



Valley News

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'What'll we do when we grow up?'

By BOB WASHBOURNE

(Founder Member)

In the years I have been running I have retained certain happy memories. Most of them you wouldn't believe, but here are just a few that you might:—

Ten to fifteen years ago a group of us used to run on Sunday mornings from Culver Close to Warleigh Weir, Claverton. That was in the days before the canal was fully restored, and very often to avoid the rough footpath we used to run in the newly laid concrete basin.

On arriving at Warleigh after a run that started at a gentle pace but finished as a race, we swam in the river near the weir. It is reputed that mermaids frequent the river on a Sunday, or is it the result of Saturday night's beer? Some of us may have seen them!

On one particularly sunny Sunday a group of us were swimming when two girls started to walk along the top of the weir. "Here come the young ladies!", or words to that effect, echoed down through Avon Valley, shouted at the top of his voice by Stan – I'm sure all of us present will remember that.

After a swim we would get our gear back on and struggle through the stinging nettles in the field behind the weir until we reached the road to Conkwell. Tim Northwood, who was a great participator in these activities, passed a comment that will live with me forever: "What'll we do when we grow up?" That foxed me: what *shall* we do when we grow up?

Which brings me to the next memory. Some years ago Stan and I were running down the hill into Bradford-on-Avon. Coming towards us was a very nice-looking girl of 16–18 years of age, her mother, and a very scraggy-looking mutt of a dog.

"Stan, I must be getting older," I said; "I look at the mothers these days, not the daughters."

"Don't worry," said Stan, "I looked at the dog."

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The Prague Marathon: Czech It Out!

By VIV TOMS

What is the Czech Republic famous for? Well, home of the Skoda, Franz Kafka, Pilsner beer, Dvořak (Hovis advert), Martina Navratilova, and now the Prague Marathon – because I ran it!

It's easy to believe that Prague is one of the most visited capitals in Europe, as it is really beautiful. You can spend hours just staring at the lovely buildings in art nouveau, rococo and baroque style. The outskirts of the city were a step back in time, with cobbled streets and dusty shop windows displaying bottles of beer, socks and brooms all jumbled together, and chemists' shops advertising "W**k" printed in bright green letters all over the windows! [*Must mean "work" – Ed.*]

Wenceslas Square is the complete opposite, like a smaller version of the Champs Elysées, with M & S, Planet Hollywood and of course McDonald's. By the way, Good King Wenceslas was a prince, not a king, and Wenceslas Square is not a square, but a broad avenue.

Czech food is an antidote to healthy eating (fatty pork and dumplings) but incredibly cheap – a four-course meal with bottle of wine costs £4. We had delicious herby potato cakes and a tumbler of hot wine from a stall for lunch for 15p, and you can ride all day long on the trams for about 12p.

The marathon itself was flat, through the old town (cobbled, which you didn't notice going out) along the riverside and back, crossing the famous Charles Bridge, so you could see the front runners on their way home and also how many people were behind you. We ran back through the old town plus an extra lap, which was cruel, as you could see the finish and had to run another eight kilometres on the blasted cobbles.

The organization was excellent, especially as they had two other races going on at the same time – a 10 kilometres and a children's race. There were free massages before and after the race, a really nice backpack and teeshirt when you collected your number, and a tacky medal and a jigsaw puzzle at the finish.

One hour forty minutes' flying time, which is a bonus for a poor traveller like me. Highly recommended, but it helps if you speak some German (or Czech). [*See Results, 24 May – Page 3.*]

Welcome to the Valley!

Three new members arrived during the past quarter – two juniors and one veteran. **Ashley Spedding**, who will be eight on 11 November, joined on 7 May; 11-year-old **Polly Beauchamp** on 4 June; and over-40 veteran **Kevin Sparey** on 21 May. We wish you all a long and happy stay in the Valley.

Milestones

Promotion to the next age-group is being forced on four veterans during the quarter ahead. **Paul Turner** will turn 45 on 22 August; **Michael Carpenter** will attain his half-century on 27 September; **Michael Gerrish** will be 55 on 27 July; and **Ron Whittle** will celebrate his 60th birthday on 14 August. Many happy returns of the day to all of you!

SECRETARY'S NOTES

First of all, I would like to congratulate Danny Kay on completing his 150th marathon at Stoke-on-Trent. The strange thing is that whenever I mention the Tom Roberts Handicap to him he beats a hasty retreat. In fact, at the June handicap seventy-one members managed to avoid it!

