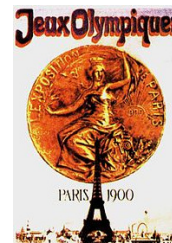




# WYLDEFYRE

December 2012 No 31

Contributions & Comments to [dauidwood61@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dauidwood61@hotmail.co.uk)



**BWFAC Events** **Mid Lancs** **Interclub & Club**

**Champ Fell Races** **English FR Champ** **Interclub**

**Races Club Champ** **Lancs, Northern or**

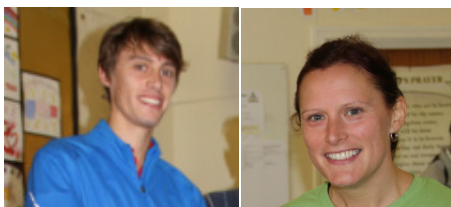
**National Events** **YAL League** **NA League**

**Sportshall League**

**Abbreviations & Key:** Club Champ races are marked with asterisks; **ICoun** – Inter Counties; **HM** – Half Marathon; **TR** – Trail Run; **FR** – Fell Race; **MT** – Multi-Terrain; **CE** – Combined Events; **NA** – Northern Athletics; **YAL** – Young Athletes League; **EIS** – English Institute of Sport; **ESAA** – English Schools Athletic Association; **BUSA** – British University Sports Association; **BMAF** – British Masters Athletic Federation; **NVAC** – Northern Veterans Athletic Club; **CAU** – UK Counties Athletic Union; **IAAF** – International Association of Athletics Federations; **IAU** – International Association of Ultrarunners; **CH** – Club Handicap; **IC** – Inter Club; **CBP** – Championship Best Performance; **Ch** – Championship; **CC** – Club Championship; **JR** – junior races; **U** – under; **V** – vet; **ncr** – new club record since merger in 2006; **CR** – new club record including records set under Blackpool & Fylde AC and North Fylde AC; **CR** – course record **HJ** – High Jump; **LJ** – Long Jump; **DT** – Discus; **SP** – Shot; **PV** – Pole Vault; **H** – Hurdles; **h** – heat; **F** – Final; **c** – chip; **i** – indoor; **m** – metres; **M** – Mile; **K** – Kilometre; **'** – feet; **dq** – disqualified; **ws** – wind speed

## October's Athletes of the Month

The female recipient is **Stasia Bligh** for her performances on the Road and at cross country during October. Similarly the male recipient is **Luke Minns** also for his performances on the Road and at cross country and both for their support of Club events. Also nominated were **Trevor Uttley** and **Norman Greenwood**. **Luke and Stasia** at the **Green Drive 5M**



**Foreword:** This month there is a report on the Club Presentation evening and comprehensive results including the World Biathlon Championship and Liverpool Cross Challenge. There is also a profile of Alf Tysoe. Merry Christmas!

