

Formation of the Club 13th September 1921

Originally named Glenhuntly Harriers-1921

The club can trace its beginnings to a group of local footballers, the Glenhuntly Imperials Under 21 team, whose captain was the Victorian Javelin Champion in 1920. *Alf Hunt* was an all-round athlete originally competing with the Melbourne Harriers club who finished runners-up to Carlton Harriers in the 1920-21 track and field competition.

Alf encouraged his team mates to come along to a meeting at Pages Cafe in Glenhuntly Road Glenhuntly on the evening of Tuesday 13th September 1921. The idea was to form an athletic club to keep themselves fit during the summer months and Alf invited the captain of the Melbourne Harriers Club, Les Mudge, to attend and act as chairman of the meeting.

The Caulfield News reported that the meeting was attended by a good muster of keen and enthusiastic juniors.

Alf Hunt moved the motion that the club be formed and be called the Glenhuntly Harriers. Club colours were discussed, and the chairman suggested a Cambridge Blue Singlet with a purple ('dark blue') boomerang and white knickers. These were later amended to dark blue knickers with light blue facings. The motto "**Ever Foremost**" was adopted (ironically, this motto is identical to that of the professional athletics Stawell Athletic Club, who have organised the Stawell Gift since 1866.)

A further meeting was scheduled for Monday 26th September to plan for the coming track season.

The club set up its training base in Koornang Park Carnegie, where we shared the football club's pavilion and ground for training.

Alf was also a member of the YMCA and decided to compete with them during the coming summer. He visited Sydney where he won the 120-yard hurdles and cricket ball throwing competition at the Australasian YMCA sports.

Elections were held which saw Hugh Cannon elected as the first club president, along with Alex Grieve as acting secretary, Alf Hunt as treasurer, and Stan Burton appointed the club captain. A number of vice presidents were appointed: J W Page, George Storey, S B Hayhow, T Morton, Otto Ehms, Dr Armstrong, W E Painter, E Shaw, A W Finlayson, W Davies along with local Councillors J T Packer and H Lord.

The club decided to enter the interclub competition which commenced in October, just four weeks after the club's formation. Twenty-three teams entered from 15 clubs with 10 teams forming A Grade and 13 teams being allocated to B Grade. Most of the A Grade clubs had a second team which competed in the B Grade competition.

A Grade consisted of Uni Blacks, Uni Blues, Coburg, Moreland, Carlton, SSH, Malvern, East Melbourne, Essendon and Melbourne.

B Grade was contested by SSH(B), Carlton(B), Melbourne(B), North Richmond Mutuals, Coburg(B), Footscray, East Melbourne(B), Moreland(B), YMCA, Malvern(B), Essendon(B), North Melbourne and *Glenhuntly*. As there were 13 teams, there would be a bye each round.

Interclub competition was in its very early existence, having only been implemented by the VAAA prior to the first World War in 1913. Athletic competitions had been suspended for the duration of the war and did not resume until 1919. The Carlton Harriers Club were defending their interclub title, having defeated Melbourne Harriers for the 1921 premiership. [Alf Hunt](#) was a member of the losing Melbourne team.

The club had 12 competing members and we were scheduled to meet the YMCA club in our first encounter. There were only 5 events (100-yards, 1 -mile, 120-yard hurdles, 1-mile walk, and a medley (2*220 yards, 440 yards, and 880 yards) mile relay) contested in the interclub challenge, although a number of open and handicap events were also held during the afternoon's programme. These included Javelin, discus, 880 yards etc. Ironically, [Alf Hunt](#) competed in the first event against us, the 120-yard hurdles, having transferred to YMCA, and he won the event. So, our club founder and treasurer competed against us in our first official VAAA competition.

Our first competition was held on heavy tracks which were under water in many parts and heavy showers added to the discomfort of the afternoon.

Our team of inexperienced and raw junior athletes were comprehensively defeated but the Caulfield News reported that the new club, for a band of juniors, put up a very creditable contest in making their debut in the VAAA arena.

"Glen" was reported to have a very promising young sprinter in [Morgan Field](#) who was only beaten by a foot (30cm). Our only win for the day was in the medley relay race. Other competitors included [Alex Grieve](#) (hurdles), [Jack Merrifield](#) (walk), and [George Fulton](#) (Distance).

Our first season saw our group of youngsters win just two of the eight rounds; finishing 7th and failing to reach the finals. We managed to defeat the Moreland club and SSH but lost the other six contests. Our club's **first individual event winner** was [Morgan Field](#) who breasted the tape in the 100 yards against SSH in round 3. Other club members to win an event during the season were [George Fulton](#) in the Mile run, [Jack and Ern Merrifield](#) in the Mile Walk, and [Alex Grieve](#) in the 120-yard Hurdles.

The Victorian State Championships were held during December at the Amateur Sports Grounds but there is no mention of any Glenhuntly competitors taking part.

To finish the summer season the club held its first annual championships at Caulfield Racecourse in early 1922. The all-round trophy was won by [Alex Grieve](#) (25 pts), from [Morgan Field](#) (21pts), and [George Fulton](#) (19pts).

A Silver Cup was awarded to Alex Grieve and Gold medals presented to Morgan Field and George Fulton. These were presented at a formal presentation night, a Euchre (card) and dance night, with advertisements in the local press inviting interested young ladies to attend.

Members were entertained by Hallam's Dance-O-Mania Jazz Orchestra and an abundant supper was provided by the ladies committee. The streamer waltz was announced as a pleasing spectacle. This evening was held in St Anthony's Hall in Grange Road Glenhuntly and was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Caulfield.

The results of the club's First Annual championships (1922) were:

100 yards	Morgan Field 11.0	Alex Grieve	George Fulton
220 yards	Morgan Field 25.0	Alex Grieve	George Fulton
440 yards	Morgan Field 55.0	George Fulton	Alex Grieve
880 yards	George Fulton 2:15.0	Stuart Oatley	Morgan Field
1 Mile	George Fulton 5:04.0	C Thomas	Stuart Oatley
1 Mile Walk	Jack Merrifield 8:04.0	Ern Merrifield	C Thomas
120yd Hurdles	Alex Grieve	George Fulton	Morgan Field
High Jump	Alan Wallace 5'2"	Alex Grieve	
Javelin	Alex Grieve 103'0"	R Wilson	Jack Merrifield
Long Jump	Alex Grieve 17'1"	Alan Wallace	George Fulton

The Club in the 1920s

Summer Interclub

A Grade Premiership 1925, 1928, 1929 Runners up A Grade 1926, 1927

B Grade Premiership 1924

C Grade Premiership 1923 Runners up C Grade 1928

Mile Medley Victorian Record

Ray Coller High Jump Victorian Champion

Alan Wallace HSJ Victorian Champion 1927, 1928 HSJ Victorian Record

Alan Elliston 880 yards Victorian Champion 1929 880 yards Victorian Record

Herb Bascombe 440 yards Australian Champion 1930

220 yards Victorian Champion 1928

440 yards Victorian Champion 1927, 1928, 1929

440 yards Australian and Victorian Record 48.6

Alf Hunt Javelin Victorian Champion 1923, 1926, 1927 (1921 as non member)

Victorian Pole Vault Champion 1924, 1926 Javelin Victorian Record

The ten years following the formation of the club in 1921 proved to be extremely successful ones for the new club. The club was quick to established itself as one of the top track and field clubs in Victoria.

