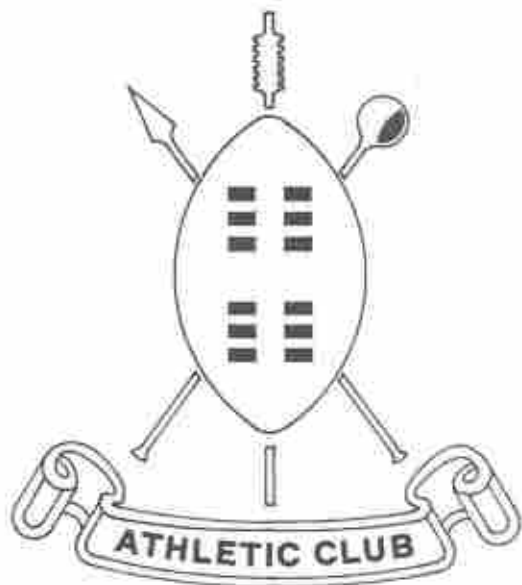


**SAVAGES**



**1960 - 1970**

Foreword by:  
The Hon.  
T. J. A. Gerdener  
Administrator of Natal



ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE, NATAL  
ADMINISTRATIEURSKANTOOR



I have always looked upon athletics and particularly running as the "original" of all sport - it is probably the oldest and most basic form of exercise, it has been practised as a competitive sport since the dawn of man and it has through the centuries had a more sustained following than any "ball" game invented by him. In addition - and perhaps of even greater significance - athletics has always been regarded as one of the finest methods by which man, the young and the old, can keep fit and therefore lead a healthy meaningful life.

Personally, I have experienced over many years how important running is, and I have always felt it a pity that not more people keep it up throughout their lives, or at least until fairly late in life.

In Durban, Savages Athletic Club has done much to stimulate interest in athletics and to ensure that just this is undertaken by hundreds of people.

I not only have great pleasure in congratulating the Club on its 10th anniversary, but I wish to express the hope that it will grow both in its membership and activities in the years that lie ahead.

T. J. A. Gerdener  
(Administrator)

## Message from our Chairman



For any venture to be successful it must be well conceived and carried out by a group of dedicated enthusiasts.

Such is the story behind the phenomenal growth and rise from obscurity to the high position Savages Athletic Club enjoys in the athletic world today.

This is due entirely to the combined efforts of those folk who conceived and brought the Club into existence, the various administrative committees, and most important of all, the ever enthusiastic and striving members themselves.

This is our Club's Tenth Anniversary:

Looking back we felt that so much has been achieved in this relatively short space of time that something should be done to mark the occasion, hence this commemorative booklet, wherein we have set out the history of the Club and various other articles of general interest. I take this opportunity to congratulate all concerned for their achievements and to wish the Club, and its members, continued success in the future.

# Ten Years of Progress

Savages Athletic Club ..... Savages .....

What a fortuitous choice of name for this restless band of runners. The Club, formed only ten years ago has in this short space of time acquired almost the same reputation held by the "savages" of this fair province less than a century ago.

It is recorded that on one occasion the cry "Savages!" caused all the inhabitants of Port Natal to seek refuge in ships moored in the bay. The commands of Chaka had a rippling effect from the Limpopo to the Fish River, spreading inland over the Transvaal and Free State, even causing much heartbreak in the United Kingdom.

These superbly trained and fit "savages" tramped the rolling hills, cheerfully brushing aside all opposition. Today's Savages, emulating their namesakes, have brushed aside local opposition and, in a very short space of time, established records which will not be easily equalled, let alone beaten. The Club, in this their tenth year, have made their mark in the United Kingdom by winning the 1969 London to Brighton.

This is the culmination of years of plain hard work and gallons of sweat and tears. These achievements are not obtained overnight and it is necessary to go to the humble beginnings to discover how this was achieved.

The Club will forever be indebted to Ken Craig and Joe Knowles, two restless footballers of the old Savages Football Club. It is their restless spirit which has permeated the club from its inception and has driven the members on, year after year.

Ken and Joe were determined to remain at peak fitness during the summer months, thus, after the close of the 1958 football season, they turned their attentions to road running.

Although fit from a vigorous football season, they discovered for themselves the feeling of splendid well-being which all road runners experience. In a burst of confidence they entered for the March 1959 Richmond - Maritzburg Handicap race, as much for a lark as anything else. To their own amazement (as well as everybody else's) they filled first and second places! After all, they were just a couple of soccer players joggling along to keep fit and look what they, complete novices, had achieved - something which had never entered even their wildest dreams.

Looking back, it can be seen that this chance victory was the tiny seed which grew into the powerful Savages Club of today. Had Ken and Joe not achieved this, it is possible that Savages Athletic Club would never have been born and with it, the tremendous upsurge of interest in long distance running.

At the instigation of these two, the members of Savages Football Club now discussed various activities in order to promote the already good team spirit which existed during the soccer season. They felt that, although it was a popular and respected Football Club, it should not be allowed to "hibernate" during the summer months. The pros and cons of all the sports were considered. Squash, hockey, tennis and cricket had their supporters but it was the presence of the two, now respected, athletes which swayed the issue. A new section was to be formed, allied to and under the control of the main Football Club, an athletic section, to be called, naturally, Savages Athletic Club.

In their typical go getting manner, before the Club was officially affiliated, in fact before the constitution was drawn up, these two persuaded four other footballers to join them and enter the 1959 Conrades Marathon from Pietermaritzburg to Durban as a Savages Football Club team. The team comprised Joe Knowles, Ken Craig, Arthur Simpson, Danny Azor, Jimmy Robertson and Glen Brickhill. This team of novices managed, in their first race, to set a record which stands today. It will not take much to equal but can hardly be beaten. The first robot after the start was red, so Glen stopped and retired. Not really a record to be proud of, but no other Club set a record before formal affiliation and still holds it. Danny Azor ran 35 miles (after only 35-1/2 miles of training), Arthur Simpson finished in 10 hours 27 minutes; Ken Craig came 36th in 8 hours 46 minutes; Jimmy Robertson retired at Drummond and Joe Knowles retired only 11 miles from Durban.

The fun was over and it was over to the backroom boys. Ian McNab together with Ken Craig and Ginger Foster were charged with the onerous task of drawing up a constitution. As masters of improvisation they acquired a copy of the Durban Athletic Club Constitution, modified it and that was that. In his personal capacity, Bob Calder examined it with a fine toothcomb and corrected technicalities.