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS DIARY

- 01/12/12 Leeds Young Athletes Indoor Open, John Charles Centre
- 02/12/12 **Mince pie Handicap** New Road
- 02/12/12 Guys 10M, Ulverston 10K & Bolton by Bowland FR 7.7M/801'
- 02/12/12 Manchester Indoor Open Sportscity
- 08/12/12 **Mid Lancs XC** Crooklands Kendal & NA Indoor Open Sheffield
- 09/12/12 Longridge 7M & Stockport 10M
- 09/12/12 **European XC Championship** Budapest HUN
- 15/12/12 Red Rose XC League Bolton & Great Langdale 10K (race 1)
- 15/12/12 Sticky Chocolate 5K & 10K TR
- 16/12/12 **Club Xmas Predictor Races** Stanley Park
- 16/12/12 Great Langdale 10K (race 2) & Hurst Green 5M (TR)
- 16/12/12 Manchester Indoor Open Sportscity
- 23/12/12 Rudolf's Red Nose 5M (MT)
- 26/12/12 Boxing Day 10K Leyland & Shell Chester Round Walls 4.5M
- 27/12/12 Festive 5K Lancaster & Wansfell FR (2.1M/1329') Ambleside
- 30/12/12 **Ribble Valley 10K inc Northern Athletics Champ** Clitheroe
- 05/01/12 **Lancs XC Championship** Blackburn
- 05 & 06/01/13 **England Athletics inc NA Sen & U20 Combined Events**
- 06/01/13 Central Lancs New Year Half Marathon Catforth
- 06/01/13 Manchester Indoor Open Sportscity
- 12 & 13/01/13 **NA Indoor Champs** EIS Sheffield
- 12/01/13 **Mid Lancs XC** Hyndburn
- 13/01/13 **Lancashire Sportshall League**, Blackpool
- 13/01/13 Garstang 10K & South East Lancs XC Leigh Sports Village
- 20/01/13 Inskip Half Marathon
- 26/01/13 **Northern Athletics XC Champs** Knowsley Liverpool
- 26/01/13 British Athletics International Match, Glasgow
- 27/01/13 Chernobyl 10K Preston
- 02/02/13 **British Universities XC Champs** Bodington Play Fields Leeds
- 03/02/13 Manchester Indoor Open Sportscity
- 03/02/13 Witton Pk Trail Relay (3x5K/189m) & Jun Relay (3x2.5K/106m)
- 09/02/13 **Mid Lancs XC** Lancaster University
- 09 & 10/02/13 **British Athletics European Trials & UK Champs** EIS Sheffield
- 10/02/13 Blackburn Winter Warmer 10K/Junior 2.5K & Southport 10K
- 16/02/13 British Athletics Grand Prix NIA Birmingham
- 17/02/13 **Lancashire Sportshall League**, Blackpool Sports Centre
- 23/02/13 **ECCA XC Champs** Sunderland
- 24/02/13 Manchester Indoor Open Sportscity
- 02/03/13 **Mid Lancs XC** Beacon Park Skelmersdale
- 09/03/13 **Inter Counties XC Championships** & Vault Manchester
- 23/03/12 **Northern 12 & 6 Stage Road Relays** Blackpool
- 24/03/13 **World XC Championship** Bydgoszcz Poland
- 27/04/12 **National Athletics 12 & 6 Stage Road Relays** Birmingham
- 25 & 26/05/12 **Lancs T&F Championship**
- 30/06/13 British Athletics Birmingham Grand Prix, Alexander Stadium
- 12 to 14/07/13 **British Athletics World Trials & UK Champs** Alexander Stadium
- 26 & 27/07/13 British Athletics London Grand Prix

# REPORTS & RESULTS

## UIPM XIV Biathlon World Championship:

Dubai, November 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Youth C Male (13 & 14 years):** (R 500m/S 100m/R 500m) **Samuel Matthews** 8<sup>th</sup> 4:57; **Thomas Matthews** 20<sup>th</sup> 6:27 (Samuel part of the Gold Medal winning team).

**Youth B Male (15 & 16 years):** (R 1000m/S 200m/R 1000m 5<sup>th</sup>) **William Eccleston** 9:33 (part of the Gold medal winning team).

**Youth A Male (17 & 18 years):** (1500m/S 200m/1500m) **Adam Weightman** 6<sup>th</sup> 12:04 (part of the Gold Medal winning team).

## Club Handicap: New Lane November 4<sup>th</sup> CH

**Andy Smith** 21:36 PB; **Dave Randall** 27:39; **Graham Davies** 25:43; **Lee Barlow** 23:04; **Tanya Barlow** 28:21; **Tony Croft** 29:23; **Ian Close** 26:48; **John Bradley** 35:41; **Peter Gibson** 27:51. Timekeeper: **Sharon Randall** Helpers: **Mr Randall & David Wood**.

A beautiful if cold autumn morning and again **Andy Smith** set a new personal best.

## Sportshall League: Blackpool SC Nov 11<sup>th</sup> SL

The of first three Lancashire League meetings started on Remembrance Sunday with a minute's silence – the only quiet moment for the next six hours as the decibel level rose, as 200 hundred excited children cheered on their team-mates who they raced, jumped and threw!

The final result showed that **Preston Harriers** were first with 294.50 points and **BWFAC** were second with 191.25 points. The individual age categories were as follows: **U11G** 42.5 pts 2<sup>nd</sup>; **U11B** 31.75 pts 4<sup>th</sup>; **U11G** 13.5 pts 5<sup>th</sup>; **U13B** 62.5 1<sup>st</sup> (**Connor Finlayson** was joint U13B Athlete of the Match with 23 pts); **U15G** 10 pts 6<sup>th</sup>; **U15B** 31 pts 2<sup>nd</sup> (**Harry Mercer** was U15B Athlete of the Match).