The VAAA Annual Report reflected on the rapid growth of track as a principal feature of post-war interclub athletics. This was the opposite to the feature pre-war emphasis on cross country running. There was an emphasis on promoting track events in summer but with only the same five events each week there was concern that the programme was monotonous for athletes and spectators.

The summer interclub track and field competition was contested at the Amateur Sports Ground in Jolimont; the site of the old Olympic Swimming Stadium (and the Glasshouse). This area is now the Westpac Centre, home of the Collingwood Football Club. There were no grandstands and the track was grass.

In only our second year in the competition, 1922, we began an era that was to gain us five premierships, three of them in A Grade, within seven years. This was an outstanding achievement from such a young club. We gained some outstanding athletes during these years, were one of only a few clubs to gain their own club rooms, and we had the backing of some very dedicated administrators and coaches.

It was an exciting period in the club's history.

The season began in November in fine weather and before a record attendance. A third grade of competition was introduced and the club found itself in the lowest grade; C Grade. We gained the services of our founder, [Alf Hunt](#), who transferred from YMCA, and in his first event for the club won the 120-yard hurdles. We won this first round 36 points to Melbourne Harriers B 22 points. We won all events except the 1 Mile run where [Stuart Oatley](#) finished third behind state champion George Hyde. Our winners were [Alf Hunt \(hurdles\)](#), [Morgan Field \(100 yards\)](#), [Jack Merrifield \(Walk\)](#), and the Medley relay.

The competition was based around club versus club for eleven rounds with a semi-final and grand final to follow. Just five events were contested each week; 1-mile walk, 120-yard hurdles, 1-mile run, 100-yards, and a 1-mile medley relay.



In addition, we had the services of [Orm Westcott](#) and [Frank Rout](#)(Sprinters), [Jack Fraser](#), [Stuart Oatley](#) and [George Fulton](#) (Distance), and [Jack Merrifield](#) and his brother [Ernie Merrifield](#) in the walks. After eight rounds of competition, Glenhuntly remained undefeated, although we had tied with North Melbourne, and we went on to win our first premiership from Ivanhoe.

Our first premiership team; C Grade. Top L to R: Clarrie Noy, Ern Merrifield, Jack Fraser, Alf Hunt, Jack Merrifield, Stuart Oatley, 2nd Row :John O'Carroll, Orm Westcott, Jack Whitelaw, Alan Hayhow, Charlie Graydon, Westcott SnrFront: A 'Blue' Clauscen

120-yard Hurdles:	Alf Hunt	1 st	18.4sec	
1-mile Walk:	Jack Merrifield	2 nd		Ern Merrifield 3 rd
100 yards	Orm Westcott	2 nd		
1-Mile Run	Stuart Oatley	1 st	4:49.0	Jack Fraser 3 rd
Mile Medley Relay		1 st		

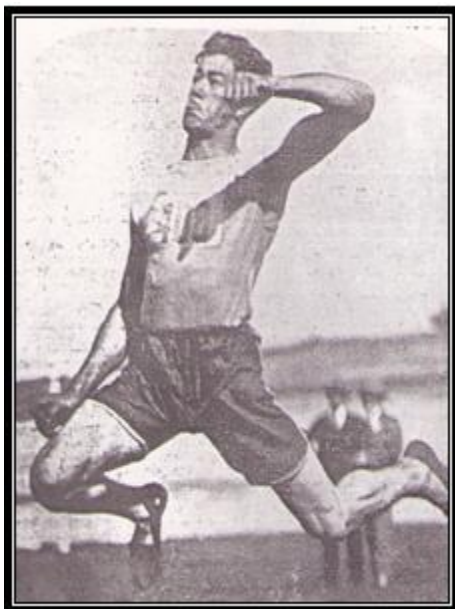
Alf Hunt, the team captain, had gone through the season undefeated in the hurdles, leading the young team to success.

In December, **Alan "Kanga" Wallace**, created a sensation when he hopped, stepped, and jumped (Triple Jump) 41'11"(12.79m) but fell back into the pit to measure 11.91m. The current Victorian Record was then 11.99m.

The Victorian titles held in February 1923 saw **Alf Hunt** smash the Victorian Javelin Record by almost 2 metres; 48.31m to 46.36m. He also finished second in the Pole Vault title and the new Decathlon (10 events) title.

The club held its Championships early in 1923 over a number of weeks and it resulted in a runaway win for **Alf Hunt**, who won seven of the eleven events. He was awarded the Silver Cup earning 51.5 points to **W Robinson's** 28pts and **Stuart Oatley's** 23pts.

In a forerunner to many initiatives the club was to demonstrate over the years, a ladies 75



Alf Hunt throwing the Javelin.

yards race was held. This was in an era where it was deemed undesirable and unfeminine for women to take part in strenuous activities and sports. Interestingly, Miss M. Vincent was the winner from Miss M. Marsh and Miss I. Murray. Separate races over 100 and 220 yards were also held for junior men at a time when there were no junior events in interclub or in championships.

We were promoted to B Grade for the 1923/1924 season. We were most fortunate in gaining the services of James Whitelaw as honorary coach and with his many seasons of experience in professional athletics he began to establish a formidable team. Our success was beginning to attract members and with our own coach we continued our enthusiasm into B Grade; losing only one contest during the season.

The rapid improvement of diminutive sprinter, Orm Westcott, had greatly enhanced our sprint team. We also entered a second team, and this was allocated to C Grade.

During the re-development of the Amateur Sports Ground, interclub athletics was held at the Showgrounds in Kensington.

There were some significant changes to the interclub programme for the season, with each of three grades being divided into two sections. Each club would meet the other in their section twice with the top two in each section forming the final four for the premiership contest.

There were also two alternate programmes of events for the first time. Each still had only five events and there were still no field events contested. New events included 85 yards, 440 yards, and 880 yards.

We had a resounding win over Ivanhoe in the semi-final and were then to face new club, Christchurch Geelong, for the Grand Final.

