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The Belgravian is the official newsletter of Belgrave Harriers and may be downloaded from the Club's website at [www.belgraveharriers.com](http://www.belgraveharriers.com). Contributors in this issue: William Cockerell, Catherine Eastham, Bill Laws, Alan Mead, Steve Wicks.

## Flashback to Christmas 1914



1914 – and Europe was embroiled in a bitter conflict – but even then, for a while, sport overcame the hostilities. A spontaneous truce on the first Christmas Eve of The Great War allowed that legendary football match to be played on “no-man’s land,” between the German and British lines, by the opposing forces. Back in Britain the Belgrave President, Mr H. Brown, had sent the above patriotic Christmas card to fellow Belgravian A.E. Macher, the lines inside reading ...

*“Be Briton still to Briton true  
Among ourselves united,  
For never but by British hands  
Shall British wrongs be righted.*

– Burns

*Christmas 1914.*

*Kind Remembrances and all Good Wishes  
for a Happy and Peaceful Christmas  
and a Prosperous New Year.*

Ninety-one years on, we can only echo the latter sentiments.

## Road & Country

Women's Surrey CC League Division One, Reigate Priory Park, 19 November 2005.

### It's second again for the Belles

On a freezing cold day the Belles returned to Reigate Park this time for a league rather than relay outing. Unfortunately, despite a strong team, the result was the same with the Belles

finishing second yet again, this time with Ranelagh taking the glory. The gap in the league has now grown to 54 points, which although still assailable, cannot afford to get bigger in race three.

With the course featuring a small loop down towards the pond before heading off on the usual relay route to bring it closer to 5kms, Sarah Murphy was the first Belle home in 8th position, although she did lose a few places on the steep downhill run towards home. Juliette Clark had one of the better runs of the day coming home in 11th whilst a below par Tilly Heaton finished in 17th. Despite a strong outing and return to the fold from Erica Fogg and with Helen Smethurst bringing up the 'A' team rear, our first 5 scorers home only finished in the top 28 compared to Ranelagh's 5 in the top 15.

With a depleted junior squad appearing in the league this year, our one ray of light came in the form of U13 Megan Evans. This petite, quiet young girl has enormous strength, grit and determination over the cross country and has consistently finished at the top of her races. At Reigate she was the first U13 home just narrowly missing out on pipping the U15 winner too – much to the opposition's consternation!

In the XC Plate competition Sarah Murphy has strengthened her lead with two wins out of two. Tilly Heaton is still in second, but with previous 3rd placer Heidi Cayzer out of action through laryngitis Juliette Clark has moved into bronze medal spot.

Senior Women. 1 E Nelson (Epsom & E) 18:13; 2 D Lee (Thames H&H) 18:20; 3 L Watson (Stragglers) 18:02; 8 S Murphy 18:19; 11 J Clark W40 19:42; 17 M Heaton 19:59; 25 E Fogg 20:19; 28 H Smethurst W40 20:24; 34 A Sahely-England 20:56; 39 H Alsop W35 21:23; 55 L Cooper 22:02; 65 C Eastham 22:22; 131 N Mills W55 26:49; 153 finished.

Teams: 1 Ranelagh H 47; 2 Belgrave H 89; 3 Thames H&H 102; 4 Stragglers AC 122; 5 South London H 166; 6 West Four H 187; ... 14 Belgrave H 'B' 324; 37 teams closed in.

Overall: 1 Ranelagh H 110; 2 Belgrave H 164; 3 Thames H&H 235; 4 Wimbledon Windmilers 317; 5 South London H 355; 6 Woking AC 408; ... 13 Belgrave H 'B' 588.

Under 13. 1 M Evans 11:32.

“Sweatshop” Surrey CC League Division One, Reigate Priory Park, 19 November 2005.

### A first ever Surrey League win for Phil Wicks

A still frosty Priory Park greeted the senior men as they turned up for their three o'clock race with the winter sun low in the sky and the temperature dropping fast.