## Club Presentation: Hilton Hotel Nov 16<sup>th</sup> CP

### Meritorious Trophies 2011 Awards:

**Quayle Trophy:** (Most outstanding athlete male or female)

**Carl Myerscough**

**Large Langen Trophy:** (Runner-up Quayle Trophy - Male)

**Luke Minns**

**Small Langen Trophy:** (Runner-up Quayle Trophy - Female)

**Lydia Critchley**

**Cartmell Dragon Trophy:** (Most outstanding Veteran)

**Steve Waterhouse**

**Cocker Trophy:** (Club spirit and Turning out Regardless)

**Taegan O'Hara**

**Vaux Tankard:** (Most successful Male U18, track or XC)

**Henry Taylor**

**Langen Hesson Plaque:** (Most improved Female 15-17)

**Rebecca Todd**

**Chairman's Trophy:** (Most improved Male 15-17)

**Robbie Morris**

**Southern Trophy:** (Most improved Female 13-15)

**Fiona Hockey**

**Rowland Jones Trophy:** (Most improved Male 13-15)

**Dom Lavelle**

**Kennel Trophy:** (Most improved Female 11-13)

**Jessica Aziz**

**Ryan Trophy:** (Most improved Male 11-13)

**Christian Linton**

**Brooks Barrel:** (Encouragement Award 10-12)

**Hannah Eadie/William Holmes**

**Pendleton Trophy:** (Best Female Middle Distance)

**Lydia Critchley**

**B Ae Trophy:** (Best Male Middle Distance)

**Luke Minns**

**Sandra Helme Trophy:** (Best Throws Female 13 – 15)

**Jordan Dixon**

**B Ae Trophy** (Encouragement Award Throws Male U17)

**Aaron Thomas**

**Bernard Berry Memorial:** (Best Female U17 Track)

**Kate Lawler**

**Gerard Williams Trophy:** (Awarded for Perseverance & Consistency in Sprinting U17 & Senior)

**Lucy Mansfield**

**Bob Hope Trophy:** (Best Throws Male or Female)

**Carl Myerscough**

**Jack Pritchard Trophy:** (Best Male U17 Track)

**Jake Walley**

**Club Road Running Trophy:** (Outstanding Road Performance Male or Female)

**Luke Minns**

**Centenary Trophy:** (Best Jumps Award Male of Female)

**Josette Green**

**President's Trophy:** (Best Multi-events Performance)

**Beth Everson**

**Fell Running Trophy:** (Most outstanding Fell Running Male)

**Gary Johnston**

**Fell Running Trophy:** (Female)

**No Award**

**Ron Helmn Trophy:** (For the best 800m runner aged 14)

**Samuel Matthews**

**Alf Tysoe Team Trophy** (Outstanding Team Performance)

**U15 Girl's Road Relays**

*(See Athletic Profile of Alfred Ernest Tysoe on page 5)*

**Peter Smith Meritorious Award:** (Outstanding Services to the Club – Female)

**Jessica Bevington**

**Tony Croft Meritorious Award:** (Outstanding Services to the Club – Male)

**Bob Massey**

**Road Championship Salver Men:**

**John Wright**

**Road Championship Salver Women:**

**Caroline Betmead**

**Trail Running Championship Men:**

**John Wright**

**Trail Running Championship Women:**

**Bev Wright**

### Cross Country Championship:

**U11G** **Champion** **Jasmine Jolly**

**U11G** **Second place** **Hannah Eadie**

**U11G** **Third place** **Isabelle Woodman**

**U11B** **Champion** **George Robinson**

**U11B** **Second place** **Christian Linton**

**U11B** **Third place** **Jerome Jolly**

**U13G** **Champion** **Deni Impett**

**U13G** **Second place** **Annie Bradshaw**



U13G Third place Emily Hall  
 U15G Champion Molly Betmead  
 U15G Second place Alisha Johnson  
 U15G Third place Fiona Hockey  
 U17W Champion Lauren Gowland  
 U17W Second place Jodie Ferguson  
 U17M Champion Sean Kenny  
 U20M Champion Adam Weightman  
 U20W Champion Bianca Pedersen  
 SW Champion Laura Lawler  
 F45 First place Karen Dunford  
 SM Champion Luke Minns  
 M45 First place John Wright  
 M50 First place Peter Singleton  
 M55 First place Gary Johnston