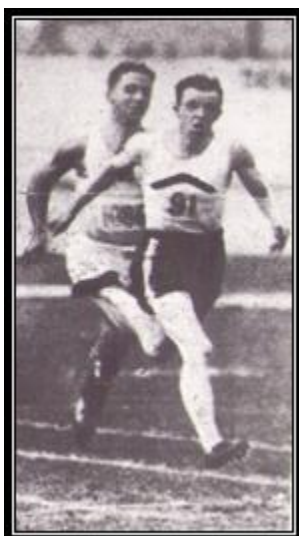
This proved to be a big win for the club; 42 points to 22 points.

Our team was:

1-mile:	Jack Fraser	3 rd			
100-yards:	Orm Westcott	1 st	10.1	John O'Carroll	2 nd 10.4 Alf Hunt
120-yard Hurdles:	Alf Hunt	1 st	17.3	Stuart Oatley	
1-mile Walk:	Jack Merrifield	1 st	7:40.0	Ern Merrifield	
Mile-Medley:	1 st	Stuart Oatley, Alf Hunt, Alan Hayhow, and Orm Westcott			

Promotion to A Grade was assured.

Here we would vie for the B.J.Parkinson Shield, awarded to the winner of the A Grade Premiership.



Our top sprinter, Orm Westcott 1924.

The Club's first representative at the Australian Championships (Hobart 1924)

Orm Westcott travelled to Hobart to contest the 100 yards Australasian Sprint Championship; our first athlete to take part in the nation's championship. He performed well to finish second in his heat, but only heat winners went on to the final.

Crowds were very encouraging in the early 1920s with over 2000 spectators watching the state titles. The media were always giving good coverage to Amateur Athletics with a full round up of results and articles on leading performers. The club was well supported by non-competing members and had its own trainer and masseur.

These were common in clubs at the time and old photographs show a number of these supporters.



The Walkers: Jack and Ern Merrifield.

By now the club had graduated to the Caulfield Racecourse for training, a popular meeting place for athletes from many clubs as well. Professional runners and other clubs had been using the racecourse for years and it was the site of numerous paper chase events, handicap races and the state cross country championships. It was an area where you could run into the country for miles through swamps and bush. Our change rooms were a series of horse boxes in the south east corner of the park and other clubs often used them for their pack runs.

Great enthusiasm prevailed among club supporters as we entered A Grade for the 1924/25 but it would be only the most optimistic supporter who thought we could continue our success into the top grade. The club continued to attract new members with [Charlie Sypott](#), a sprinter ranked in the top three in the state, joining [Orm Westcott](#) to give us a formidable duo. With [Jack Fraser](#) improving over distances and [Jack and Ern Merrifield](#) still dominant in the walks, we had many exciting contests to again reach the finals.

The season had just got underway when we hit our first controversy; and one which could have seriously affected the future of the club. Always looking at innovations to advance the club, it was decided to hold a raffle to assist our athletes travel to the Geelong interclub meeting in round two. This was done, and our athletes travelled to and from Geelong by train. This was seen as a breach of the athlete's amateur status and the travelling athletes were suspended by the VAAA. In an appeal to the board of the VAAA, and after a great deal of debate, the decision was reversed, and the athlete's status restored. A close call.

An amateur was considered to be person who competes only for the love of sport, not for monetary or pecuniary reward, or knowingly compete against a professional. This was applied to teachers, trainers and coaches of physical activities. There were also controls on not making wagers on competitions and the receipt of expenses. Rules were strictly enforced by authorities.

We met the long-established foundation club, Melbourne Harriers, in the Grand Final. After a close competition, we went on to achieve the unbelievable; an A Grade premiership in only our fourth year of competition.

The final scores were Glenhuntly 36 points to Melbourne 29 points.

Our team was:

100 yards	Orm Westcott	1 st	10.8	Charlie Sypott 2 nd
120-yard Hurdles	Alf Hunt	1 st	17.0	Stuart Oatley 2 nd
1-Mile Walk	Jack Merrifield	2 nd		Ern Merrifield 3 rd
1-Mile Run	Jack Fraser	2 nd		
1-Mile Medley Relay	Lost to Melbourne Harriers			

(Team = [Stuart Oatley](#), [Charlie Sypott](#), [Orm Westcott](#), [John O'Carroll](#))

Our A Grade Premiers in 1924/25.

In this short time, the club which had started out with a group of footballers wanting to keep fit over summer, had achieved the ultimate against some strong and well-established clubs. [Charlie Sypott](#) ran a magnificent 100 yards in 10.0sec on grass; a time that stood as a club record for 42 years; until 1967 when Phil May lowered it. (Roy Foley equalled it in the 1939).

Field events were finally added to the interclub programme for the 1925/26 season and while we were well served in these events we were unable to emulate our premiership. This year saw no finals contest with the VAAA trialling a system which awarded the premiership to the team finishing on top of the ladder after the completion of the season's competition. Our team was to finish second and was thereby runners up in A Grade. This trial was abandoned for the following season.

It may come as a surprise to present day athletes that field event athletes were winning titles with distances that current junior athletes are surpassing. These events were only contested at championships, facilities and runups were very primitive and the equipment was very elementary.

Pole Vaulting was done with a home sharpened hickory or bamboo poles. There were only grass runups, no box or other assistance when placing the pole on the ground and no landing bags; maybe just some sand. It was not uncommon in soft ground for the pole to sink deeply into the ground, making progress by the vaulter very difficult. During one Victorian championship, Alf Hunt was involved in a strike of vaulters who considered the ground was too soft and dangerous and they requested a coir mat to give the pole some grip. Permission was refused. Alf had to transport his pole to the ground each week and he managed this by tying it to the outside rail of the suburban train from McKinnon to Richmond.

At the conclusion of the 1925/26 season, the club decided to change its name from Glenhuntly Harriers to the Glenhuntly Amateur Athletic Club with the intention of widening activities to include boxing and wrestling.



The new club logo introduced in 1926.

It was at this time that the club took the progressive step of acquiring a fine club house set in the Glenhuntly reserve, adjacent to the Caulfield Racecourse. It was formerly a jockey's room at Elsternwick Racecourse and was transported to the site; some five miles (8 Kilometres) away. and it was renovated and given to the club by the Caulfield Council in recognition of their excellent record of the previous three years. It had three main rooms, showers, and all conveniences. The VATC fitted it out and connected electric lights. After sharing various facilities with football clubs at Koornang Park and the horse boxes at Caulfield, the club had managed to obtain some of the best training facilities amateur athletes had in Victoria.

The addition of this independent club house placed Glenhuntly in a unique position when compared to many other sporting clubs of the era. These rooms became a meeting place for members and the venue for numerous smoke nights and card nights. While primitive by today's standards, this meeting place gave the club the independence to create and develop a unique club spirit.