It must be remembered that the club was still 'unofficial' as it was not yet affiliated to the Natal Amateur Athletic Union. The important task of applying for affiliation was entrusted to Ian McNab and Arthur Simpson who were to appear in person at a meeting to be held in March 1960. All the members realised the importance of this meeting, for should their request for affiliation be turned down, the whole project would fizzle out. The two

Savages delegates were apprehensive as most of the officials were completely unknown and they had no one rooting for them.

To everyone's joy, they were accepted but there were two conditions, being:

- (a) The payment of five pounds to the N.A.A.U. and
- (b) The promotion of two annual races.

As the Athletic Club did not possess even five pounds, the Football Club agreed to pay this. Grateful appreciation must be paid to the Football Club. Right from its inception, financial assistance was forthcoming to this infant struggling Athletic Club. Had this finance not been forthcoming, insolvency would have forced the dissolution of the club and robbed South Africa of its foremost long distance runners.

In March 1960 the club was officially born and Jimmy Persehouse the South African Baseball player was elected the first Chairman. In May of that year its 14 members entered the Comrades Marathon, 11 of whom finished. The runners felt that having established a record the previous year, no special effort was required and thus no records were attached.

The first Savages race was promoted a 10 miler on the old north Coast Road. In appreciation for all the hard work in getting the club running smoothly, it was decided to name the race after Ian McNab and, spending the entire club funds, the McNab trophy was purchased for five pounds.

1961 opened with Ian McNab being elected chairman. As the club was in financial difficulties, members concentrated on building up finances. Of the total membership of twenty five, seventeen entered the Comrades again without any success. Ted Craig, by coming third in the Natal Marathon, recorded the best achievement of any club member to date. Regular socials were held and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

The second race promoted by Savages was a standard marathon from Albert Park to Pinetown, and return. To encourage spectators, football matches and other entertainment was arranged to take place whilst the energetic battled in the heat and humidity to Pinetown. Albert Park was the venue only twice before it was changed to Stella Sports Club. After four races there the course was again changed to the present route in the Botha's Hill/Drummond area.

1962 saw a large influx of new members, the most noteworthy of whom were Fritz Madel (who had won the previous year's London to Brighton), Sid Bishop, Bob Wilson and Howard Trussier. Another member who was to become well known, but was at this stage a novice was Manie Kuhn. These

members formed the nucleus of the team which won the Arthur Newton Memorial Trophy for the second team home in the 1962 Comrades.

It must be pointed out that the Savages team were beaten into second place by only four points – terribly close to winning the Gunga Din trophy. This fine performance boosted morale to such an extent that the 1963 Comrades was eagerly awaited – everyone confidently predicting a win for the Club.

Before this could take place, however, a significant event took place – the significance only being realised long afterwards. Membership was applied for and granted to one G. A. Treloar.

Another noteworthy event was the resignation of Ian McNab due to business commitments after three and a half years of sterling work converting a pipe dream to a serious challenge to any Natal long distance race. It was with regret that his resignation, as chairman, was accepted. His excellent services were acknowledged by his appointment as honorary life president and today he looks back with pride at the progress of the Club he worked so hard to found.

His successor, but for only four months, was Sid Bishop, who in turn, was followed by Ray Rowe.

The eagerly awaited 1963 Comrades arrived and to loud cries of "I told you so" the Gunga Din Trophy was awarded to Savages who, at that stage had only forty members. The tremendous feeling of pride was, of course, well deserved as in a space of only three years the first and second prize of the World's Greatest Road Race had been annexed.

In October, 1963 Ray Rowe resigned and Gerry Treloar was elected Chairman, a position he still holds. The new Chairman started with a completely new committee of R. Morton, J. Kuhn, Bob Wilson and B. Howard.

It is not easy to record the next twelve months. The cock of the hoop feeling persisted. No one would deny that it was well deserved but race entries and achievements declined drastically. Only 9 Savages entered for the McNab Trophy and 6 entered for the Duke of York. No trophies were won and morale was low. Gerry and his committee, however, set about correcting the position in the usual forthright manner and introduced a number of innovations. The first cross country run and picnic was organised. Manie Kuhn was sent to run the London to Brighton (where he came 5th) and the first twenty four hour 100 mile race at Hoy Park was organised. It was won by Manie Kuhn and Ray Moiver. Although 46 Savages entered the Comrades and Manie Kuhn came second all the prizes went elsewhere. This failure proved

to be just the right spur. The committee elected in 1964 proved equal to the task of raising the club to new heights. Their financial problems were eased by the start of the 100 club. The brightest note of 1964 was the selection of two Savages for the Natal Team at the S.A. marathon championships in Cape Town - Ted Craig and Manie Kuhn.

Early in 1965 three members started what is now an institution - the Tuesday night 5 milers. The instigators were Gerry Treloar, Dick Morton and Manie Kuhn. Other members were bullied and forced into training and the hard work started paying dividends. The Club won the team prize at the Border Marathon - and this was just the tonic needed. Gloom was dispelled and a new determination entered training runs. The cutting comments of "Flash in the pan" of the previous year just had to be disproved. The Savages marathon attracted 39 entries which was 19 more than the previous year. The Comrades that year was the most miserable in the history of the race. It rained all day and it was bitterly cold in parts. Nevertheless the determination and training paid handsome dividends as Kuhn, Craig, Crawley and Madel won the Gunga Din trophy for their club. To cope with the large increase in members and the diverse activities of the club, the Annual General Meeting increased the committee to eight. It now comprised Gerry Treloar (Chairman), Sid Bishop (Deputy Chairman), Norman Clark (Treasurer), Stan Foley (Secretary) and Dick Morton, Manie Kuhn, Richard de Stadler and Roddy Munro. In addition, Gerry Treloar was elected to the executive of the Natal Amateur Athletic Union. That was a much more satisfactory year.

1966 opened with members full of enthusiasm. Average attendance at the Tuesday night 5 milers increased to 42 and the Savages marathon attracted 59 starters. The club won the Kingwilliamstown/East London trophy and then comfortably won the new Bergville/Ladysmith race by filling five of the first six places. Eighty eight Savages entered the Comrades and Kuhn 2nd, Madel 3rd, Box 7th and Davey 10th comfortably won the Gunga Din Trophy. Manie Kuhn was again sent to represent the club in the London to Brighton where he came second. The 24 hour 100 mile race was again held at Hoy Park. Dick Morton achieved further honours by being appointed the Official Natal Handicapper.

Thus in just over six years of existence, the Club had started to flex its muscles. Trophies had been won in the Cape, Northern Natal and the Comrades. It had been a good year but the dangers of complacency were only too fresh in the minds of all.