**Track & Field Trophies:**

U11B Winner James Smith  
 U11B Runner-up Sam Wise  
 U11G Winner Kirsty Rushton  
 U11G Runner-up Isabelle Woodman  
 U13B Winner Christian Linton  
 U13B Runner-up Jerome Jolly  
 U13G Winner Jessica Aziz  
 U13G Runner-up Katy Laycock  
 U15B Winner Nick Aziz  
 U15B Runner-up Dom Lavelle  
 U15G Winner Fiona Hockey  
 U15G Runner-up Jordan Dixon  
 U17M Winner Connor McCormick  
 U17M Runner-up Luis Blyth

U17W Winner Kate Lawler  
 U17W Runner-up Josette Green  
 U20M Winner Adam Snape  
 U20M Runner-up Marcus Quarmby  
 U20W Winner Katy Wyper  
 U20W Runner-up Alicia Johnston  
 SM Winner Alex Bale  
 SM Runner-up Dave Shaw  
 SW Winner Laura Gillhespy  
 SW Runner-up Claire Irons

**Road Championship:**

SW Champion Bev Wright  
 F35 First place Stasia Bligh  
 F40 First place Laura Lawler  
 F55 First place Alison Titterington  
 F65 First place Hilary Goorney  
 SM Champion John Wright  
 M40 First place Steve Waterhouse  
 M45 First place Trevor Uttley  
 M50 First place Dave Randall  
 M60 First place Tony Croft  
 M75 First place John Winters

**Road Standards Award:**

Bronze Male V50 Dave Randall

It was a sparkling occasion for the athletes of **Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde AC** as the Track & Field and Road runners of the club swapped their shorts, vests and tracksuits for their prettiest frocks and smartest suits to attend the annual Presentation Night at the Hilton Hotel. This was an evening

to celebrate individual successes of club members throughout this Olympic year of 2012.

After a delicious hot buffet immaculately served by the Hilton Hotel, the awards were presented by special guest Paralympian **David Devine**, who represented Great Britain and Northern Ireland at this year's Paralympic Games in the spectacular Olympic Stadium. David, still only twenty years old, won two Bronze medals in the 800 metres and 1500 metres, in the visual impairment category (T13). BWFAC's Secretary, **Nick Hume** acted as Master of Ceremonies and presented a film show that he had prepared, showing the award winners. He was assisted by the Chairman, **Alan Smart** and the Vice Chairman, **Bob Massey**.

Before the presentation of the awards, **David Devine** on



behalf of **Claire Buckle**, the Club & Coach Support Officer for England Athletics North, who was unable to attend, presented **Howard Henshaw**, BWFAC's President and **Derek Newton**, leading coach and Schools Liaison Officer, with a renewal of the **Club Mark Accreditation**.

David also kindly hosted a short question and answer session with the audience, in which he revealed how he started in athletics and some of his future ambitions. As a little boy he enjoyed playing football, but when older because of his visual impairment, it was impractical to continue playing when he would have moved up to the 11 a side game. His father, who had a background as a runner, encouraged David to take up athletics.

He has recently started training for longer distances and has competed in a couple of 5000 metres races, with a best time of 14:34.46 and December's Ribble Valley 10K (30:55). His times are already very impressive for someone who originally started out as a 400 metre runner. He anticipates eventually moving up to the marathon distance.

### **Mid-Lancs XC: Sefton Park Liverpool Nov 24<sup>th</sup> ML**

**U11G** Maisie Rogers 21<sup>st</sup> 9:01; Natalie Luczak 31<sup>st</sup> 9:40; Caitlyn Preddy 32<sup>nd</sup> 9:47.

**U11B** Benjamin Preddy 7<sup>th</sup> 7:43; James Smith 14<sup>th</sup> 8:00.

**U13G** Hannah Eadie 70<sup>th</sup> 14:13.

**U13B** Connor Finlayson 15<sup>th</sup> 11:20 (Probably first Mid Lancs U13B); George Robinson 63<sup>rd</sup> 12:41.

**U15G** Deni Impett 38<sup>th</sup> 12:17; Jessica Rogers 62<sup>nd</sup> 12:59.

**U17W** Molly Betmead 24<sup>th</sup> 17:19; Kelly Smith 78<sup>th</sup> 20:56.

**U20W** Lauren Gowland 36<sup>th</sup> 17:46.

**SW** Andrea Smith 110<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> L45) 38:40; Karen Dunford 122<sup>nd</sup> 39:59; Laura Lawler 134<sup>th</sup> (17<sup>th</sup> L35) 41:23; Hilary Goorney 165<sup>th</sup> (11<sup>th</sup> L55) 52:33; Claire Irons 167<sup>th</sup> 53:15.