I cannot understand it, as it's always been an ambition of mine to do this race, but I have to be involved in the administration.

In the next few weeks I hope to be going into hospital for body repairs which will enable me to finish in a position other than last in races. The club will be in capable hands while I am away.

– Stan Farr.

RESULTS: April-June

- 5 APRIL - Paris Marathon:** Mike Pratt 3:57:02.
11 APRIL - Lliswerry 10M: Les Unsworth 1:0:37.
12 APRIL - Fivehead 10K: Rose Barber (3rd woman) 42:55, Susie Phillips (8th woman) 50:19, Judy Farr (9th woman) 50:36.
Guisley 10K: 45 Bob Ellis 43:00.
13 APRIL - Yeovil 10K: 54 Bernard Dunn 39:49, 65 Anthony Hickson 41:01, 66 Bob Sidwick 41:03.
14 APRIL - Heddington Hill Mile: 8 Anthony Hickson (2nd o-50) 8:57.
19 APRIL - AVR Over the Hills 10K: 15 Martin Connor 55:33, 16 Bob Ellis 55:35, 18 Alan Meadow 56:28, 25 Linda Brown (1st woman) 1:00:32, 45 Alex Cox 1:14:54, 46 Robin Porter 1:15:04. **Taunton Marathon:** Danny Kay 3:38:32, Viv Toms 4:03:58;
Half-Marathon: Mike Gerrish 1:55:47. **Frenchay 10K:** Rose Barber (2nd woman, 1st vet.) 44:43. **Corsham 6¼M:** Susie Phillips (5th woman) 47:43.
26 APRIL - London Marathon: 1,811 Richard Luke 3:07:40, 2,418 Ted Rockliffe 3:14:15, Ian Gibbs 3:35, Bernard Dunn 3:37, Danny Kay 3:40:36, Joyce Field 3:53:30, Diane Green 4:03:29, Helen Bellerby 4:12, Colin Webb 4:22, Derek Coop 5:30.
Shakespeare Marathon, Stratford-on-Avon: 14 Simon Spedding 3:00:16. **Newton Toney 8-5K:** 9 Rose Barber (1st woman) 37:14, 23 Judy Farr (3rd woman) 44:33; **4-1K:** 33 Stan Farr 28:13.
- 3 MAY - Pensford 2¼M:** 9 Hannah Spedding (1st girl) 22:53, 17 Ashley Spedding 24:56, 31 Lewis Spedding & Simon Spedding 27:23.
4 MAY - Springfield Triathlon (400m swim, 22K cycle, 5K run): 15 Simon Spedding 5:59 + 38:08 + 19:28 = 1:03:35, 155 Mandy Spedding 7:14 + 46:01 + 25:21 = 1:18:36, 282 Viv Toms (1st woman o-50) 11:30 + 56:12 + 28:31 = 1:36:13. **Bradford-on-Avon 3M:** 2 Alistair Bartlett 16:23, 4 Joby Hobbs 17:45, 9 Sam Ghey 18:52, 10 Rose Barber (1st woman) 19:03, 12 Geoff Johnson 19:11, 20 Bernie Hobbs 20:20, 24 Luke Hobbs 21:27, 26 Polly Beauchamp (1st u-14) 21:55, 28 Tony Bartlett (1st o-50) 22:09, 29 Bob Sales 22:24, 32 Susie Phillips (2nd woman) 22:54, 33 Judy Farr (1st vet.) 23:04, 40 Karen Newton 25:43, 44 Jake Hobbs 29:06.
10 MAY - Bristol Half-Marathon: 135 Ted Rockliffe 1:27:36, 214 Les Unsworth 1:30:41, 314 Bob Ellis 1:34:32, 436 Alan Meadow 1:38:07, 25 Mike Pratt 1:42:32, 1,236 Viv Toms 1:55:41.
12 MAY - Calne Relays: 3rd men's team: Gerry Fice 19:26 + John Kent 19:56 + Simon Spedding 19:30 = 58:52; 2nd woman's team: Rose Barber 22:40 + Joyce Field 25:49 + Mandy Spedding 24:31 = 1:13:00; 7th women's team: Linda Unsworth 26:45 + Denise Ellis 27:54 + Diane Green 26:17 = 1:20:56.
17 MAY - AVR 10K: 8 Nigel Stevens 39:15, 14 Rose Barber* (1st woman) 42:11, 26 Joyce Field* (1st o-50) 48:40, 27 Susie Phillips* (1st o-45) 49:07, 31 Robin Porter 52:55. *1st women's team.
23 MAY - Bath 10M: 14 Bob Ellis 1:0:32, 63 Tony Bartlett (1st o-60) 1:24:13, 5 Joyce Field 1:25:15, 73 John Bowley 1:37:40.
24 MAY - Prague Marathon: Viv Toms 4:09:13.
25 MAY - Wells City 5K: Women: 44 Rose Barber 20:04, 58 Susie Phillips 23:12, 59 Joyce Field 23:16, 63 Judy Farr 24:49; Veteran men: Anthony Hickson 19:45, John Bowley 25:31.