There was no let up at all in training. The aim being the Gunga Din Trophy for the third time in succession. The Savages Marathon course was moved to Botha's Hill and attracted a record 99 entries. It was the

Bergville/Ladysmith race which emphasised the enthusiasm as Savages members filled all the places between 1st and 11th, other than 8th.

Of the 115 Savages who entered the Comrades, 98 finished but it was Manie Kuhn and Tommy Malone who provided the greatest sensation in the history of the Comrades. No one will ever forget the drama at the finishing tape - how Tommy Malone tripped and fell inches from the tape (his fingers actually over the finishing line) the struggle to rise as he dragged his exhausted body off the soft comfortable turf. And as he got to his knees Manie Kuhn broke the tape.



*Manie Kuhn commiserates with Tommy Malone after 1967 Comrades.*

It was the closest finish to the Comrades. In 1931 Masterton Smith and Burree finished with a mere 2 yards between them. The official records of

1966 show only 2 seconds between first and second. The 1967 time shows 1 second - and that over a distance of 54 miles! Not only did a Savages member win the marathon by a whisker but the team of Kuhn, Craig, Davey and Molver just managed to win the Gunga Din for the third successive year. The route for the McNab trophy was changed because of traffic problems to the Botha's Hill area where it attracted 96 starters. To round off the year Ted Craig won the D.A.C. marathon and Savages filled four of the first five places.

It was in 1967 that the club achieved its first track successes. One of the younger members, Doug Hancock, shook the hard core of road runners by becoming the South African 1500 metre (Under 17) Champion.

1968 opened with Gerry Treloar being elected vice president of the Natal Amateur Athletic Union. In the meantime he and the Savages Committee had been consulting the records and realised that only once before had any club won the Comrades in four successive years - Durban Athletic Club in 1956/59 years. The word was quietly passed around "Savages expects every man" etc. and a new determination entered training. As preparation for the Comrades Dave Bagshaw and Dave Box ran in the Stanger/Mandini road race and came in 1st and 2nd. A new record was established at the Savages marathon - 131 starters faced the gun. Doug Hancock, a member of the junior section which began in 1965, became the S.A. 1500 meter Junior Champion, while the Bergville/Ladysmith prize was again annexed and the strength of the club was clearly demonstrated as the B team came first and the A team 3rd in the Cross-Country league. Our Juniors won the Natal Junior Cross-Country Championship - a victory they repeated in 1969 and on both occasions the team provided the individual winner - Doug Hancock (1968) and Mike van Wyk (1969). An extremely closely contested Comrades saw the team of Kuhn, Box, Davey and Craig again awarded the Gunga Din Trophy (by only 1 point). Four times in a row equalled the best anyone had ever done before. Some straight talking quickly dispelled the feeling of elation. Was this not the greatest club - the club which set records not equalled them? There was to be no let up in training, went forth the edict. Five in a row is the aim. Dave Box certainly did not let up - he increased his training to such an extent that in October he ran the worlds fastest 100 miles in 12 hours 40 min. 48.3 sec., breaking the 15 year record set by Wally Hayward. This new record was never officially recognised and was broken 12 months later in the U.K. where John Tarrant set a time of 12 hrs. 31 min. 10 sec. To round off the most successful year to date Malcolm Hean became the Champion Veteran and also won the Sulin Trophy.

The tenth year was about to begin. Could members excell themselves to



*Pleased its all over. Bill Sim after  
1968 Comrades.*



*Richard De Stadler our Club Coach.*

make this a really memorable year or, horror of all horrors – slip back to the dreadful 1964. Members girded their loins and tried that little bit harder in training. Just that extra mile was traversed, that extra bit of effort – to prove that their club set the pace and others followed. The proud boast of superiority had to appear in the record books – not in conversations.

Looking back it is easy to see how fit and eager everyone was to make the 10th year the greatest ever – to date. The list of team trophies collected is impressive:

First in the Bergville/Ladysmith. First in the Stanger/Mandini.

First in the Richmond/Maritzburg.

First in the Inter Provincial tassel in East London.

Second (pipped by mere seconds) in the Savages Relay.

First in the S.A. Marathon Championships.

First in the Cedarville/Matatiela thanks to the Juniors – Gordon Borain came second.

Double first in the Comrades for both the Club and Dave Bagshaw. It was Dave Bagshaw who gained the honours as this was his first attempt and he broke the record to boot. Dave Box came second and with Davey and Crawley, Savages comfortably won the Gunga Din Trophy for the fifth successive year. A feeling of elation filled the Club. What other worthwhile trophies remained? The answer was immediate – London to Brighton. The two Daves (Bagshaw and Box) were sent while eight other members went under their own steam.

Savages fielded the largest team in what is recognised as one of the English classics. The result is of course well known. After an early tussle with John Tarrant, Dave Bagshaw won and with Dave Box coming 5th and Roland Davey th 13th place, Savages won the team trophy. In addition, Dave Box won the prize for the first unplaced outsider.

The Savages Marathon set yet another record with 149 runners.

Just to prove that not only the long distance runners were catered for, the first Savages Track meeting was promoted to encourage the rapidly expanding track section. Barry Shields was Natal 10,000 metre Champion and Doug Hancock took second place in the South African 3,000 metre (Under 19). However, not only did we achieve individual successes but the enthusiasm of club coach, Richard de Stadler, was beginning to pay dividends. Under Richard's guidance the ever increasing number of young athletes drawn into the club are being coached toward achieving better performances.

To round things off - to cater for everyone - a Ladies Section was started in August 1969. Meryl Hancock, South African women's cross country Champion in 1968 and 1969, and a member of the women's European touring cross country team has brought great honour to the club in her short period as a member. Her many successes are legion.



*Meryl Hancock in full flight.*

There is now the proud claim that Savages cater for every possible aspect of athletics from the short 100 yards and other track events to the ultra long distance and for both male and female members.

In view of this glorious tenth year, the present committee comprising Gerry Treloar, Norman Clark, Peter Adam, Richard de Stadler, Bill Sim, Roland Davey, Malcolm Hean, Dave Bagshaw and Bart de Jager, face a testing time ahead. They alone cannot equal or even improve upon the magnificent past, it is up to each and every member to, quite simply, do his best.



TED

## TED CRAIG

Born in Durban in May 1933, he is married with three children. Height 5'10" and weighs 145 lbs (when in training). Ted left school at the age of 16 and went straight into the Merchant Navy, where he spent 8 years seeing the world. At present his daily bread is earned in the tin can industry as a production supervisor.

Other than a few minor sporting achievements at school Ted, unlike most successful road runners confined his physical exertions to the old sport of elbow lifting and seeing how hard he could suck on as many Texan cigarettes during the course of a day.

