

MILOCARIAN ATHLETIC CLUB

Established 1930

President: Maj Gen K R Spacie, CB, CBE.

REPORT ON THE 2012/13 SEASON.

Introduction.

- 1.The club maintained its record of having fielded a team of runners every year since 1946.
- 2.A programme of 8 races against civilian clubs in the London area was undertaken and some notable successes achieved.
- 3.Closer co-operation with Sandhurst and London University OTC had been pursued over recent years and it began to make a serious contribution to the club's performances this season.
- 4.For the first time in at least a decade, members of all three services turned out for the club.
- 5.During the year the Milocarian trophies were taken up by very prestigious events.
- 6,In all, it was a very encouraging year.

The Committee.

- 7.During the year the following members served on the club committee:

Neil Wood, late Army – Chairman.

Paul French, late Army – Cross Country Secretary.

John McCarthy, late RAF – Treasurer.

Michael Sumpter, late RAF – Secretary.

The Fixture List.

- 8.The club contested the following fixtures:

7 Jul 12	Finch Coasters, The Runnymede Relays.
18 Oct 12	Kingston & Polytechnic Harriers 5 miles.
27 Oct 12	Bank of England 6 miles.
8 Dec 12	Ranelagh AC 5.5 miles, The Ellis Trophy,
16 Feb 13	Kingston & Polytechnic Harriers 9 miles.
2 Mar 13	Ranelagh AC 3.7 miles.
9 Mar 13	Orion Harriers 10 miles.
25 Mar 13	Bank of England 6 miles. (Postponed from 19 Jan 13).

9.Notable Results.

a.General. The club potentially was able to field a strong mix of established runners and fit, fast cadets from Sandhurst and London University OTC and whenever the two components came together the Milocarians could usually claim both individual and team honours. Overall, of the 7 cross country matches contested, the club won two and was runner up in two.

b.Highlights.

i.The Ellis Trophy. The club had won this prestigious cup twice before in a span of 25 years. In putting the club's name on the trophy for the third time, Capt Frazer Alexander, of the Sandhurst permanent staff, led the field and good packing gave the team a slim winning margin over Serpentine AC, last year's winners.

ii.Kingston & Polytechnic Harriers 9 Miles. Capt Alexander was again the individual winner, in this demanding event, but some very able home runners pushed the Milocarian team into second place.

iii.Bank of England, 25 Mar 13. On a thoroughly wintry day the club finished off the season with a convincing individual win for O.Cdt Austin, from Sandhurst – a very powerful runner – and a solid team effort that also secured the team result.

c.The Runnymede Relays. This event, for teams of 6, takes place in Windsor Great Park, usually when both Sandhurst and the OTC are in recess. Nevertheless, two teams were entered, with a useful core of OTC cadets who lived in the London area providing valuable support to the regular runners. Out of more than 40 teams, the A team finished in the top 10 and the B team in the top half of the field.

10.The Home Match.

a.It had been customary for the club to organise a season-opening invitation match, for The Terry Lewins Cup, at Sandhurst in September, each year. The event was run in conjunction with the cadets' inter-company race with a separate finish provided for the Milocarian race. This race was much appreciated by the civilian clubs who were invited to take part because it was well-organised, took place in spectacular surroundings, had a demanding course and was renowned for its post-race tea, produced by the committee's wives.

b.The home match had fallen into abeyance because the club's active membership had fallen to the point where it could not both provide the organisation for the event and enter a team. This problem is steadily being tackled and it is hoped that the event will be able to be revived in the next year or two.

Membership.

11.The club currently has 59 members, but a large proportion is supportive, but no longer active, thus new members are always needed. Currently, club subs are £15 for the first year, which includes the cost of the member's club vest and £10 a year thereafter, payable by direct debit.

12.Cadets and undergraduates in OTCs are signed up and given a vest on the understanding that their direct debits will not be activated until they are commissioned or they graduate.

13.The unfortunate combination of reductions in service numbers and growth of operational commitments has meant that it has been impossible for the club to count on a cadre of regular runners in recent years. However, a race programme is arranged every year and published on the website, www.milocarianac.info.uk, so that opportunities to run are available to members whenever their commitments allow. It is hoped that members, particularly those recruited as cadets, will get into the habit of keeping in touch and turning up to run when they can.

14. Cross country running is probably not the Navy's natural form of exercise and the club had not fielded any sailors in its teams for about a decade, so it was a particular pleasure to welcome Capt. Lewin RM to the club to complete the tri-service representation.

15. Publicity.

a. Members have put up posters advertising the club in their units and in MoD buildings.

b. Articles about the club, particularly its Olympic associations, have been published in The Pennant, The Wish Stream and in RCT/RASC Association journal, The Waggoner.

Milocarian Trophies.

16. General. The club has two trophies that are pledged to external competitions, a third that is the club's challenge cup and a former member has recently donated a further trophy to be awarded annually to the club's leading individual.

17. The Milocarian Cup. A George III silver urn was bought in 1946 to commemorate the club's war dead and was pledged to the then AAA for youth sport. In May 2012 it was presented to the winning athletics team at the Sainsbury's Schools Games, held in the Olympic Stadium. It was a proud moment for the club.

18. The Milocarian Trophy. This was adopted by Achilles AC for their annual inter-schools relay championships and awarded to the winning girls team. The event is held at Iffley Road, Oxford, where Roger Bannister broke the four minute mile.

19. The Terry Lewins Trophy. This trophy was inaugurated in memory of a long-standing member of the club, in 1988 and has been competed for by the clubs running in the Milocarian's home match, held at Sandhurst. The competition is currently in abeyance, but will be revived as soon as club resources can support it appropriately.

20. The Ploen Trophy. A former member and international triple jumper, Derrick Frost, very kindly donated funds for a cup to be awarded annually to the member scoring the highest number of points, based on races run and finish positions over the course of each season's race programme. The name of the trophy commemorates the town in Germany where King Alfred's School for service children was based; the connection being that the school had won the Milocarian Cup 6 times in 7 years, between 1952 and 1958.

Acknowledgements.

21. Sincere thanks are due to the members of staff at Sandhurst, London University OTC and 4 Para (V) for their efforts in turning out runners. The club's successes during the year would have been impossible without Maj Kelly and Capt Alexander at Sandhurst, Capt Calderwell at the OTC and Lt. Warren-Smith of 4 Para (V); they have been patient, responsive and endlessly helpful; the committee is in their debt.

22. Finally, the energy and persistence of Paul French, the cross country secretary, in seeking out suitable competitions to which the club's trophies could be pledged was admirable and achieved a wholly satisfactory outcome. The club's standing has been immeasurably enhanced by his efforts.