Tom Barry had already placed a fine second in the under 17 race with Joseph Taylor-Holland again enjoying competition in the under 13 group.

It was the Skipper's birthday and the Cockerell household added an additional cake to the post race fare - but first there was a race to deal with.

We were short of a few stars but Phil Wicks looked in determined mood and the with the engine-room boys stepping up to the plate, including a whole bunch of new faces, the team was pretty solid.

Phil immediately set out his stall by leading the charge up the initial slope, testing himself a little after a minor cold before gradually stepping up the pace. John McFarlane of Thames was his only opposition as they dropped down out of the

woods near the end of the first lap, but before the loop past the lake had been completed, Phil had pressed the accelerator gently to the floor and was away. His first lap on the same circuit used for the relay two weeks earlier was an outstanding 12:58; it would have been the day's fastest.

Phil wasn't the only one to have "come on a bit" in the last few weeks. Skipper Will went through 29 seconds faster than his relay split of 14:09 - and then proceeded to turn in another lap of 14:00 - while Tim Weeks was also inside his relay mark.

And so to the finish. Once again there was a host of red and black vests in forward positions making sure that Herne Hill held their advantage over Thames Hare & Hounds but with Phil comfortably leading the field for his first ever Surrey League win (confounding AW reporter Martin Duff's predictions) and beating two very tough Thames men in McFarlane and Sly, we had enough to keep us happy. The Skipper looked particularly mean as he chased hard for 14th and with Peter Willis up 12 places on his Brockwell Park position we had enough early men to ensure that we maintained our third spot in the league. It was good to see so many of our men finishing strongly - whether they scored or not - and to see those who had completed their stint going back down to urge on the rest.

Senior Men. 1 P Wicks (Belgrave) 26:28; 2 J McFarlane (Thames H&H) 26:42; 3 P Sly (Thames H&H) 26:47; 14 W Cockerell 27:40; 25 P Willis 28:40; 29 T Weeks 28:53; 32 C Axe 29:00; 33 L Greatorex 29:04; 42 E Lyne 29:31; 62 M Humphrey 30:14; 63 M Whiting 30:15; 65 W Lynch 30:19; 82 T Fordyce 31:15; 93 F Ward M45 31:38; 105 A Barden M40 32:50; 109 S Ryan 33:14; 116 M Taylor 34:12; 118 T Lynes 34:18; 122 R Norville 34:24; 126 J Lynch 34:37; 127 N O'Halloran 34:57; 134 S Baxendale 35:43; 150 finished.

Teams: 1 Herne Hill H 182; 2 Thames H&H 228; 3 Belgrave H 340; 4 South London H 372; 5 Guildford & G 438; 6 Reigate Priory AC 427; 7 Kingston & Poly H 525; 8 Walton AC 598.

Overall: 1 Herne Hill H 363; 2 Thames H&H 437; 3 Belgrave H 636; 4 South London H 755; 5 Guildford & Godalming 936; 6 Reigate Priory AC 1046; 7 Kingston & Poly H 1094; 8 Walton AC 1213.

U17. 1 D Altendorf (South London) 14:14; 2 T Barry 14:41. U13 1 S Huney (South London) 16:15; 4 J Taylor-Holland 17:42.



With "Sweatshop" Surrey Cross Country League race less than one minute old, Phil Wicks has made clear his intentions. He went on to claim his first league win. Photo by Steve Wicks.

Oxford University CCC vs Cambridge University CCC  
Wimbledon Common, 3 December 2005

## The Varsity Race

One of the oldest fixtures in the calendar - the Varsity Cross Country race between Oxford and Cambridge Universities - was won by Jonathan Blackledge, who also had the pleasure of leading Oxford to a team win. That team victory was additionally significant as after 114 contests the scores had stood at 57 wins apiece; Oxford now move into the lead 58 wins to 57.