After 10 years of inactivity he decided to try and emulate the feat of his young brother Ken, who in May 1959 had completed the Comrades Marathon at his first attempt. His first efforts at training consisted of one lap around Albert Park which was usually followed by at least two nights of infra red treatment to relieve the pain in his sore, swollen ankles.

Through sheer grit and determination Ted managed in 12 months to knock himself into shape to such good effect that he finished his first Comrades, which was an "up" run, in the creditable time of 7 hrs 52 min.

His first effort in a standard marathon (Skinner Trophy) produced a time of 2 hrs. 51 min.

Always a Savages man, Ted has produced some magnificent efforts over the years. His most noteworthy successes were achieved in 1967 when he gained:

2nd place in the S.A. Marathon Championship.

1st place in the Bergville - Ladysmith (Record time)

1st place in the D.A.C. Marathon.

Fastest time in the Savages Marathon handicap on two occasions.

Fastest time in the Sulin Trophy handicap on two occasions.

Fastest time in the Richmond - Pietermaritzburg handicap on two occasions.

He has gained nine silver and one gold medal in ten consecutive Comrades Marathons in which he featured in the winning Gunga Din Shield team four times.

There is no secret to Ted's success; it has just been hard work and dedication to the task in hand i.e. 100 miles a week and more when necessary.

With brother Ken also having completed ten consecutive Comrades runs, Ted and Ken must surely be the first brothers to have achieved this.

# Arthur Newton

## and the

# Comrades Marathon

*A tribute to a Great Athlete – by Vernon Jones.*

At a social gathering not many months ago conversation drifted from one topic to another and finally came round to Natal's famous Comrades Marathon. Inevitably, the name of Arthur Newton was mentioned. Much to my surprise, a young man asked, quite seriously, "Who is Newton?" I was taken aback, because he had run the Comrades in 1968, but he confessed he had never heard of Newton. He further admitted he had never seen a Comrades programme, much less read one, and that he had never read an article on the Comrades in any magazine or newspaper! This young fellow was born and educated in Durban and was proud of his Comrades medal, yet he was completely insensitive to the history and traditions of the famous event. This incident, though trivial in itself did however remind me that 45 years have passed since Newton's Comrades hey-day, and that means there could well be competitors today whose fathers were not born when Newton's name was a household word in Natal. "Who was Newton?", my young friend asked. I shall try and answer the question, for him and for others like him.

Arthur Francis Hamilton Newton was born at Weston-Super-Mare in Somersetshire, on 20th May, 1883 and died at Hillingdon Hospital in Middlesex on 7th September, 1959. He came to South Africa in the early 1900's and lived here until 1925, when he went to Rhodesia. In 1929 he turned professional and spent two years in the U.S.A. before returning to the land of his birth. In a varied career in South Africa, he was a schoolmaster at the old Blenheim College at Maritzburg, a private tutor to the sons of a well known Natal family, and a farmer in the Harding district of Southern Natal. He was a fine pianist, was fond of good literature and was a philatelist of note. His Zulu name, "Mantabeni" (Master of Mountains) identified him as a mountaineer and he was a pioneer motor cyclist when machines were primitive and temperamental and roads virtually non-existent. But he achieved his greatest fame as an athlete, both by his extraordinary performances and by his revolutionary and original thinking on long distance training. He was truly one of the Giants of Twentieth Century athletics.

By his phenomenal running, Newton "made" the Comrades and was its first great personality: without him the event would not have survived for long. This quiet and modest man, wearing a large X and number 77 on his

vest, captured the public imagination in Natal in an unprecedented manner. He was not interested in prizes and gave them to deserving causes and institutions. He won most of his races by large margins and invariably lit his pipe of a cigar soon after the race had ended.

It is, perhaps, not easy for runners of the present day to imagine any one upsetting official arrangements by winning the Comrades nearly two hours ahead of the scheduled time, but that is what Newton achieved in 1923. His times were ridiculed in England and were dismissed as being "impossible." The answer to that attitude was the organisation of an officially controlled attempt on the record for fifty miles, the run being done in 1923 from Maritzburg to Inchanga and back on the rough, untarred and hilly road of the Comrades course. He recorded the (then) astonishing time of 5 hours 53 minutes and was presented with a specially struck gold medal to commemorate the feat. At this stage of his career, the forty-year-old Newton had been running a mere eighteen months. Still unconvinced, the British experts wanted nothing less than visual proof of the new South African superathlete, so in 1924 Newton was sent to run in a specially organised race from London to Brighton. With insufficient time to recover his best form after the sea voyage of three weeks, he did not give of his best, but he reduced the record by a large margin to 5 hours 53 minutes 42 seconds. When the London to Brighton race was resuscitated about 25 years later, the magnificent trophy was named in his honour.

No athlete in history has made such a sensational impact on his chosen event, although it is true that in the long distances the scope for improvement was exceptional. His great advance on anything previously accomplished was due entirely to his own original thinking, to painstaking experimentation and to hard work. Long distance runners of today will not easily comprehend a situation where experts took the view that Newton's lemonade/sugar/salt drink would seriously harm him but this actually happened during his London to Brighton run in 1924, when they refused to give it to him!

After his retirement, Newton published the first of his four books which he called, simply, "Running." In it, he expounded his new approach to long distance training. Without going into detail, his radical training innovations included (1) eat what you like, (2) run greater distance at reduced speed, thus training and not s/training, (3) take extra salt in warm weather, (4) train six days a week, (5) cut out regular massage, (6) run flat foot above the standard marathon distance, and, (7) the value of mental training. He has since had several imitators and his new (in 1922) methods have been adapted to distances as short as the mile with conspicuous success (e.g. Cerutti with his great Australian milers, Landy, Elliott, et al.).



*ARTHUR NEWTON (at the age of 44)  
on his record breaking 100 mile run  
from Box to Hyde Park Corner -  
London January, 1928.*

In his foreword to the book "Running", W.G. George, who held the world record for the mile for something like twenty years, wrote: "This is the best, most comprehensive and knowledgeable book on training and running that has yet appeared. In 1924 I stated that Arthur Newton was the most wonderful long distance runner I had ever seen. . . . It may be centuries before his records are surpassed or even equalled." Reviewing the book, the Manchester Guardian stated that it had been written by ". . . in his

own specialised line, the greatest runner in history," while the Observer (London) recorded that "Newton ranks as one of the marvels of all time." Such was his reputation, that for years after his retirement few, if any, Comrades runners seriously thought of challenging his times, even on the vastly improved tarred road that was used from 1931 onwards. When Bill Cochrane won his first Comrades in 1935, he was less than six minutes outside Newton's record in the 1925 event. Bill's time of 6 hours 30 minutes 5 seconds was hailed in banner headlines as "magnificent" and "sensational" and he was the first to demonstrate that Newton's times were not unbeatable. Newton, in fact, always maintained that they left much room for improvement: he had run the down Comrades course in a special race in July, 1925 in 6 hours 12 minutes.