The death of Mr. James Whitelaw, a recent and popular club president, was a shock to the new club and it was decided by the club committee to instigate an annual handicap race over a distance of 660 yards. The Whitelaw family fully supported this event and donated trophies for the event and often attended its running at the race course. It developed into a prestigious and popular club event with many members proud to be recognised on the winner's dais. This event continued to be held for about 50 years, seeming to lose popularity as the Fun Run era began in the 1970s.

With membership still growing and with an enthusiastic support base, the club was eager to regain its status as a top club with another A Grade pennant. We were keen to increase the depth of our distance running and following a successful winter cross country season Charlie Graydon and Fred Hamley joined Jack Fraser to give us a very competitive unit. Two further exciting athletes joined the club as sprints and middle-distance runners; Alan Elliston and Herb Bascombe. They were to go on to be two of Australia's top performers with Herb being our first national representative (Empire Games 1930) while Alan broke several Victorian and Australasian records (includes New Zealand). Alan Elliston was referred to in the press as the athletic find of the season.

After many exciting competitions and some narrow losses, we made the finals and accounted for EMH in the semi-finals. We were to meet the strong and established Geelong Guild team in the Grand Final. They boasted several Victorian Champion athletes and after a very exciting contest in which Alan Elliston won the 880yds, scores were tied at the completion of events. This meant a run off was to be held. Geelong refused an immediate runoff as both Howell

and Kroger had been ill and it was considered undesirable to ask them to compete again that day. The VAAA accepted this plea and set a later date for the runoff. The VAAA decided to run the whole finals programme again, rather than just having a one race run-off. This programme was to be a re-run over a month later, in late March and after the completion of the Victorian Championships. It was an exciting afternoon with Geelong winning narrowly by 1 point. Alan Elliston, Herb Bascombe, Charlie Sypott and Alf Hunt were superb in the run-off but luck was not with us as Jack Merrifield had been disqualified in the walk. Geelong Guild won a disputed premiership.

Orm Westcott, Herb Bascombe, Alf Hunt, Alan Elliston and Alan Wallace all won medals at the Victorian Championships and we were runners up to University in the H. H. Hunter shield for most points at these championships. This shield was awarded by the VAAA in memory of Herbert Humphrey Hunter, former Australasian sprint champion who lost his life at Gallipoli in 1915. In the Mile Medley, (880 yards, 440 yards, 220 yards, 220 yards) the team of Herb Bascombe, Alan Elliston, Charlie Sypott and Orm Westcott set a Victorian Record of 3:37.7, our first ever team record.

High, Long, and Hop step and jump, were events which suffered with poor grass runups and landing pits. High Jumpers jumping into sand did not support the current style of high jumping. Alan Wallace was certainly the doyen of jumpers in this period.

The 1927/28 season saw the club determined to avenge its loss to Geelong Guild in the previous year's Grand Final. After a solid season with Herb Bascombe and Alan Elliston the stars, the Grand Final was again with old foes Geelong Guild. We were not going to give them a leg in this time and we went on to be very convincing winners; 55 points to 35 points.

Our Premiership team was:

100-yards	Herb Bascombe	1 st	10.9	Orm. Westcott	3 rd
120-yard Hurdles	Stuart Oatley	2 nd			
440-yards	Herb Bascombe	1 st	51.3	Alan Elliston	2 nd
1-Mile Run	Charlie Graydon	1 st	4:41.4	Clarrie Noy	2 nd
1-Mile Walk	Hugh Vines	1 st	7:33.5	Aubrey Eve	3 rd
High Jump	Jack Dunstan	2 nd			
Hop Step Jump	Alan Wallace	1 st	40' 6"		
Weight Put	Herb Bascombe	2 nd	32' 8 ½"		
Mile-Medley Relay	A walkover given to Geelong Guild.				

Our depth of talent went into C Grade also where we also contested the grand final; losing to CYMS 38 points to 49.

The hurdles used in races were very heavy battens, cross braced fore and aft. There was no question about knocking them over; any athlete hitting them finished very sore. Many athletes used rubber protectors over their spikes. These solid hurdles could certainly account for the relatively slow hurdle times of the day.

An initiative of the Melbourne University club, under the direction of the VAAA, saw the first relay sports meeting in the history of athletics in Australia. More than 20 teams entered, and they were placed in three divisions; A, B, and C. Glenhuntly had teams in A and C. There were three relays; a sprint medley, distance medley, and a unique 480 yards hurdles shuttle relay. Our club was successful in winning the sprint medley with the team of Herb Bascombe, Alan Elliston, George Storey and Orm Westcott; winning by a yard in 1 min 36.4, almost a Victorian record.

We finished third in the distance medley behind Melbourne University; a race of 440 yards, 880 yards, 1320 yards, and 1 mile. The shuttle relay was an interesting concept with each of 4 runners running over the high hurdles. Our club was third in both the sprint and distance relays in C Grade.

The club was determined to win back to back premierships and went through the 1928/29 season undefeated. We thrashed Geelong Guild in the semi-finals but in the Grand final were narrow one-point victors over Melbourne University; 43 points to 42 points. Success in the final event, the relay, gave us a hard-fought victory. Our C Grade team had a 1 point loss to YMCA in their semi-final.

Our Premiership team was:

Hop Step Jump	Alan Wallace	1 st	45' 10"		
Shot Put	Alan Wallace	2 nd	29' 7"		
100-yards	Orm Westcott	3 rd			
440-yards	Herb Bascombe	1 st	50.7	Alan Elliston	2 nd
High Jump	Ray Coller	2 nd	5' 11"		
1 Mile Walk	Aubrey Eve	1 st	7:24.5		
1 Mile Run	University gained first 3 places				
120 yards Hurdles	Ivan Loel	1 st	16.8	Ray Coller	2 nd
Mile Medley Relay	GHY	1 st	3:38.6		

The club coach at the time, Phil Neeson, rated this team the best he could remember and certainly the results support his view.

The following track season, 1929/30, the Amateur Sportsground opened in gala appearance, with the many premierships pennants fluttering in the wind over the ground entrance. However, for our club it was a let-down following our recent successful seasons. The Amateur Sportsground opened the season in gala appearance, with the many premierships pennants fluttering in the wind over the ground entrance. Membership fell by 20% to 53 members. The club did not reach the finals in either A or C Grade, losing five rounds in each grade. We were without our top performers, Alan Elliston, Herb Bascombe, and Alf Hunt, for the first three rounds but on their return in round four we had a significant win over CYMS, followed by a number of other successes. However, significant losses to Geelong Guild and East Melbourne Harriers in the final two rounds saw us miss the final series for the first time since 1923.