**SM** Malc Eadie 151<sup>st</sup> (12<sup>th</sup> V40) 36:22; John Wright 171<sup>st</sup> (6<sup>th</sup> V40) 37:38; Adam Weightman 179<sup>th</sup> 37:58; Trevor Utley 193<sup>rd</sup> (13<sup>th</sup> V40) 38:35; Andrew Smith 257<sup>th</sup> 40:57; Gary Johnston 297<sup>th</sup> 42:17; Alan Wilkinson 448<sup>th</sup> 50:04; Norman Greenwood 477<sup>th</sup> 1:01:42.

The McCains Liverpool Cross Challenge is part of a series

**The Senior Men's race: 924 Jonathan Taylor (winner); 892 Thomas Humphries (2<sup>nd</sup>); 926 John Beattie (17<sup>th</sup>); 908 Luke Cragg (15<sup>th</sup>); 961 Frank Tinker (6<sup>th</sup>); 947 Steve Vernon (3<sup>rd</sup>); 879 Neilson Hall (9<sup>th</sup>)**



of cross country races that take place across the United Kingdom. The first one was four weeks ago in Bristol and the next ones are at Antrim and Cardiff with a grand final in Birmingham in March 2013. With prize money for all age categories (apart from the under 11s) and qualification for European Cross Country Championship in Budapest in Hungary, many of the Britain's elite athletes were attracted to the event. The Mid Lancs league and Liverpool league competitions were also incorporated.

A blanket of cloud covered Sefton Park in Liverpool and after over a month of wet weather and with some particularly heavy rain in the previous 24 hours, the ground conditions were soft. There were several very muddy sections; however thankfully the rain held off until the competition ended and so conditions were reasonable for both competitors and spectators.

**Extrapolated Mid Lancs results had not been published at the time of writing. These will be published in January's Wyldefyre.**

## **Other Results:**

### **29<sup>th</sup> Through the Villages' Race: Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Peter Broome 36<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> MV55) 58:14; David Twizell 168<sup>th</sup> 74:57. First of 213 was Andi Jones in 44:17 and first lady was Olivia Walwyn-Bush of City of Norwich AC (7<sup>th</sup>) in 50:06.

### **Red Rose XC League: Hyndburn November 10<sup>th</sup>**

**U11B** Benjamin Preddy 10<sup>th</sup> 8:36. **U11G** Caitlyn Preddy 26<sup>th</sup> 10:42. **U15G** Deni Impett 3<sup>rd</sup> 16:33. **SM** Malc Eadie 26<sup>th</sup> 39:01.

### **Windmill 10K: Lytham November 11<sup>th</sup>**

Harry Poole 8<sup>th</sup> 36:42; Bev Wright 38<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> F & 1<sup>st</sup> FV50) 41:30; Derek Crane 66<sup>th</sup> 43:55 **PB**; Tanya Barlow 107<sup>th</sup> (12<sup>th</sup> F) 46:14; Vicky Robinson 266<sup>th</sup> (50<sup>th</sup> F) 53:26; Bernard Singleton 328<sup>th</sup> 55:57. First of 552 was Paul Lockwood of Wakefield & District Harriers in 31:38 **PB**.

### **Preston 10M: Hutton November 18<sup>th</sup>**

James Mulvany 4<sup>th</sup> 56:22, c 56:22; Bev Wright 81<sup>st</sup> (9<sup>th</sup> F & 2<sup>nd</sup> FV50) 1:07:59, c 1:07:55; David Dyson 214<sup>th</sup> 1:18:51 c 1:18:34; Peter Gibson 227<sup>th</sup> 1:20:02, c 1:19:23; Jeff Wright 299<sup>th</sup> 1:23:58, c 1:23:18; John Bradley 428<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> MV70) 1:30:35, c 1:30:01; Hilary Goorney 532<sup>nd</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> FV65) 1:38:44, c 1:37:48. First of 661 was Gethin Butler of Preston Harriers in 53:43 and first lady was Emma Parry of Wrexham AC (21<sup>st</sup>) in 1:01:31.