Such, then, was the stature of the man who "made" the Comrades.

As a generous sportsman, always so willing to assist others, Newton was unique. Nothing pleased him more than to help other runners to beat, or attempt to beat, his own hard-won records, and this was especially the case if the runners happened to be South Africans. Ballington, Hayward, Mekler and Walsh all enjoyed the enthusiastic assistance of Newton on their record breaking runs in England, the last three being his guests at his home in Middlesex. Indeed, his home at 9 Cottingham Chase, Ruislip Manor, was for years a "Mecca" for long distance runners (and others) from all over England and, for that matter, the world. His front door was always open on the rare occasions when he had to leave the house at week-ends, he left a note on the door, telling callers to help themselves to tea and cake. Often at week-ends the house was crowded and in the talk that flowed, Newton sat quietly in the background, modest and reticent as always. Towards the end of his life he was greatly handicapped by deteriorating sight and in his last couple of years he was virtually blind.

Newton returned briefly to South Africa in 1956 as the guest of the Marathon Runners' Club and he made a sentimental journey around the country he loved above all others. Much to his embarrassment, he found himself the Guest of Honour at innumerable functions, of which the Durban Civic Luncheon was a highlight, and the Comrades of 1956 was identified with his name as a special tribute to him. He planted a tree at Harding on his 73rd birthday and the local townsfolk later erected a handsome granite stone to commemorate the event. By a remarkable coincidence the tree has been cared for since the day it was planted by a Zulu named Dhlamini, who worked for Newton fifty years ago as a herd boy on his farm "Lovat" in Umzimkulwana valley. Often, when passing through Harding, I have sought out Dhlamini to give him a tip ostensibly from "Mantabeni" for caring for his tree.

## DAVE BAGSHAW

Dave, born in the industrial town of Sheffield, Yorkshire on the 30th September, 1943, showed an interest in running during his school years, after achieving moderate success in the School Sports at 220 yards and 440 yards.

At the age of fifteen Dave joined Sheffield United Harriers. Cross country, road relays, and track running made a full running programme throughout the whole year and he was able to perform creditably in all three fields. Three county mile titles (for his age group) came to Dave before he left school for university.

His running career showed erratic progress during the three years spent studying at the London School of Economics but nevertheless he achieved full colours (for cross-country) for both L.S.E. and London University and also competed for Hercules A.C. A fractured leg kept him out of running for most of the college years so Dave turned to the administration of the sport. On the committees of both the L.S.E. athletics club and the London University cross-country club, he founded the Greater London Colleges cross-country league.

The year 1967, Dave spent as a volunteer in Nigeria, and turned to coaching. His college team won the N.W. State School Athletics championships at the first attempt, and he was chosen as team manager and coach of the State team to compete in the Northern Region Championships.

While in Nigeria Dave married his wife Sue, who has always encouraged him and has played a large part in his success in South Africa.

Since his arrival in South Africa at Christmas 1967 Dave has turned away from track and cross-country to road running. After being placed in one or two road events he joined Savages and won the Stanger Mandini Race (1968) in his first outing in a Savages vest. On this occasion Sue was busy sewing the Savages name-band onto a vest by the light of the dashboard lamps as they drove up to Stanger in the early morning.

Hard running on the road brought a crop of injuries but a fresh start, a slow build up, and plenty of slow running, overcame these problems, and performances improved resulting in many successes in this short road running career:

Brighton	(1969) 1st	Natal Marathon	(1969) 2nd
Stanger Mandini	(1970) Record.	S.A. Games Marathon	(1969) 2nd
Comrades	(1969) 1st Record	D.A.C. Marathon	(1968) Record
		Border Marathon	(1969) Record



**DAVE**

## Comrades Marathon 1969

With four consecutive successes to our credit the club had only to win the Gunga Din team shield this year to establish an all time record of five consecutive successes which would probably stand for many years to come, if not for all time.

With some of our old stalwarts of previous years no longer members, or not considered in peak condition, the odds were definitely against us taking this team prize again. When one considers the strength of some of the opposition: - Germiston Callies for instance had among their runners men of the calibre of Jack Mekler, a five times Comrades winner; Basil Davis who had recently beaten Mekler in the Peter Korkie race over 33 miles; Tim Blankley the powerful ex D.A.C. athlete with two gold medals already in the bag; and for support an in form Peter Anderson, and the redoubtable Charlie Chase - It was hardly surprising that the general consensus of opinion among club members was that our run of successes was about to end, although there were those among us who would not hear any defeatist talk and kept repeating to the sceptics that we were in the race with a good chance of success and were not to be written off. Among these men were Gerry Treloar, our club chairman, and Billy Sim who reminded fellow members that the position had been similar in past years, but somehow our top runners always seemed to pull out a bit more to bring home the bacon. The few optimists were clinging to the belief that the fighting spirit of our young club would not fail us.

The runners being relied upon to perform this "miracle" were Dave Box, Roland Davey, Dave Bagshaw, Clive Crawley and Ted Craig. We as Club members naturally expected great things from Dave Box who had since the 1968 Comrades recorded the world's fastest time for 100 miles and was training like a machine. Coupled with undoubted staying ability he was developing the pace necessary to win a race of this nature and looked a fair proposition for first place provided he could pull out something extra at the finish to beat Jack Mekler who was pre-race favourite.

Roland Davey, the newest star in the Savages galaxy, after two recent successes in major road races had to be taken seriously by those athletes attempting to win one of the coveted gold medals. His most recent success in the Bergville to Ladysmith (35 miles) set up a new record for the course. With some excellent 10 mile times behind him and a record breaking run in his first ever attempt at a standard marathon Dave Bagshaw was given a fair chance of doing something spectacular, if he proved capable of lasting the 54

miles at the cracking pace of the top class runners, which past experience had proved could only be done by people with thousands of miles of hard training under their belt. Clive and Ted, both prodigious trainers who had put in plenty of hard training, were certainly expected to produce good solid performances with the possibility always there that one or other of them may pull out something spectacular and topple the aspirations of some of the more fancied runners. If Clive, Savages official cock crower, failed to out run his rivals he would still have the consolation that he could crow better than anybody. Ted, as you no doubt know, is one of the 'Rainbow' brothers who could shine if the weather held and, according to Rod Munro, always chickens out in bad weather.