Decisive the individual victory might have been in the end, but with only 100m of the 7.5 miles remaining it was by no means certain who the winner would be. Italian Paulo Natali and Jonathan were well clear of the rest but in their struggle to reach the funnel first, they were shoulder to shoulder. It was only JB's decisive final sprint that clinched it.

It was the end of a good week for Jonathan who had been voted Oxford University's Sportsman of the Year a few days earlier.

Great to see Richard Ward back in action. He's recovered from his broken toe but is still troubled by a chest infection. Nevertheless, with only three weeks running under his belt, Rich turned out to support his team.

7.5 miles. 1 J Blackledge (Oxford/Belgrave) 38:07; 2 P Natali (Cambridge/Italy); 3 F Thompson (Oxford/Aldershot F&D); 4 B Moreau (Oxford/Aldershot F&D); 16 R Ward (Cambridge/Belgrave) 43:46.

Teams: 1 Oxford 30; 2 Cambridge 51.



Jonathan Blackledge added his name to a distinguished list of winners in the Varsity Race - a list including Chris Chataway, Roger Bannister, Richard Nerurkar and many other notables. Photo by Alan Mead.

South of Thames CC Championship,  
Wimbledon Common, 17 December 2005.

## Silver salvaged on the Common

A depleted Belgrave team managed to salvage silver medals in the South of Thames Cross Country Championship on a frosty Wimbledon Common. A strong Belgrave entry was hit hard during the last week with Phil Wicks gaining selection for a conflicting race in Belgium and colds taking out two more likely to place in the top five. But we still managed to put seventeen men on the start line with Richard Ashe, a non-scorer, finishing in 3rd place and Shugri Omar in 5th, officially leading in the Belgrave team.

In particular it was pleasing to see globe-trotting veteran Mike Trees back in action.

Men. 1 J McFarlane (TH&H) 40:30; gst R Ashe 41:01; 5 S Omar 41:47; 15 W Cockerell 42:49; 19 T Ellacott 43:35; 23 M Trees M40 44:01; 26 E Lyne 44:07; 47 T Hadfield 45:35; 63 S Zealey M40 46:47; 70 M Humphrey 47:05; 78 F Ward M45 47:48; 84 T Fordyce 48:25; 88 T O'Neill M50 48:48; 95 S Ryan 49:18; 133 M Taylor M40 52:56; 140 J Lynch 53:40; 168 L Rehn M40 58:38; dnf A Swearman gst; 188 finished.

Teams (6 to score): 1 Herne Hill H 76; Belgrave H 135; 3 Brighton & Hove AC 162; ... 12 Belgrave H 'B'; 20 teams closed in.

Teams (12 to score): 1 Brighton & Hove AC 566; 2 Belgrave H 613; 3 Herne Hill H 690.