### **Leeds Abbey Dash 10K: November 18<sup>th</sup>**

Stuart Robinson (Salford Harriers/BWFAC) 54<sup>th</sup> 31:57, c 31:54; Eddie Broome 635<sup>th</sup> 40:55, c 40:44. First 7378 was Luke Cragg of Leeds City AC in 29:29 and first lady was Alyson Dixon of Chester-le-Street AC (82<sup>nd</sup>) in 32:53.

### **Wesham 10K: November 24<sup>th</sup>**

Stuart Robinson 1<sup>st</sup> 32:17 (Salford Harrier/BWFAC) ; Daniel Quarmby 9<sup>th</sup> 35:03; Liam Craine 19<sup>th</sup> 36:11 **PB**; Bev Wright 93<sup>rd</sup> (8<sup>th</sup> F & 1<sup>st</sup> FV50) 41:48; Stasia Bligh 100<sup>th</sup> (9<sup>th</sup> F & 2<sup>nd</sup> FV35) 42:18; Kevin Woods 134<sup>th</sup> 43:58; Tanya Barlow 181<sup>st</sup> (30<sup>th</sup> F) 45:53; Peter Gibson 189<sup>th</sup> 46:12; Dave Dyson 211<sup>th</sup> 46:53; David Twizell 293<sup>rd</sup> 51:47; John Bradley 305<sup>th</sup> 52:15; John Winters 318<sup>th</sup> 52:57. First lady was Sara Parkinson of Chorley AC & Tri (32<sup>nd</sup>) 38:03 **PB**.

## **Athletic Profile – Alfred Ernest Tysoe**

**“The athletic world today mourns the death of Alfred Ernest Tysoe, the ex-amateur half-mile champion sprinter of the world...”**

This is how a report of Tysoe's death started in the Blackpool Gazette in 1901. In many ways Alf Tysoe was the Sebastian Coe of his era (*or should we say Coe was the Tysoe of his era*). Sadly Alf Tysoe died at a far too early age of 27, but in his short life he achieved a supreme status as an athlete and acknowledged to be the best half-mile/800m runner in the world.



Alf Tysoe was born on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 1874 at the Old Vicarage in Padiham. His father, Joseph was employed as a coachman and the Census records of 1891 give Alf's employment as a groom. His mother was Agnes Grame and he had a sister Bertha Louise, who was a year older and employed as a music teacher. He also had a younger brother, Frederick. Early on the family moved to Dolphinholme near Lancaster. As a schoolboy he was fond of covering long distances. He joined Skerton Harriers in 1892 and soon

made a name for himself, winning prizes in events from the 100 yards up to 10 miles. He was described as having 'a good chest and fine legs, whilst his style was very effective and he had a marvellous stride'. Her stood 5ft 9in and when in training weighed 10st 12lb.

In 1896 Alf won the Northern Counties 1000 yards and one mile championships. This brought him to the attention of **Harold Hardwick** who had founded Salford Harriers in 1884. He persuaded Alf to join **Salford Harriers** and further success soon followed. In 1897 he won the English National one mile and ten mile championships, as well as the Northern half mile and one mile championships. By now the family had moved to Blackpool, where he joined **Blackpool Harriers** as his second club. Success continued from 1898 to 1900 winning all three Northern Counties middle distance championships (apart from 1899 when the mile race was void). During this period he also won the Salford Harriers championships in distances from 440 yards to one mile. In the latter years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Tysoe concentrated on the half-mile distance, winning the English National in 1899 in 1:58.6, beating the Reverend WE Lutyens. The Championship in 1900 was particularly special, being described as practically a world championship. The American team had stopped off in England on the way to the Paris Olympics. Again Alf Tysoe collected the half-mile championship in a world record of 1:57.8, defeating top American **John Cregan** (*see appendix*) by ten yards.