A highlight of the season, however, was the selection of Herb Bascombe to represent Australia in the Empire Games to be held in Vancouver Canada in 1930. These were to be the first Empire (Commonwealth) Games and Herb was to be our first international representative. Herb recorded a brilliant 440 yards time of 48.6 seconds during the year to smash his Victorian Record of 49.7; equalling the Australasian record. Alan Elliston also broke a Victorian record during the year with his second placing in the 440-yard hurdles; his time being 55.4 seconds. Interestingly, Alan defeated Herb in the Victorian 440-yard championship. He was very unlucky not to have also been selected for the Empire Games team considering his development and excellent season.

The club was very proud to have an Australian representative, one of just six, to be selected in the athletic team. The press reported that Herb's farewell from his club was one of the most enthusiastic and best organised. Alan Wallace, by then club president, led a chorus of speeches, songs, and a clever conjuror to honour our first international. Herb was presented with a travel bag and fountain pen while the very new, and supportive, women's club presented a highly decorated cake.

Herb did very well in Canada, making the final of the 440 yards, by winning his heat in a time of 48.6. In a star packed final, he finished sixth.

This decade had seen the club rise rapidly to be one of the top clubs in the association. Three A Grade, a B Grade and a C Grade Premiership were excellent results for such a young club. Members of the time recall that the club had a tremendous team spirit, a very active and proficient coach with full support of a selection committee and captains, and some extremely talented athletes. Our supporter base was extensive and included trainers, coaches and committee members who provided an excellent administration.

The club was now giving special attention to the development of junior athletes. To this end the club arranged the services of a Doctor to act as a medical examiner and adviser to the club. A special programme of exercises and events was arranged but before any junior boy could take part he had to undergo a medical examination, to be followed up again after twelve months.

The Club in the 1930s

Summer Interclub

Runners up B Grade 1936, 1937, 1938 Runners up D Grade 1934

Herb Bascombe

440 yards 1st Empire Games, Canada 6th

Alan Elliston

440 yards Victorian Champion 1931

880 yards Victorian Champion 1931, 1932

Geoff Maslen

120 yards Hurdles National Games Adelaide 1936 1st

Keith McCluskey

3-mile Walk National Games Adelaide 1936 4th Victorian Champion 1937

Ivan Loel

Discus Victorian Champion 1940

The club entered the 1930's with a reputation as one of the top track clubs in the association. Our club was only 10 years old and we had already won 5 Premierships and been runners up twice. The club was looking to improve on this impressive record during its second decade.

The VAAA were experiencing strong growth both in membership numbers and in spectator interest in the track and field interclub. The association had almost 2000-member registrations, which was a 100% improvement over 5 years. With 60 teams entering the summer competition there were calls for a second track to cope with the size of the afternoon program. A fifth division was added but there were still no plans for junior grades.

The summer interclub competition was organised and run by the Affiliated Clubs Sports Committee where club president, Bill Ryan, was chairman.

Although we had some retirements and relocations of our members as they searched for work in the depression, there were still some outstanding athletes and youngsters to carry our teams forward. The retirement of club founder and champion decathlete, Alf Hunt, and walker Jack Merrifield, were going to be big loses. Herb Bascombe was looking forward to representing Australia at the first Empire Games in Canada while Allan Elliston and Allan

Wallace were the backbone of an emerging group of athletes that were to see us through the 1930's.

Bob Davis, Allan Wallace, Bill Ryan and Ivan Whelan were our administrative team during the early thirties with all men giving leadership and direction on and off the field. Bill and Bob in particular were instrumental in assisting the Glenhuntly Women's Club and the Victorian Women's Athletic Association to get off the ground in 1930.

Herb Bascombe went to Canada as Australian record holder over 440yards (48.6) and made the final of the Empire Games 440 yards finishing a great sixth; our first international competitor. He also ran in the heats of the 880 yards, finishing 5th but not progressing to the final. Following this success, Herb was included in an Australia versus USA meet in Chicago before returning to Toronto Canada where he finished second in the 440 yards. He returned to Australia on the ship HMS Ventura after being away for nearly three months.

Not long after his return from Canada, Herb Bascombe shocked the club and all athletic followers by deciding to turn professional. Herb responded to his critics as follows: "I have gone over to the professional running ranks because, before I finish my athletic career, I want to see how I will fare in professional company and, as a result of going to Canada for the British Empire Games last year, I incurred certain financial obligations which I am anxious to meet, but cannot do so while I remain an amateur." Due to the economic depression of the early 1930s Herb found himself out of constant employment. He was a vocal advocate of the amateur body assisting athletes by reimbursing them for loss of salary while away. He had been away for four months to participate in the Games. The club and his trainers had urged Herb to delay his decision and try for the Australian Championships and Olympic selection, but Herb said this would be futile as he could not afford these trips even if he were selected.

We lost a champion clubman and athlete.

Allan Elliston had developed into an outstanding middle-distance runner, winning state and national titles, as well as holding the 880 yards national record (1:55.6). These two outstanding athletes were to be supported in our top team by sprinters Ivan Whelan, Hugh Gloster, jumper Jack Dunstan, distance runners Fred Storey and Jack Davis, walker Lionel Lowe, strongman Geoff Weber, and with the very talented Ivan Loel the allrounder.

The 1930 season began with 60 teams from 38 clubs, and 700 athletes, with Glenhuntly being represented in both A and C Grades. There was still no junior grade competition. Membership stagnated, possibly due to the economic depression and the club struggled to maintain its dominance in interclub.

Phil Neeson was club coach and masseur and indicated that he had as many as 80 athletes training under his guidance on the racecourse on Sunday mornings.

We began the season well, forcing draws with power clubs Melbourne Harriers and Old Melbourneians, with Alan Elliston the standout performer in sprinting and distance running. Herb Bascombe was not expected back until round four, but strained legs prevented this happening and we went down to CYMS by one point. Alan Wallace, Caleb Stock and Jack

Dunstan did well for us in the jumps while Fred Storey was our leading distance performer; running around 4:40.0 for the mile. We continued to have some narrow loses which resulted in the club not making the finals; this was the first time in its decade old history. We had managed only four wins and two draws for the season.

Following the success of the inaugural National Games held in Sydney in 1928, Melbourne hosted the second staging in 1932. The purpose of these Games was to provide Olympic selectors with an opportunity to see prospective athletes in top class competition. They also had the purpose of raising funds to send the team to the Games. 700 athletes marched onto the MCG in a magnificent pageant before 13000 spectators and competition was highlighted with 4 Victorian records. Alan Elliston was selected to run in the 440 yards at these National Games but unfortunately was unable to compete due to an injury.

The Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 1932 saw Australia only send a team of 13; only 4 of them being in the athletics team.

The next two seasons saw much of the same as in 1930/31; 4 wins in 1931/32, and 2 wins and a draw in 1932/33. This performance to finish last in A grade saw the team relegated to B Grade for the following season. Our young members were disappointed but determined to fight their way back into A grade.

