- De Express, Bloemfontein, 1899-1900.

De Volkstem, Pretoria, 1873-1889.

Diamond Fields Advertiser, Kimberley, 1878-1886; 1890-1920.

Diamond News, Kimberley, 1870-1877.

Dundee Athletic Club Sports. Programme, 2 January, 1899.

Eastern Province Amateur Athletic Association minutes, see: Cape Colony AAA Minutes.

Eastern Province Amateur Athletic and Cycling Union minutes, see: Cape Colony AA & CU minutes.

Eastern Province Herald, Port Elizabeth, 1860-1920.

Eastern Star, Johannesburg, 1888-1889.

East London Athletic Club Sports. Programme, 1887.

East London Standard and Border Gazette, 1893-1896.

East Rand Proprietary Mines Club Sports. Programme, 30 December, 1905.

Ellis, J. History of Benoni Harriers.

Emery, I., 1975. Personal Interview.

Finch, A. J. Greenpoint Track. Nursery of champions of yesteryear.

Friend, Bloemfontein, 1870-1920. (Not 1 May 1900 - 27 December 1901).

Frontier Mounted Rifles Sports. Programme. Sterkstroom, 26 December 1899.

Grahamstown Journal, 1931-1900.

Grahamstown Public School Sports. Programme, 14 June 1884.

Grocott's Mail, 1894-1914.

Harmse, Mrs J. A. B., 1975. Personal Interview.

I. A. A. F. Handbook, 1912 - 1921.

Illustrated Natal (no reference).

Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News, 1895, 1898 (British Museum).

Johannesburg and Rand Primary Schools First Sports. Programme, 5 October 1904 (Johannesburg Library).

Johannesburg Gazette, 1900.

Johannesburg Sporting Guide, 1895.

- Jones, V. 1980. Personal Interview.
- Kaffrarian Watchman, King William's Town, 1866-1869.
- Keartland, H. B. 1975. Personal Interview.
- Kimberley Refugee Camp Sports. Programme, 24-25 June, 1902.
- King William's Town Gazette, 1858-1864.
- Latest, Durban, 1908-1920.
- Levy, L. M. Scrap-books.
- Luckhoff, J. Scrap-book.
- Mafeking Mail, 1899-1900.
- Matthews, L. E., 1974. Personal Interview.
- Matthews, L. E., Scrap-book.
- McPherson, A. K. Let's all go to Queenstown (Natal Archives, Pietermaritzburg).
- Mining Argus, Johannesburg, 1893.
- Mudd, F. J. Scrap-book.
- Natal Amateur Athletic and Cycling Association minutes, 1910-1930.
- Natal Amateur Athletic and cycling Association (Southern Districts) minutes, 1910-1930.
- Natal Amateur Athletic and Cycling Association (Midlands) minutes, 1924.
- Natal Mercury, Durban, 1870-1910.
- Natal Mercury Pictorial, Durban, 1905-1906.
- Natal Witness, Pietermaritzburg, 1865-1910.
- News of the Camp, Pretoria, 1880-1881.
- North Lincoln Sphinx, 1860-1862.
- Orange Free State and Basutoland Amateur Athletic and Cycling Union minutes, 1912-1920.
- Oldfield, C. W., 1980. Personal Interview.
- Orange River Colony Amateur Athletic and Cycling Union minutes, 1903-1912.
- Outspan, 1927-1954.



- Paarl Athletic Club minutes, 1910-1920.
- Panther, S. Postcards.
- Ploeger J. Sport Beoefening in Boerekampe.
- Port Elizabeth Amateur Athletic Club minutes, 1884-1889.
- Port Elizabeth Athletic Club minutes, 1880-1884.
- Port Elizabeth Athletic Club Sports. Programmes, 11 September, 1880; 17 November 1883.
- Postle vs Day, The Stadium, Johannesburg, 1909. Handbill.
- Pretoria Harriers Club Sports, 1904. Handbill.
- Pretoria Harriers minutes, 1904-1908.
- Pretoria News, 1898-1920.
- Prince of Wales Marriage Sports, Cape Town. Programme, 1863.
- Prisoner-of-war Sports. Programmes. Broederstroom Camp, 19 June 1901; Deadwood Camp, 16 April, 1901; Diyatalawa Camp, 12 September, 1902.
- Queenstown Free Press, 1865-1920.
- Ramblers Club Minutes, 1896-1906.
- Rand Daily Mail, 1910, 1913.
- Richings, F. G. 1978. Personal Interview.
- Robarts, W. E. (1873). Diary. Victoria Mounted Rifles Escort of Shepstone to meet Cetshwayo, 1873.
- Salt River Works Sports. Programme, 7 November, 1903.
- Slaters Grahamstown Year Book and Directory, 1907-1908.
- South Africa, 1895. (British Museum).
- South African Amateur Athletic Association minutes and Result Books, 1893-1904.
- South African Amateur Athletic and Cycling Association. Championships and Official Records, 1947, 1949, 1952, 1955.
- South African Amateur Athletic and Cycling Association minutes, 1905-1930.
- South African Amateur Athletic and Cycling Association Rule Book, 1904.

- South African College Athletic Club minutes, 1913-1917.
- South African Empire, 1895. (British Museum).
- South African Railways and Harbours Magazine, 1932.
- South African Review, 1901-1902.
- Spartan Harriers minutes, 1901-1912.
- Sporting Life, 1895, 1897, 1909, 1910, 1912, 1914. (British Museum).
- Sporting Sketches, 1898. (British Museum).
- Sporting Star, Johannesburg, 1907-1910; 1913-1919.
- Star, Johannesburg, 1888-1914 (not 1900-1901).
- Star Weekly, Johannesburg, 1897-1899; 1903-1907.
- Stellenbosch College Athletic Club minutes, 1884-1888.
- Stellenbosch Students Quarterly, 1902-1920.
- St. John's College Newsletter, 1907-1915.
- Sulin, H.H. Durban Athletic Club.
- Sunday Times, 1986.
- Suzman, S.P., 1976, 1980. Personal Interview.
- The Field, 1898. (British Museum).
- The Sportsman, 1895. (British Museum).
- The Stadium Sports, Johannesburg. Programme, 1909.
- Times of Natal, 1879.
- Transvaal Amateur Athletic Association minutes, 1913-1925.
- Transvaal Advertiser, 1886-1898.
- Transvaal Leader, 1902-1912.
- Transvaal Weekly Illustrated, 1908-1909.
- Uitenhage Chronicle, 1894.
- Uitenhage Times, 1895-1914.
- University of Cape Town minutes, 1920.

Verran, W. R. 1974. Personal Interview.

Victoria College Athletic Club minutes, Stellenbosch, 1888-1915.

Worcester Sports Union minutes, 1894-1917.