Two weeks at the second **Olympic Games** which were held in conjunction with the Paris World Fair, Alf Tysoe was the favourite in the 800 metres competition having just set the 880 yards world record. The race was held at the Croix-Catelan Stadium on the Bois de Boulogne, home of Racing



Club de France association football club. The 'track' was 500 metres in length in a field, winding its way through a grove of trees, with several holes and bumps. Eighteen men were entered 800 metres of which nine were from the United States. There were three heats and in heat one Tysoe finished second behind **Dave Hall** of the USA and Alf's great rival **John Cregan** won heat three. The first two from each heat contested the final. John Cregan led early on in the race, but Alf Tysoe put in a devastating sprint in the final 100 metres to win in 2:01.2, three metres ahead of John, with **Dave Hall** a further eight metres back in third place.

Alf Tysoe was the second Briton to win an Olympic Gold; the first was **Charles Bennett** (see appendix), who had won



distances.

What an occasion it must have been in front of a crowd of 5000 as the two best middle distance runners prepared to race. Bennett set the pace early on trying to run the finish out of Tysoe, but with 200 yards to go Alf produced his final devastating sprint to beat Bennett by 20 yards finishing in 3:12.8.

Alf Tysoe was at the peak of his athletic ability and acknowledged at the best in the world. How sad to think that a year later Alf was dead.

Early in 1901 Alfred Tysoe had a severe attack of pleurisy and although he recovered somewhat and was able to resume training the Gazette in his obituary reported that "in August he caught a chill, which brought on bronchial pneumonia. This in turn developed consumption and tubercular meningitis..." Alf was recommended to go to the Isle of Wight for "open-air treatment". However his physical condition had deteriorated so much, it was decided he should go to Grange-over-Sands, but his condition had worsened and Alfred Tysoe died early Saturday morning October 26<sup>th</sup> 1901 at his parent's house in Watson lane. He was buried three days later in Layton cemetery.

It was reported in his obituary that Alf Tysoe was engaged on a book about his experiences on the track and views on training. I wonder if a copy exists.

### Appendix:

**John Cregan:** He was born January 29<sup>th</sup> 1878 in Schenectady, New York. He attended Princeton University and won the USA Amateur Athletic Union 880 yard in 1897 and 1898. At the Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes of America he won the 880 yard and the Mile for three successive years 1898 to 1900. At the 1900 Olympics he withdrew from the 1500m because the event was staged on a Sunday. After the 1900 Olympics there is no record of him competing and he died December 26<sup>th</sup> 1965 aged 87 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Personal Bests - 800 metres 1:55.3 (1897); Mile - 4:24.4 (1900).

**Charles Bennett:** For Charles Bennett whom Alfred Tysoe beat in Manchester, it was also his last major race. Charles Bennett was born December 28<sup>th</sup> 1870. He was a member of Finchley Harriers. He won the National one mile cham-

ionship from 1897 to 1899 and also the four mile and ten mile championships in 1899. He was also Southern cross country champion three times and winner of the English championship in 1899 and 1900. At the Paris Olympics he won the Gold medal defeating a rather weak field (the Americans missing because the final was on a Sunday) in a time of 4:06.2. Possibly one reason for not continuing competing was that he married Sarah Lena Lewis in 1902 and she was not happy about him travelling around the country to compete in athletic meetings. After employment as a train driver, he became the licensee of the Dolphin Inn in 1903. Charles and Sarah had five children. He died March 9<sup>th</sup> 1949.

Personal Bests: 1500m - 4:06.2 (1900); Mile - 4:24.2 (1899); 2 Miles - 9:35.0; 5000m - 15:20.0 (1900); 4 Miles - 19:48.0 (1899).

*Research for this was taken from various articles on the Internet and articles in the Blackpool Times, Blackpool Herald and Blackpool Gazette published in 1901. I understand Alan Seddon published an article recently in Athletics Weekly.*

Below is a recent photograph of Alf Tysoe grave in Layton Cemetery, which appears to have been restored after vandalism. His gravestone reads: "In loving memory of Alfred Ernest Tysoe. Amateur Champion half-mile runner of the world. Born March 21<sup>st</sup> 1874, Died October 26<sup>th</sup> 1901. 'Brief life is here our portion, brief sorrow, short-lived care. The life that knows no ending, the tearless life is there. 'This stone was erected by many admirers of this famous athlete, by whom he was held in the highest esteem.'" His father Joseph who died March 13<sup>th</sup> 1920 aged 72 and his mother who died June 28<sup>th</sup> 1929 aged 80 are also buried in this grave.