28 MAY - Tom Roberts 5K Handicap: 1 Alex Cox, 2 Roger Carey, 3 Geoff Johnson. Actual Times: 1 Alistair Bartlett 18:00, 2 Martin Connor 18:18, 3 Gerry Fice 18:27, 4 Joby Hobbs 18:54, 5 Roger Carey 20:02, Simon Reeves 20:06, 7 Richard Luke 20:13, 8 Ted Rockliffe 21:10, 9 Jackie Rockliffe 22:05, 10 Anthony Hickson 22:32, 11 Geoff Johnson 22:40, 12 Gordon Babb 23:13, 13 Alex Cox 23:42, 14 Pete Chapple 23:54, 15 Joyce Field 24:26, 16 Tony Bartlett 24:30, 17 Mike Hehir 24:50, 18 Luke Hobbs 24:55, 19 Robin Porter 25:19, 20 John Bowley 25:28, 21 Diane Green 25:52, 22 Susie Phillips 27:32. **Juniors' 2¼M:** 1 Polly Beauchamp 18:40, 2 Jake Hobbs 24:55. **Marlborough 10K MT:** 17 Rose Barber (1st woman) 43:03.
- 7 JUNE - Crewkerne 9M:** 13 Alistair Bartlett 55:00, 86 Tony Bartlett (1st o-60) 1:12:43. **Combe Grove Triathlon** (400m swim, 15¼M cycle, 4¼M run): 2 Simon Spedding 5:56 + 48:54 + 27:56 = 1:22:36; 15th team: Joyce Field 8:52 + Stan Farr 1:02:26 + Judy Farr 36:50 = 1:48:08.
9 JUNE - Calne Relays: 2nd team: Simon Spedding 19:08 + Gerry Fice 19:26 + John Kent 19:52 = 58:26.
13 JUNE - Bratton 11K: 4 John Kent (1st vet.) 43:54, 8 Simon Reeves 4:18, 9 Bob Ellis 4:46, 19 Richard Hudson 50:16, 30 Tony Bartlett 54:52, 39 Judy Farr (1st woman vet.) 58:34, 41 John Bowley 59:19. **Broad Town 5M:** 4 Gerry Fice 28:14, 22 Les Unsworth 32:21, 7 Linda Unsworth 42:23.
14 JUNE - Great Hinton 2¼M: 1 Alistair Bartlett 13:33, 2 Joby Hobbs 14:24, 5 Simon Reeves 15:08, 6 Ted Rockliffe 15:10, 10 Sam Ghey (1st u-16) 15:55, 15 Rose Barber (1st woman) 16:35, 16 Alex Cox 16:45, 21 Bernie Hobbs 17:15, 27 Bob Sales 18:0, 29 Luke Hobbs 18:15, 33 Susie Phillips (2nd woman) 18:41, 37 Judy Farr 19:16, 44 David Unsworth 20:35, 72 Jake Hobbs 24:35, 7 Stan Farr 24:50.
18 JUNE - Marlborough 10K MT: 19 Rose Barber (3rd woman, 1st vet.) 45:38.
20 JUNE - West Wiltshire Schools Championships: 1,500m: 1 Joby Hobbs 4:37.
21 JUNE - Offa's Dyke 15M MT: 20 Martin Connor 1:51:22, 143 Mike Carpenter 2:15:03, 147 Alan Meadow 2:18:07, Ray Withey 2:31:30, Joyce Field (2nd woman o-55) 2:38:15, John Bowley 2:45:31, Viv Toms 2:48:51.
25 JUNE - Tom Roberts 5K Handicap: 1 Kevin Sparey, 2 Diane Green, 3 Alan Meadow. Actual times: 1 Alistair Bartlett 18:11, 2 Martin Connor 18:28, 3 Kevin Sparey 18:42, 4 Joby Hobbs 18:48, 5 Roger Carey 20:04, =6 Alan Meadow & Simon Reeves 20:41, 8 Ted Rockliffe 20:54, 9 Mandy Spedding 23:10, 10 Bernie Hobbs 23:22, 11 Tony Bartlett 24:22, 12 Diane Green 24:58, 13 Pete Chapple 25:11, 14 Joyce Field 25:13, 15 Robin Porter 25:49, 16 Julie West 26:34, 17 Alex Cox 27:19, 18 John Bowley 27:37. **Juniors' 2¼M Handicap:** 1 Ashley Spedding. Actual times: 1 Polly Beauchamp 18:49, 2 Luke Hobbs 19:00, 3 James Mitchell 22:40, 4 David Unsworth 22:58, 5 Jake Hobbs 24:10, Ashley Spedding 24:26.
27 JUNE - Westwood 2¼M: 1 Joby Hobbs 13:40, 5 Alex Cox 15:45, 6 Polly Beauchamp (1st female) 16:23, 11 Luke Hobbs 17:41, 19 James Mitchell 20:16, 31 Jake Hobbs 24:05.
28 JUNE - Warminster 10M: 3 Alistair Bartlett* 1:00:32, 7 Gerry Fice* (2nd vet.) 1:02:06, 9 Kevin Sparey* (3rd vet.) 1:03:52, 22 Bob Ellis 1:08:09, 54 Alan Meadow 1:13:51, 60 Terry Harrison 1:15:57, 72 Anthony Hickson 1:18:40, 74 Tony Bartlett 1:19:24, 77 Mike Pratt 1:19:49, 104 Joyce Field 1:27:22, 106 Bob Sales 1:27:55, 107 Susie Phillips 1:28:09, 114 Dennis Mellor 1:29:25, 125 John Bowley 1:33:45.
29 JUNE - Borehamwood Half-Marathon: Bernard Dunn & Bob Sidwick 1:34:46.