By 1932, the size of the VAAA continued to grow and there was a need for a properly constructed cinder track rather than the grass track of the Amateur Sports Ground. An increase in teams, and clubs, saw the competition utilise both the sprint track and the circular track at the Amateur Sports Ground.

An interstate challenge match was instigated with NSW, the first of its kind. Alan Elliston was our sole representative, finishing second in the 440 yards hurdles and third in the 880 yards. Reg Hall, a future treasurer of the club, competed in the 880-yard handicap for second place.

During this time, and with Allan Elliston moving to the country and retiring at the end of the 1933/34 season, our teams began a rebuilding programme. We had hit our lowest membership numbers (33) since formation but we were seeing the emergence of some future club stalwarts and champions during this period.

Some of these new athletes found themselves in the top grade very early in their careers and while still junior athletes. Keith McCluskey, a walker, George Maslen a hurdler, Jack Davis a miler, Hugh Gloster a sprinter, and George Weber a shot putter, were just some of the youngsters who would be part of our senior teams throughout the 1930s.

Gus Theobald and Royce Foley joined the club at this time and they were to have an enormous influence on the club and its members over the next 60 years. Both served long periods as secretary, president and coaches and proved to be enormous contributors both on and off the field.

The relegation of the club to B Grade for the 1933/34 track season saw our team re-invigorate itself and work hard at getting back to the top grade. This renewed enthusiasm saw us again figure in the finals scene. After losing only two of its rounds, the team were

narrowly defeated by Moreland (2 points) in the semi-finals. Allan Elliston was plagued by injury during the season but still managed to break the B Grade 880-yard record. Allan Wallace jumps and Ivan Loel hurdles and javelin were consistent points winners for the team. Keith McCluskey was a consistent winner in the walk while Reg Hall joined Jack Davis and Ron Addison in the distance events. Geoff Weber was proving to be a great allrounder with wins in the shot put, discus and pole vault. Sam Hyams was another sprinter who was having a significant impact on our team's performance.

Jack and Jim Maslen joined brother George at the club and proved strong performers in the jumps. Jack was prominent in the club's climb back into A grade towards the end of the decade.

In 1935 the State of Victoria celebrated the centenary of its existence. The VAAA reported the year as being the most memorable in the history of amateur athletics in Victoria.

The Centenary Games, held at the MCG in front of 12000 spectators, proved to be a huge success. George Maslen was 5th in the 120-yard hurdles in a race that saw S Stenner of NSW break the Australian Record with a run of 15.0sec. Keith McCluskey 4th in the 3-mile walk and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile walks. Former member Roy Jelley, now with Tasmania finished 4th in the High Jump. Ivan Whelan also competed in winning relay teams over 440 and 880 yards.

An innovation during this season was the introduction of Junior Cup events for boys over 16 but under 19. This was the first-time Junior competition was held by the VAAA but the events did not carry championship status.

The club remained in B Grade for most of this decade and struggled to maintain its membership level; this was about 40 during this period. From being in the top five in the Association, we had now fallen to 22nd. After only one loss during the 1935/36 season, we won our semi-final but were narrow losers to Williamstown in the Grand Final; 45 points to 51. Our D Grade team had a poor season and were relegated to E Grade.

Keith McCluskey regularly gained medals in walking events during the 1930s, winning Gold in 1936.

The third staging of the National Games were held in Adelaide in 1936 and was part of their year's Centenary celebrations.

In probably the best run of his career, George Maslen was the winner of the National Games 120-yard Hurdles, breaking the South Australian record in the process. A magnificent effort. Keith McCluskey also impressed with third place in the 5000 metres Walk.

The Junior Cup for 16-19-year old's was held at the 1935 Victorian titles. There were eight events held and Phil Opas was third in the 100 yards, Neil Batcheldor was second in his heat of the 220 yards. Ray Willis won the 880 yards in 2:08.5 and was second in the 440 yards; our first success.

The club continued to recruit very well during this period with Jimmy Creighton invaluable in the sprints, jumps and hurdles, while Sam Hyams joined in support of Ivan Whelan and Hugh

Gloster in sprints. A Chesterfield and Ron Addison were strong in the distance races while Doug Murrell proved a real find to support Keith in the Walks. Maurie Burke, Frank Taylor, Royce Foley, Tom Williams, Don Carr and Jack Maslen were others to begin to assist the club in its quest to return to A Grade.

By now track and field was almost at saturation point with 92 teams from 42 clubs and 172 events on the Saturday afternoon. Resources were stretched to the limit, especially as some Colts events for 14 to 16-year-olds were becoming regular additions.

Keith McCluskey travelled to Sydney at his own expense to compete in Test Races for the Sydney Empire Games selection.

The Sporting Globe newspaper recognised our club's re-emergence stating it was the hard-working committee, led by Bob Davis, Bill Ryan, and others that was behind our clubs bid to regain its former glory.

Apart from Keith McCluskey and George Maslen, the club had in its membership a top state allrounder in Ivan Loel, and with his development the club edged closer to returning to A Grade. With Royce Foley now developing into a top sprinter and field games competitor and Maurie Burke showing his class over 880 yards and mile, the club was well placed to figure in A Grade again.

We achieved promotion in 1938 but despite our efforts and closeness of our contests, we left the decade without a Premiership but had developed a keen club spirit and growing membership.

We were semi-finalists in A Grade in 1940 where we went down to eventual premiers St Stephens Harriers 35 points to 52 points. We had winners in Doug Murrell 1-mile walk, Jack Maslen Hop Step and Jump, and R Williams High Jump. Roy Foley was placed in the 120-yard Hurdles and 100 yards but SSH dominated the sprint and distance events.

Roy LaFontaine was club coach and along with Doug Wallace, proved great behind the scene workers in helping to re-establish the club. Doug looked after many of the clubs junior members and often took them to the Dandenongs for training weekends.

With Bob Davis taking over as club president from Alan Wallace, and with Frank Taylor secretary, the club continued to have an enthusiastic and active administration, dedicated to improving the club and athletics.

During the 1930s we were runners up on 3 occasions and semi-finalists on two other, but this fell short of our hopes after our successes of the 1920s. However, we had the nucleus of a strong team and a very keen club spirit.

As the decade ended, war had begun in Europe and many athletes from all clubs enlisted for overseas service. The Australian Titles were suspended as a result. Our members were no exception and a number of them left to support their country.