With a pre-race picture holding a ray of hope, but only just, for our young but already illustrious club, the men mentioned along with 703 runners lined up once again outside the Pietermaritzburg City Hall. What an experience for those taking part — where in the world can one see so many trained and fit men along with thousands of supporters and well wishers gathering before day break to tackle the arduous 54 mile stretch of road? As the clock draws near to six and the test which is the culmination of months of hard training draws nearer and the apprehension which the runners feel is being kept at bay by a barrage of high spirited banter there is heard a cock crow which heralds the start of another chapter in the history of the 'Comrades' and turns all heads to the clock which towers overhead. With the almost overpowering scent of liniment hanging heavy in the air, and the chatter which resembles an Oriental market the sound of the starting pistol comes as a happy relief.

Out in front are the "big guns" who though conscious of the traditions and spirit of the race are out to grind each other into the dust. John (The Ghost) Tarrant, who although an unofficial entry, had obviously decided that the way to win this race was to polish off the opposition in the early stages, then hold on to the lead till the finish. He made the disastrous error of pulling away from such experienced Comrades men as Mekler, Kuhn, Box and Baker at the rate of some 20 seconds per mile, whereas the up and coming stars like Roland Davey and Bill Brown along with the classy novices Dave Bagshaw and Olaf Vorster, were content to stick with the more experienced group and wait to see how things developed. After all, this is no sprint but a test of strength and stamina. Apparently unperturbed, this group of runners trundled on to reach Camperdown (14.7 miles) in 1 hr. 37 min. (which gives the very creditable running speed 6 min. 40 sec. per mile) with the "ghost" runner in the van by more than four minutes. At this stage the field of over 700 had already spread themselves out with a distance of almost

six miles between the leaders and the backmarkers who, although having set off together, are already at this stage tackling something quite different. For them the weariness brought on by miles of plodding was beginning to make itself felt, and those who had entered for a "lark" with little serious training behind them were beginning to wonder how far one can stretch a joke. There were others who had diligently plodded through hundreds of miles in preparation and who knew their limitations and were now judging their runs accordingly. And at this stage (14.7 miles) our club's entries were spread out from those mentioned up front back to M.W. Moon who was tailing them by 62 minutes.

Up front the runners had by this time sorted themselves out and a group consisting of Bagshaw, Box, Mekler, Baker and Olaf Vorster, who had settled into a steady rhythm reached Drummond in the very creditable time of 2 hrs. 51 min. and apparently still unperturbed by Tarrant's lead.

There were big changes at the front on the climb out of Drummond. Mekler, Baker and Vorster seemed to decide the pace was too fast and dropped back, leaving the Savages pair, Bagshaw and Box, out in front. Less than two miles out of Drummond these two overhauled Tarrant, obviously paying the penalty for his fast early pace, and it began to look as though the club was well set in the team competition.

At the Botha's Hill Hotel Bagshaw was leaving Box and, by the time the leader saw the sea from the top of Field's Hill, he had a lead of almost six minutes over his club mate. In Pinetown, with thirteen miles to go, Bagshaw went through (4.24) followed by Box (4.30), Renken (4.31), Davis and Baker (4.32) and Davey and Mekler (4.33). Manie Kuhn and Peter Anderson were moving well, a little way behind.

It seemed as though, barring mishaps, Savages would once again win the team trophy. Three runners in the first seven at Pinetown, and with Clive Crawley, Ted Craig, and Roger Slater backing up not far behind, the position seemed reasonably secure. Germiston, with Davis, Mekler and Anderson lacked a fourth scorer high in the field and Collegians had little strong support for their stars Renken and Baker.

Over the thirteen miles to Durban, Bagshaw increased his lead by another six minutes to finish in 5.48.35, five and a half minutes inside fellow Yorkshireman Bernard Gomersall's record for the down run. Dave Box in second place (5.57.57) proved too strong for Mekler to catch. Jackle recovering from a bad patch after Drummond, had moved through from seventh to third on the Pinetown - Durban stretch, but had been unable to gain on Dave. One of the highlights was the sprint to the line between Renken and Davis, Eric taking fourth place, Basil fifth. The last of the gold medals went

to Gordon Baker while Manie Kuhn finished in the most unenviable position – seventh, out of the gold medals for the first time since 1962. Roland Davey, running with Mekler at Pinetown had been unable to move through the field with that great athlete and had to be content with eighth.

Gerry and Ian, anxious for the club's success, were elated when Eleanor told them the results of the race as she heard them over the radio. Savages 1st, 2nd, 8th and 12th (Clive Crawley) to which Germiston had 3rd, 5th, 9th (Peter Anderson), 16th (Charlie Chase). Savages were the first club ever to win the coveted Gunga Din Shield for five successive years. After this news Ian and Gerry could now settle down to their own running, knowing that once again Savages had taken the trophies.

All afternoon runners streamed into the D.L.I. grounds in Durban. The day remained cool and a record number of 587 finished the course within the time limit, many of them Savages.

The trophies and glory may go to those at the front but in this race everyone has their own personal triumphs. Nic Raubenheimer finished his seventeenth consecutive run, while Liege Boulle earned his 29th medal. Bart de Jager fought through to finish in adverse conditions, Ian Jardine at the age of 68 proved the match of many younger men.

Many others, too numerous to mention, fought their own personal battles and won. All deserve congratulations – the organisers, Collegians Harriers, too, for a great achievement in organising this race so efficiently.

Republic Day 1969 saw many new records set, both race records and individual records. The never ending struggle by clubs and runners to achieve even higher standards still continues. Savages Athletics Club is in the forefront of this movement. Successful though we were in this race all of us will be trying to reach even higher levels of achievement in the future.



*Happiness is – Pietermaritzburg to Durban in under six hours. Dave and Sue shortly after the finish.*



DAVE

## DAVE BOX

Dave, born on the 3rd of February, 1929, in the town of Cirencester, Gloucestershire, England, is married, has three daughters, two of them being twins. He is 5'7" tall, weighs 135 lbs. has brown hair and blue eyes. He is employed as an Architects Assistant in Durban, where he has now settled after immigrating to South Africa from England.

Through most of his life he has been a very keen sportsman and has participated in almost every known sport. He had a fair amount of success in cycling and once won the Bristol Centre 5 Mile Track Championship. Some of the other sports he has enjoyed are: weight lifting, body building, swimming, soccer and today he still does a fair amount of skin-diving.