## Results Roundup

### Road & Country

#### November 2005

- 6 **Lasswade Open CC.** 1 D Gauson 31:51; 2 K Gauson U20 32:04.  
**Epsom 10 miles.** 1 W Clark (Epsom &E) 55:49; 11 S Zealey 62:15; 4 P Cross M50 69:38; 155 D Davies M65 87:23.
- 13 **Birmingham University Relays.** 3k V Edwards 11:30.
- 18 **Bahrain Marathon Relays, Umm Jidar, BRN.** 3km N Speaight 8:45.
- 20 **Brighton 10 km.** 1 N Leighton (Bristol) 30:23; 213 P Cross M50 39:51; 388 L Rehn M40 43:14; 942 D Davies M65 50:01; 1935 finished.
- 20 **Roundhay Park 5 miles.** 1 J Moorehouse (Roth) 24:39; 2 A Swearman 26:12.
- 20 **Preston 10 miles.** A 4:38 opening mile saw off the opposition and Paul was on his own with just the cold, frost and icy corners to contend with. The second man home was 2:22 in arrears. 1 P Freary 51:33.
- 23 **Ekiden Road Relay, Chiba Japan.** Men. 7 GBR (inc K Tadesse 7.195km 22:33). Women. 7 GBR (inc B Dagne 5km 17:27).
- 24 **Manchester CT USA, 4.78m Road Race.** Women. 5 C Berry 25:53.
- 26 **UK Cross Challenge & Euro Cross Trial, Sefton Park, Liverpool.** 10km. 1 M Farah (Newham &EB) 29:33; 29 D Gauson 31:23; 30 P Wicks 31:27.
- 26 **Vets AC 5.5 miles CC, Wimbledon Common.** 1 S Smythe (Dulwich R) 33:46; 2 S Zealey M40 34:01; 6 M Nouch M50 36:50.
- 27 **Clásica de Lanzarote 10 km, La Santa, ESP, 10 km.** Men. 1 K Skinner (Garden City) 33:01; 6 L Greatorex 34:19; 31 D Patel M40 38:25; 223 finished. Women. 1 J King (London H) 37:15; 8 H Smethurst W40 40:04; 20 L Cooper 44:20; 133 finished.
- 27 **Hayling 10 miles.** 1 T Lambert (Alton) 51:00; 163 P Cross M50 67:42; 697 finished.
- 27 **Leeds Abbey Dash 10 km.** Men. 1 N McCormick (Morpeth) 29:17; 8 S Sharp 30:05; 19 A Stewart 31:11. Women. 1 B Dagne 34:40.
- 27 **Downton, nr Salisbury Half Marathon.** 1 A Hennessy (Wells City) 71:08; 2 B Barton 78:48.
- 28 **Ridge Run 13 km, La Santa, ESP.** Men. 1 P Fleming (IRL) 43:14; 6 L Greatorex 45:17; 176 finished. Women. 1 J King (London H) 49:49; 8 H Smethurst W40 53:39; 26 L Cooper 1:01:43; 106 finished.
- 29 **5 km Beach Race, Puerto del Carmen, Lanzarote, ESP.** Men. 1 P Fleming (IRL) 16:24; 18 L Greatorex 18:31; 171 finished. Women. 1 J King (London H) 19:13; 9 H Smethurst W40 20:33; 27 L Cooper 23:48; 101 finished.
- 30 **23 km Trans-Island Race, Macher to Club la Santa, ESP.** Men. 1 P Fleming (IRL) 1:20:48; 6 L Greatorex 1:22:40; 39 D Patel M40 1:35:21; 115 finished. Overall standings: 1 P Fleming (IRL) 2:53:29; 6 L Greatorex 3:00:46; 142 completed the challenge. Women. 1 L Rekling (DEN) 1:30:06; 10 H Smethurst W40 1:37:00; 16 L Cooper 1:45:05; 95 finished. Overall standings: 1 J King (London H) 3:16:54; 10 H Smethurst W40 3:31:14; 19 L Cooper 3:54:54; 89 completed the challenge.

#### December 2005

- 4 **Thanet Coastal 10 miles.** 1 T Berg (Mornington) 55:50; 99 P Cross M50 69:39; 519 finished.
- 4 **Victory 5 miles Road Race, Portsmouth.** Men. 1 A Maclean (Team Southampton) 23:45; 2 S Stokes (Sale HM) 23:55; 3 W Chinhanhu (Poole/Zimbabwe) 24:08; 6 P Wicks 24:22; 68 J Fairbourn U20 29:00. Women. 1 J Wright (Shaftesbury B) 27:30; 2 B Dagne 28:01.
- 10 **Scottish East District CC Champs, Aberdeen.** 1 R Russell (Cent) 31:52; 3 D Gauson 33:07; 14 K Gauson U20 34:26; 25 G Oudney 35:04.
- 10 **SEAA U23 CC Championship, RAF Barnham, Suffolk.** 1 P Wicks 32:35.
- 11 **Hog's Back 8.1 miles Road Race, Guildford.** 1 K Nash 41:49.
- 11 **Hale Village 5 miles, nr Liverpool.** 1 P McGlory (Liverpool) 24:59; 2 P Freary 25:08.
- 18 **Iris Lotto CrossCup at Parc van Laeken, Heysel, Belgium.** The field was headed by Abebe Dinkessa (Ethiopia) who beat recently re-crowned European Champion Sergiy Lebed (Ukraine), and it was class all the way as 18 runners of African origin packed into the top 30 places. In very cold and muddy conditions the two 21 year-old Belgians Phil Wicks and Jonathan Blackledge played "nip and tuck" all the way through the race with Jon turning on a sprint to gain one second on Phil at the finish - 38:37 to 38:38 for 43rd and 45th. "We battled it out the whole way - took it in turns - and Jonathan out kicked me at the finish," said Phil. "It was a really tough race - the mud was physically draining."