The Club in the 1940s

Summer Interclub

F Grade Premiers 1946 Runners Up A Grade 1941 Junior Champions 1946 (Section 1 and 3)

All championships were cancelled for the duration of World War 11; 1941 to 1945

Victorian Relay 4*110 yds Relay Champions 1946

Lest We Forget

Flgt Sgt R Davie

Tom Williams

Athol Opas

Charlie Sypott

Victorian Record Open 4*110-yard Relay 1946

Arthur Mead Victorian Junior Champion 100 and 220 yards

Geoff Marriott Victorian Junior Champion 100 yards Hurdles

The club began this period like many other clubs; struggling to fill the gaps left by so many servicemen going to the War. The club was relatively small, with 46 members, comprising 32 seniors and 14 juniors. There were twelve new members who joined in 1940. Fifteen club members were acknowledged as representatives in the various services; the AIF, RAAF, and RAN. These representatives included club administrators and top athletes in Jack Davis, Frank Taylor (past-secretary), Roy Foley (secretary), Fred Storey, Robert Davies, Tom Williams, Alan Elliston, Ken McGowan and Athol Opas.

We remained in A Grade for the track season of 1940/41 and it was the most successful one experienced by the club since 1929; just failing by 2 points to beat Geelong Guild to win the interclub Grand Final.

The final was reported as the most spectacular A Grand Final for many years with Geelong Guild gaining victory by winning the final event; an 880 yards relay. Both clubs had built their team around junior athletes, although our team had some more experienced runners, as many proven senior athletes had enlisted for the second world war.

While our club had winners in the 100 yards, Mile Run, 440 yards and Mile Walk, we were unable to match the Geelong Guild team in field events. Maurice Burke, Keith McCluskey, and Roy Foley were our outstanding individuals in the final and throughout the whole the track season.

Maurice, in particular, showed out over 880 yards and 1 mile with the fastest times for the season. Keith McCluskey continued to dominate the walks and in one race over 1 mile recorded the fastest interclub time for 25 years with 6:36.5. George Maslen, Ivan Loel, and

Jack Maslen, were other prominent athletes to almost gain the club's fourth A Grade premiership.

Gus Theobald, Don Carr and Ted Jenkins were prominent in team organisation for A and D Grade. The club had a very active social committee led by Don Carr and with the assistance of the Women's club enjoyed many successful events. We had a very popular coach in Roy La Fontaine and his success and efficiency was reflected in the marked improvement in club performance. Mr A Clarke acted as club masseur.

The war call up certainly affected our club. In the space of its first year we had four secretaries. Frank Taylor, Maurice Burke, Roy Foley and George Maslen all filled the position for a time during this period.

As Australia's involvement in the war escalated, the VAAA decided to abandon all championships until the war ended. However, it maintained the interclub competition at the Amateur Sports Ground. It was expected that while clubs were weakened by enlistments, that a strong junior competition would prove a sound backup to the seniors.

After our near success in 1940/41, the club was contesting the A2 division for 1941/42. Maurice Burke, Jack Chalk and Don Carr were our distance runners with Burke dominant over 880 yards and mile. Junior, Bill Johnston, was our best performed sprinter and Keith McCluskey remained the top walker. Maurie Burke was showing his all-round importance to the team with important victories over the hurdles; especially 440 yards. Gus Theobald and Keith McCluskey managed the walks and Roy Foley was regularly representing us in sprints when on leave. Although we won six meets, we were unsuccessful in reaching the finals.

In 1943 Roy Foley was showing in the Service's sprints and winning them three weeks in succession.

We were fortunate to survive this period. Membership was low, and we were struggling to keep senior athletes involved.

There were three sections in interclub with the club in section two. New member Jack Skase was performing well over 440 yards and George Nevitt was prominent in the distance events. We were sadly lacking in regular distance runners. Other members were Ivan "Cocky" Edwards (sprints and hurdles), Jack Chalk, Frank McGowan, and Jack Stock, who finished second in the State 100 yards and played football with Melbourne. Training in this period consisted of a few clap-outs (we didn't have starting blocks) from the holes. Runners dug their own holes to get a sound footing; much to the disgust of the park's ranger. Our juniors were really beginning to establish themselves as stars of the future. Wayne Treloar over the 100 yards won silver in U18 and Norm Morrison won Gold in 220 yards U16 and 100 yards U15. Neil Cruikshank was third in the Long Jump. We were also beginning to see the talents of a young high jumper in Ron Gibson and Arthur Mead in the U15 100 yards.

By 1945, the club had established itself with strength in the juniors, finishing 1st and 3rd in the interclub series. Meeting in the semi-finals, team 1 easily accounted for team 2 but in the Grand Final we were narrowly defeated by Northcote High School.

The following war years were not as successful with many absentees at the services, but we managed to recruit some outstanding young talent. Norm Morrison, Jack Skase, Wayne Treloar, Neil Cruikshank, Jack Stock, Roy Gibson, George Bray, George Nevitt, Arthur Mead, and Ian "Muscles" Wrightsmith were just some of the talented youngsters who represented the club.

A few dedicated members kept the club going during these difficult years. Frank Taylor, Reg Hall, Horrie Duncan, Allan Wallace, Bob Davis, Gus Theobald, Roy Foley, Maurie Burke, Don Carr, all took roles at various times to ensure that the club continued.

During this period the Glenhuntly Football Ground was under Army occupation with a huge search light in the middle of the oval and a concrete bunker. Our club rooms were even under some sort of occupation with the Caulfield City Band practicing on Tuesdays and Thursdays; our training nights. The noise and rhythm were very off putting to our training. Gus looked after our distance runners for their training. He did an excellent job, keeping all of his charges up to the task.

Interclub in 1944 was held at Melbourne Grammar School as the army had occupation of both the Amateur Sports ground ovals in Richmond.

By the end of the war in 1945, and with the club in its 25th year, we saw a sharp boost in membership and were able to boast a membership of 75 members.

The club was really starting to go places. The atmosphere at the club changed considerably as people got back to a normal lifestyle after the stresses of the war years.

We had the leadership of an excellent coach in Roy La Fontaine. He brought with him fresh ideas and a new approach. Ray Baty was also instrumental in recruiting many youngsters from the local schools; in particular Melbourne High and Caulfield Tech and Grammar.

The club had a significant junior membership and we had a large number of non-competing members connected to our club.

With increased numbers, we entered seven teams in the track season; four senior (A, C, E and F) and three junior (Sections 1,2, and 3). We had great success in the track relay championships; winning our first 4*110 yards open relay with Jack Stock, William Johnson, Neil Morrison, and Wayne Treloar, and in the U17 with Arthur Mead, George Marriott, Neville Sherwood, and R Service.

In interclub competition in 1946 we were successful in winning our first track premiership since 1929; winning the "F" Grade pennant. This team was captained by John Wain, who was coaxed out of retirement to lead a group of young and new competitors.

The juniors were also dominant; winning Junior 1 and Junior 3 and then being successful in winning the Grand Junior Challenge Championships. Roy Fontaine was coach and his personality and love of the sport was a driving force in the rebuilding of the club. Socially the club was very active. Led by J Hyams, the club held card nights, dances, and a "Boomerang Special Effort" fund raiser. This effort raised 92 pounds (\$184) which was over a half of all

funds raised during the season. Subscriptions were 28 pounds (\$56) and Donations 20 pounds (\$40).