At the age of 36, when most men hang up their gloves, rackets or cricket bats and become armchair sportsman, Dave decided to try his luck at athletics. He had never been an athlete in his younger days and set about this new sport in a very determined manner. He started his training early in the year of 1965 and ran his first Comrades Marathon that year, finishing 41st in 7 hrs. 31 mins. and 7 seconds.

From this first Comrades Dave never looked back. In 1966 he finished 7th in 6 hours 45 minutes and 12 seconds. He missed the 1967 Comrades because he was suffering from strained muscles. In 1968 he earned his first Comrades Gold Medal by finishing 5th in 6 hours 27 minutes and 17 seconds.

The period October 1968 to the end of October 1969 proved to be a fine time for Dave. During this period he set an unofficial World Best Time for 100 miles at Hoy Park on October 12th, 1968, completing the distance in 13 hours 40 minutes and 48 seconds and finishing well ahead of the rest of the field.

In the 1969 Comrades Marathon he finished second on very badly blistered feet in a personal best time of 5 hours 57 minutes 57 seconds. September 28, 1969, he ran the London-to-Brighton race and finished 5th in 5 hours 54 minutes 27 seconds. Less than one month later, on the 26th of October, Dave was on the track again, running in the Road Runners Club 100 Miles Track Running Race in England. He finished second in this event in 13 hours 1 minute and 43 seconds. During this period of just over one year he ran two races exceeding 50 miles and two of 100 miles on a track.

Although Dave is at his best in the ultra-long distance races, he has a personal best standard marathon time of 2 hours 31 minutes and 44 seconds which he achieved when he finished second in the 1969 Skinner Marathon.

He is a man who does not believe that age is a handicap and has proved that a man in his late thirties and early forties can experience the same success in athletics as a man ten to fifteen years his junior.

# THE 100 MILER

On reading the available literature on 100 mile races where South Africans are involved, we find that what must be the first race of this nature was held at Hamilton, Ontario, in the spring of 1931. In this race, the great Arthur Newton ran a distance of 152 miles 540 yards on an indoor, twelve laps to the mile-track in 24 hours. During this event the Australian, McNamara set up records at the 30, 40 and 100 mile marks, his time for the 100 being 14 hrs. 9 min. and 45 secs.

In 1933, C. Bailey of Cape Town founded the Centurion Athletic Club of S.A. which was affiliated to Spartan Harriers of Cape Town and Western Province Athletic Association. They organised four races between 1933 and 1935. Then the club gradually faded from the scene. To become a member, one had to complete 100 miles on foot in 24 hours. The first of these 100 mile races was won by P. Strydom with a time of 18 hours 43 min.

The Natal runners, who had a good record for long distance running at this time, decided to stage a 100 mile race in Durban and see if they could better this record. Unfortunately, Hardy Ballington had to scratch from the race at the last minute. The course for this race was on the road from Walter Gilbert Road, down Umgeni road towards the Old Ford Bridge, along Old Fort road, to the Pavilion, up Snell Parade, beyond the Sunkist, around Durban Country Club and then back into Umgeni Road straight down towards the Old Fort Bridge again.

This race was won by Fred Wallace with a time of 16 hours and 52 minutes. Second was Bill Cochrane, who had fallen asleep on the island in the middle of Old Fort Road during the night. His second had missed him coming around the circuit, went to look for him and found him fast asleep in the grass.

In 1934 Arthur Newton won the Bath-London 100 road race in a time of 14 hours and 6 minutes. In 1937 Hardy Ballington set a new record for this race with a time of 13 hours 19 minutes and 21 seconds.

On the 21st and 22nd November, 1953, on the Motspur Park track in Surrey, Wally Hayward covered 159 miles 562 yards in 24 hours. During this

run he set a new 100-mile track best time of 12 hours 46 min. 34 secs. This race was the climax of a period of fantastic running for Wally Hayward. He broke the London-Brighton record, the Bath Road 100 mile record (12 hrs. 20 mins. 28 secs.) and the 24 hour in a period of eight weeks. He ran this 24 hour race five weeks after running the Bath Road 100.

After this the 100 scene became very quiet. Nobody seemed keen enough to organise a 100 mile race on road or track. As far as can be seen, South Africa never held another 100 miler after 1935.

In 1964 Ian Jardine decided that he would like to run 100 miles on the road. However, because of the difficulties that might have arisen it was decided to hold the 100 miles around Hoy Park, the headquarters of the Durban Lunch Time Runners Club.

This was the first time that a race of this nature had been attempted on an ordinary sports field anywhere in the world.

Word got around about the run, and several others decided to try to run the 100 miles. The track was marked out and competitors had to run 361 laps and 227 yards to complete the distance.

The history books show us that Manie Kuhn and Ray Molver were first with a time of 17 hours 48 mins. and 51 secs. The next man home was "Tank" Rogers in 21 hours 21 mins. followed by J. Butcher, then came Ian Jardine and Nick Raubenheimer followed by J. Scott-Ayres, T. Millar and "Twiggy" Tripp who was only 18 years of age and must be the youngest man ever to have run this distance inside 24 hours.

In 1966 it was decided to stage this race again. A larger field set off this time, the venue again being the Hoy Park grounds. In this race Marty Heinis and J. Scott-Ayres won in 17 hours 34 min. and 35 sec. Next was Cyril Stafford followed by M. Cox, Stan Foley, James Delport, Ernie Arderne, Gordon Mathiesen, Charlie Warren, A. Kriger, E. Ayres, Neville Haastie and L. Botha.

The 1968 "100 Miler" saw what must have been the biggest entry for any race of this distance in the world. There were 46 entries, some of them coming from Cape Town and Johannesburg. It was sponsored by the Milk Board and organised by a committee which also revived the Centurion Runners Club.

Councillor Trevor Warman started the race as his first duty as Mayor of Durban at 1 p.m. Friday the 11th October. At first the competitors laughed, joked and chatted around the track. They had to complete 352 laps to reach the 100 mile mark. Although the pace was not slow, the front runners were waiting for dark and the cooler temperatures before putting on any real pace.

T. Kotze of the Transvaal was the early leader and Dave Box says that when Kotze lapped him for the third time he said to Manie Kuhn, "Three times is as much as I am going to let anyone lap us. after three times it gets dangerous." From here Dave and Manie, who were running together at this stage, put on the pressure and were well clear of the field at about the 26 mile point.

A short while later Manie Kuhn took the lead with Dave second and some way back, Clive Crawley and Robin Stamper were next best. Manie kept the lead for quite a long time, but at about the 45 mile mark Manie pulled off the track for a while and Dave took the lead, never to be passed again.