- 1 A Dinkessa (Ethiopia) 35:01; 43 J Blackledge 38:37; 45 P Wicks 38:38.
- 18 **Holly Run, Priory Park, Reigate.** Men. 1 A Moses (Reigate P) 31:34; 5 T Weeks 33:59.
- 18 **Ron Hill Surrey Classic 10 km, Horton Country Park, West Ewell.** Men. 1 R Ward 32:12; 8 M Webb 35:36; 212 D Davies M65 53:33. Women. 98 C Eastham 44:01.

### Race Walking

#### November 2005

- 12 **Enfield 7 miles.** 1 S Davis (Ilford) 54:40; 4 T Watt 57:24; 6 J Hall M50 (2nd London Business Houses, 1st VAC Champs) 59:43; 9 C Lawton M55 (2nd VAC Champs) 62:02; 15 P King M50 67:00; 29 D Fotheringham M75 73:21. Team: 1 Ilford 26; 2 Belgrave 30; 3 Enfield & Haringey 58. Women. 1 S Hayles (Steyning) 59:07; 4 M Noel W40 (1st London Business Houses, 1st VAC Champs) 69:16.
- 26 **Belgrave Open 7 miles, Wimbledon.** Men. 1 S Davies (Ilford) 52:27; 2 N Sylvester (Enfield) 57:33; 3 J Ball (Steyning) 58:36; 4 T Watt (Steyning) 59:06; 5 J Hall (Belgrave M50) 59:16; 6 A Thomson (Vet) 60:10; 7 C Lawton (Belgrave M55) 62:03; 8 R Emsley (Steyning) 63:52; 9 D Kates (Ilford) 64:25; 10 M Hinton (Ilford) 65:04; 11 P King (Belgrave M50) 65:08; 12 P Hannell (Surrey WC) 67:55; 13 R Penfold (Steyning) 68:11; 14 K Ballam (Enfield) 68:17; 15 D Stevens (Steyning) 70:05; 16 R Dobson (Ilford) 70:10; 17 R Powell (Enfield) 71:48; 18 K Mitchell (Defrs) 77:40; 19 A James (Enfield) 78:05; 20 B Hercocock (Enfield) 80:34; 21 K Livermore (Enfield) 84:23; Retired: N Ball, J Fitzgerald.; Teams: 1 Steyning 15; 2 Ilford AC 20; 3 Belgrave H 22. Women. 1 E Viljoen (Belgrave) 58:11; 2 M Noel (Belgrave W40) 68:30.

#### December 2005

- 10 **Birchfield Christmas Races.** 5 km. 1 M Williams (Tam) 23:09; 2 D Fotheringham M75 32:05.
- 10 **Cambridge H League 5 km, Bexley.** 1 A Goudie 23:58; 4 C Lawton M55 26:50; 5 P King M50 28:47. Team: 1 Belgrave 10.
- 11 **Dick Hudson's 8.5 miles, Bradford.** 1 D Turner (York.WC) 72:32; 2 C Lawton M55 78:25.
- 18 **Essex League 10 km, Chigwell Row.** 1 T Jones (Hill) 52:26; 2 J Hall M55 53:14; 6 C Lawton 57:00. Team: 1 Ilford 12; 2 Belgrave 16; 3 Surrey WC 42.