◆ 1998 club championship event.

To ensure inclusion, telephone results to Stan Farr, Trowbridge 755605.

'What'll we do when we grow up?'

(continued from Page 1)

Just a few short ones:—

- Mike Gerrish's face when he came to the apartment door in Lanzarote at 4.30 in the morning to let me in.
- Mike Gerrish trying to drown on a snorkelling trip at Perto del Carmen.
- Ted Rockliffe trying to work out what the burning smell was the night before a London Marathon.
- Robin trying to push Mike Hehir into the canal.
- The wind band conducted by (Posh) Bob in Culver Close changing-room.

Let's hang onto these memories (and others), of fun we have had over the years, and the good friends we have known.

Let's make sure that if one day we are sitting in the old people's home laughing to ourselves, we have something to laugh at – and have still not grown up.

FIXTURES: July–October

JULY

- Thu 9 Marlborough 5M, 7.30.
 Sun 12 New Forest 10M♦, 12.45; Portland 10M, 11.00.
 Tue 14 Calne Relays, 7.30.
 Thu 30 Tom Roberts 5K Handicap, 7.40.

AUGUST

- Sat 1 Swanage 12M, 2.00.
 Sun 2 Blagdon 5½M, 11.00; Sturminster Newton Half-Marathon, 10.30.
 Tue 11 Calne Relays, 7.30.
 Sun 16 Corsham 5-3M, 11.00; Westbury Hills 10K, 11.00; Standish 10M, 11.00.
 Wed 19 Yeovil 5K, 7.30.
 Thu 27 BernCol Relay, 7.40.
 Sun 30 Langport 10K♦, 11.00; Pewsey Half-Marathon, 10.30.
 Mon 31 Southwick 3M, 3.00.

SEPTEMBER

- Sun 6 Calne 10K, 11.00; New Forest Marathon & Half-Marathon; Frome 5M; Wansdyke Triathlon.
 Wed 9 Bath City Centre 5K.
 Sat 12 Hambledon Hill 3-4M, 2.30; Bath 9-11M MT, 11.00; Marlborough 10K, 10.30. *SUN 13*
 Wed 16 Yeovil 5K, 7.30.
 Sun 27 Bitton 10K, 11.00.

OCTOBER

- Sun 4 Longleat Relays, 11.00.
 Sun 11 Mendip Muddle 20K, 11.00.
 Sat 17 Weymouth 10M, 2.00.
 Sun 18 Abingdon Marathon.

♦ Club championship races.

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