Like most clubs during the second world war, the "Hunters" had found it very difficult to keep going; with membership at a low ebb. Fortunately, junior athletes had maintained a club presence in competitions and showed a sound club spirit.

Following the war years, an influx of ex-servicemen and with the boost of more juniors, we entered the post war period looking towards a bright future.

The 1945-46 track season proved to be most successful, with four senior and three junior teams. Senior teams were in A, C, E and F; with F grade winning the premiership. This team was led by Jim Wain who was coaxed out of retirement to lead an inexperienced team of athletes.

Our three junior teams were even more successful, winning both the Junior 1 and Junior 3 premierships and the Grand Junior Challenge championship for that year. Three premierships in one year created some sort of record.

Our depth in sprinting at this time was evident and was demonstrated in the resumed Victorian Championships when we won the 4x110 yard. senior relay, the under 17 4x110 yards relay and we were second in the under 19 4x220yd relay.

Jack Stock was Club Captain, and was supported by Roy Foley, Bill Johnson, Noel Sherwood, R. Service, Neil Morrison, Wayne Treloar, Arthur Mead, Geoff Marriot, J. O'Meare, K. Waterman, I Bell, and J. Elliot were all fine young sprinters trained capably by club coach Roy La Fontaine, whose forceful personality and love of athletics gave our teams a great spirit. Gus Theobald gave invaluable service as walking coach.

Bob Davis, the Club President, resumed his duties after returning from active war service and we had a strong Social Committee, which coordinated many activities with the Women's Athletics Club and with the Caulfield Lacrosse Club. This provided a healthy atmosphere for development.

Adequate club equipment was still a problem, with the club relying on old pre-war equipment at a time when new advances were being made. Wooden javelins, wooden hurdles with a heavy base structure, and pole vaulting with heavy bamboo poles, deterred participants and were not popular events with club members.

Apart from our depth of sprinters, we had strong support from Maurice Burke in the 440yd hurdles, Gus Theobald, Bill McKinna and Ben Blackey in walking, Ivan Edwards in hurdles, and Laurie Boyle, Keith Lyons and George Nevitt in the distance events. Roy Foley dominated the field events, while Ron Gibson was a state class high jumper. These members provided the club with competitive all-round strength.

The Club celebrated its 25th Silver Jubilee Anniversary in 1946 with dual events, namely a pie-night after training, followed later by a Silver Jubilee Dinner.

Season 1946-47 track season was also a relatively successful one for the club. We finished on top of the ladder in B and D Grades, were 2nd in G Grade and our Junior team was also second. Disappointingly none could manage a flag.

Members were saddened during the season when Les Osmond, a veteran club walker, died in the changerooms after an interclub meeting in which he had competed in a 1-mile walk.

Gus Theobald was showing a liking to the longer walks and finished runner up in the Victorian 50km Championship in 1947 and 1948. Roy Foley was beginning to improve in the Hammer Throw, finishing third in the Victorian Championships as well as a competition best in B Grade.

Membership was still quite large at 97-the fourth largest in the Association, but there were soon signs of a decline, with the following year only 70 members were registered (we fell from 4th to 10th ranking in the association).

By 1948 the club was not living up to the promise indicated immediately after the war and although spirit was still strong, membership had fallen rapidly. This appeared to be against the trends being reported by the VAAA which were indicating that registered members were the highest in the history of the association. We had 3 senior teams B, D, and F grades and 1 junior team. B Grade was defeated by Williamstown in the semi-finals.

The VAAA was also mindful of the menace of professional sport luring many athletes with their prize money. Our club lost one of its most promising juniors, Laurie Boyle, to professional running, along with others to football.

The 1948/49 season saw the club continue to struggle, with the teams dropping to 9th in B Grade, 10th in D Grade and last in F Grade. Our junior team finished 7th in junior B Grade.

Club spirit was still high, however, and this was evident by several of our members combining to form a club Table Tennis team; winning premierships in both A and B Grade of the local competition. Games were played on a Monday night with many of the future long-term members mentioned below being enthusiastic players. Peter Colthup and Keith Lyons were fine table tennis players.

By 1949 the club was in troubled times. Membership had fallen to below 50 (34 seniors and 12 juniors) and ranked 20th in the association. This was a huge drop in membership from 4th position just two years earlier. Members who stuck by the club through this period were certainly dedicated. By the end of the season, the secretary Roy Foley was able to report on great cooperation and a new atmosphere pervading the club. Many of these members remained active in the club through to the 1980's and some into the 90's. They include, Bob Davis, Roy Foley, Peter Colthup, Don Elliot, Jim Conway, Keith Lyons, Ian Wrightsmith, Don Carr and of course Gus Theobald. Gus was perhaps our brightest star in 1949 when he won the 50 km walking championship from club mate Bill McKinna. A young sprinter K. Robinson finished third in both the 100 and 220 yd Victorian Championships.

Handicap racing was popular in the club in the years following the war, with the popular Whitelaw 660 yds the race to win. Memorial handicaps to remember those members lost in

the war were significant events and included; the Joe Hyams 130yds, the Tom Williams 1 mile, the R.C. Davie 440yds and the Athol Opas triple jump (or hop, step and jump as it was referred to then).

These handicaps brought a source of enjoyment and challenge to all who participated. Some members were known to not to give their best on Saturday if there was a handicap on the Sunday morning. They also brought to light talent with athletes attempting events in which they would not normally participate. At times the Whitelaw was held at Olympic Park, but the most eventful races were those held on a straight 660yd course on the Caulfield Racecourse. Don Elliot won the 1950 event off 60 yards from sprinter Barry Glenister who was off 70 yards.

The 1949-50 summer season saw some improvement with C Grade reaching the final four but were hampered in the semi-finals by three members being unavailable; we lost to Essendon Harriers. Don Carr was club track captain. With John Sutor E Grade captain, and Norm Pert junior captain. To our credit, we kept the final result in doubt until the final two events; this being due to the great cooperation of all team members. The club was saddened by the death of promising pole vaulter Orm Schmidt. This was a period when talented Amateur footballers joined the club to keep fit during the summer, and unfortunately this particular year their football commitments clashed with the C Grade Grand Final. Several years later, two of our talented track athletes, Bob Watt and Ian Drohan became regular League players with St Kilda.

Social events were organised by Ron Lawrence and Don Carr and took the form of picnics to Seaford and Mornington, and dances in the club rooms (Barn dancing); in particular a regular dance held in conjunction with the Caulfield Lacrosse Club at the Caulfield Bowling Club. These events had a significant effect in getting the club back on strength with both talent and youth.

Gus Theobald repeated his win in the 50km Victorian Walking championship in 1950.