## Skipper's Corner

### Nov 21, 2005 - Wicksy moves closer to nailing the Skip.

A closer look at the Surrey League results gets a satisfied nod of approval from the captain of your ship. I spy two very good things: the core of the team is improving all the time – Willis, Weeks, Axe, Greatorex, Lyne, Humphrey and Whiting all see their stars on the rise, and we know good ol' ever present Lynchy has more to come. Then there's Messrs Hadfield, Hegvold and Ellacott et al. all lurking in the wings. And the best bit was meeting so many new faces – around half a dozen, fantastic. A very warm welcome to you all, and may you protect and serve the club for several decades to come.

As for Wicksy – absolutely fab. He has moved an ominous step closer to winning the 'Magical Mystery Challenge' awarded to the man who nails me in the Cross-Country Plate. A part of me will be sad to lose the silverware, but a far greater part will be delighted that Phil's magnificent running will have graced all 6 races... Come on Phil, you know you want it! Two of those races are the Southern and National, which he's definitely up for. We can do no better than to build our teams around this lad, and with me committed too, we're 2 men down, 8 or 9 to go, in our goal of fielding really top teams. It's never too early to let the TM know you're up for these huge races – if we want to medal in them, we have to start planning now! The Southern course in Exeter is fast, straightforward and well under 15kms (at least it was last time), and the National at Parly Hill will see far less mud than in January. So please put January 28 and February 25 in your diaries now – we need bodies in great numbers.

What a brave and noble effort by our team up in Mansfield, and pity the poor TM for his devilish selection headache of how to get the flying Jon into the team... Sure he was worth his place, but how could we drop Paul after his Sutton

heroics? Or Al after his Rushmoor blinder? Wicksy will always be all but impossible to drop, and well, I suppose there was Sharpy – *NOT!* It was a bizarre and unique conundrum that only a 4-man race could throw up.

#### **Dec 20, 2005 - Lacking that little bit of extra fire-power**

Welcome to the final Skipper's Corner of 2005, another busy and rewarding year for our great club. We're also of course halfway through Mission 5-6, which has seen two scrumptious triumphs... and plenty of other solid, scrapping displays. But although our engine room boys have fought hard, a feature of our performances this season have usually been that we have lacked that little bit of extra fire-power. Will that crucial, but oh-so-evasive element appear next year? I hope so, and believe that it might.

The back of winter is nearly broken now and tomorrow is one of my favourite 'weather' days of the year. Some people prefer June 21, but that day only depresses me. I walk around with a hangdog expression, and know that the nights will now start closing in with terrifying rapidity, and I often feel a distinct nip in the air. But tomorrow I shall feel the sun's warm rays on my back as I scamper around Kensington Gardens, undoubtedly shirtless, keeping a beady eye out for the first crocuses of spring. Training will feel easier, as it should for you all, as we step up our game a notch – now is the time – and attack the Surreys, the Southern, THE NATIONAL!!! (hint hint), the AAA 10k and 'half', with gusto, glee and devastating fire-power.

Hey! I hear you ask – whatever happened to the man-of-the-match award, announced after each race? Well since you ask, sorry for the delay, here they are; for the first half of the winter:

*Surrey 6-stage:* Lee Greatorex – The cousin of Asterix and Obelix repeats his trick from last year.

*Southern 6-stage:* Al Stewart – Welcome return to the limelight for 'Le Metronome'.

*Surrey League 1:* Will Cockerell – Huh? Since when could judges nominate themselves? What a sham.

*AAA 6-stage:* Paul Freary – Man from the past proves he still has a future.

*Reigate relay:* Jon Blackledge – The kid leads the day to hand selectors a headache.

*AAA 4-stage:* Phil Wicks – Straight back on his horse after Sutton stitch.

*Surrey League 2:* Pete Willis – “And he's running in faster now – that was a quick delivery from Willis...”

*South of Thames:* Tom Ellacott – The man with the chiselled looks is raising his game at the right time. More please.

*Skip*

### **Grapevine**

#### **“Wardy” wins again**

Richard Ward has had a difficult year but ended on a winning note by comfortably taking the last Ronhill Surrey Classic 10k at Horton Country Park on December 18th.

Back in April Richard was one of our AAA 12-Stage heroes but still didn't feel right after glandular fever – so took time out over the summer. Slowly coming back to fitness in the Autumn, and hoping to make the 6-Stage team, he then broke a toe while running on a beach on holiday and hitting a rock. We should know by now that Richard and holidays are a dangerous combination.

An early return to running after this setback necessitated a further layoff when it was obvious that the fracture had not healed properly. And all this while, Richard was suffering

from a chest infection that it was feared might have been brought on by his work at his Cambridge University laboratory where he is using insects in his research on Ageing.

But his course of antibiotics is now completed, his toe has mended, he has a 10k win under his belt and a new year beckons. There's more fitness to be gained yet – but it looks as if “Wardy” is back.

#### **Come back DA – we need you!**

Another who took a 12-stage gold medal at Sutton Park while not at his best was David Anderson. Several years of suffering from an Achilles tendon problem have made running a painful business for Dave. He has a massive talent but in recent years we've only seen the palest shadow of the real DA. During the summer he turned out on the track when we'd been desperate but there's a limit to how much a man can dutifully put into his training when he gets so little success in return. And things were made worse when he, too, succumbed to a chest infection.

Dave has therefore taken a long break with the intention of trying things again in the New Year. We all wish him well and are keeping our fingers crossed. The thought of going to Sutton Park in April without his madcap humour to enliven the occupants of the Belgrave tent doesn't bear thinking about.

#### **Chance governs all - Milton**

Bill Laws and Alan Mead recently joined Dave Lucas for a Sports seminar for schoolchildren in Westminster. Bill and Alan were sitting in Starbucks in Victoria Street prior to the meeting when a familiar face peered in. After two double takes who should walk in but Alaster Johnston one of our 'A' team stalwarts from the mid 80's. Alaster has lived in Vancouver for the last 10 years and was making a rare visit to the UK for a banking convention. As Bill and Alan go to Victoria about once in five years and Alaster comes to the UK once in ten years perhaps someone can work out the odds of that encounter. Alaster sends best wishes to all his old contemporaries, particularly former Surrey AC men Bob Bridges and Don Anderson.

#### **Former Team Managers win sports award**

Four years ago Paul Ireland and Jason Wing were joint team managers producing some of Belgrave's most successful junior squads. Now as sports heads for Isleworth and Syon School they have won the prestigious The Daily Telegraph Specialist Sports College of the Year Award. Roger Uttley presented the Award at the House of Commons on 15th December. Former Belgrave Track and Field Captain Darren Campbell presented the Award for the best School Team of the Year to the 1st X1 cricket squad of Harrow school.

#### **The Denmark Pot – 2005**

Yet again the name of David McMillan gets engraved upon the Denmark Pot.

Don Maclean presented the “Pot” as the trophy for our Darts Championship in 1963 with the first competition taking place in the Club Room in The King of Denmark. For the first three years it was won by the late Bill Couzens – who also collected the title on another eight occasions.

Dave McMillan first won the title in 1974 and then had to wait another 30 years before he claimed it again, beating Cynthia James. This year the James Gang had another finalist in Ray – but Dave again carried off the pot for his third win all told.

#### **... and finally**

We send Christmas Greetings to Belgravians across the world. May 2006 bring us a happiness, health and success.