Late in the evening, crowds of spectators arrived after their cinema shows had ended. Even later, the lovely girls in long evening dresses and their partners in dress suits arrived, having come straight from a dance. On the microphone of the public address system was Nick Raubenheimer giving a running commentary on the runners, and those walking by now, as they went past.

It was during these commentaries that Nick formed the much heard phrase amongst our runners. "Is it the Manie or the Box?" he kept asking. The crowds of spectators joined in the spirit of the event and everytime the leading runners came past the main check point, they would clap and cheer and so it was that Dave ran on to establish an unofficial World Best time of 12 hours 40 mins. and 48.3 secs. Second was Manie Kuhn in 13 hrs. 19 mins. and 51 secs. next came Clive Crawley followed by Robin Stamper, who thrilled the spectators by sprinting the last lap and perhaps doing the fastest time for one lap.

The other runners to follow these four were: Dave Venter, Arnold Harborth, K. Wilkinson, Cyril Stafford, John Ball, Gerald Delpport, James Delpport, Gordon Mathieson, T. Kotze, Benny Hustler, Ernie Arderns, Doc Gardner, Roy Els, "Twiggy" Tripp, Charlie Warren, E. Ayres, Martin Cavanagh, P. Cronje, Clive Siepman and "Willy" Williams who got the prize for last man home.

On the 26th of October, 1969, the World saw the end of another 100 mile track race and a New World best time when John Tarrant covered this distance in 12 hrs. 31 mins. and 10 secs. on the Stompond Lane Track, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey. Second was Dave Box in 13 hours 1 minute and 43 seconds and the 49-year-old Ted Corbitt of New York was third.

Later this year, we are due to hold another 100 mile track race in Durban, as this event is to take place every second year. It will be very interesting to see what this race produces. There are men in this country who

are determined to have a crack at breaking this new record of John Tarrant's, but just as determined as them are the other runners who want to see if they can run 100 miles in 24 hours:

What the organizers are faced with this time is whether they will limit the number of entries and give the fast runners a chance at the record, or whether it is going to be a 100 mile endurance test for all comers. If it is the latter and the number of entries increase, as they are bound to, there will be very little chance of anybody breaking this record. It will mean that the winner would have run well in excess of 100 miles by going wide on the corners while overtaking the slower competitors.



*Manie Kuhn leads from Dave Venter, Dave Box and Tokkie Kotze in the 100 mile race at Hoy Park in 1968.*

# Distance Runners' Survey

In order to attempt to get a picture of the average road runner a sample of our members, and runners from other clubs, were asked to complete a short questionnaire. Some quite interesting results came to light. We found that Mr. Average is forty years old, 5ft. 9ins. tall, with a weight variation of only 5-1/2 lbs. from being out of condition to achieving racing fitness. Obviously most of our respondents do not fit this description. You won't find many Mr. Average's on the road.

People from all walks of life indulge in this sport of ours and it is interesting to note that nearly all had, at some time, been keen sportsmen in other spheres before taking up running. Two thirds of our sample had sedentary occupations and the majority began running in their mid-thirties: - perhaps an effort to delay the approach of middle-age.

Many of the younger runners had turned to the sport after revealing unexpected abilities at a school or military sports day. However, in the vast majority of cases, the urge to take up road running among our younger members was stimulated by the challenge of the Comrades Marathon while their elders turned to running to combat increasing weight and failing health. One senior member of our club who started for this reason as a beginner would sneak out under cover of darkness, clothed in hiking gear, and stop jogging to walk whenever he saw people in the street - this same athlete now runs while in view of the public and catches a quick walk when out of sight.

Even among the top boys there is little evidence of a strong belief in the virtues of any special diet. Most people eat as they please. There are very few isetotallers among our members - even the top athletes drink fairly regularly. However, most of our sample were only social drinkers although one person averages 35 to 50 beers a week and one drinks vast quantities of wine and spirits. While our younger members tend to produce the better performances it is the forty year olds who lead the field when it comes to alcoholic consumption.

Among our active members there are only a handful who smoke but, surprisingly, the few who do, go in for it in a big way, averaging twenty-five cigarettes a day. One individual who loves his smoke takes a packet of Texas along as part of his Comrades equipment and, believe it or not, he enjoys a cigarette while in action.

Early to bed, early to rise makes . . . . you run a little faster, or so our lads think, for 7-1/2 hours sleep per night seems to be the required amount for both the top boys and the scrubbers.

On the footwear scene, the old faithful takkie seems to be taking second place. In these modern times the lighter road running shoe is favoured by road runners although the old timers still prefer the old type of footwear. Many of the lads 'doctor' their shoes in some way or other - the favourite being the built up heel.

Runners in their 40's tend to put in more effort and to train more than the younger or the older members. This is possibly due to the fact that at forty they are desperately trying to hold on to youth, prove that they can still compete with the younger lads, and show the old boys that they are not yet ready to join their ranks.

With increasing age runners are inclined to prefer the longer races and to adopt a more cautious, less ambitious, approach than the younger lads who are more prepared to gamble on youthful exuberance and resilience to achieve good performances in a race.

In races of up to 26 miles the preference is not to eat but to drink frequently. In contrast, in the ultra long distance races roughly 50 percent of the younger competitors eat a little, but with increasing age the body metabolism seems incapable of coping with solids and only liquid refreshment is consumed.

Prior to long races most of the younger runners prefer to lay off training for a day or two. Their elders usually keep training until the day of the race but may cut down on distance and speed. The older competitors find a few days off training is a major setback; they seem to lose fitness very quickly by resting whereas the younger runners feel stronger and fitter after a short break.

Most people suffer from injuries at sometime or other - the general attitude being that, when injuries persist, the thing to do is keep running and grin and bear it.

The results of our survey indicate an amazing uniformity of approach on many topics and highlight many different views on others. The major finding is the contrast in preferences between the individuals from different age groups. We do not know to what degree this is the result of the younger runners adopting a more modern outlook. However, most runners are willing to accept innovations and it would seem that, in time, the younger ones will have to modify their approach as they grow older and join the ranks of the plodders.

## MANIE KUHN

Manie, born in Keetmanshoop, S.W.A., in February 1934, has now over a decade of running behind him, a decade in which he has distinguished himself in both road running and cross country, and in which he has competed in practically every race of distinction on the South African road running calendar.

Before coming to Durban, Manie was a keen sportsman. He played both rugby and soccer in S.W.A., and boxed for Griqualand before turning to running in December 1959, just in time to build up for the Comrades the following year. His previous sporting background obviously was a good basis for long distance training and in his first Comrades, Manie came 35th taking 8 hrs. 27 min. for the up run. The following year there was a vast improvement to 6 hrs. 53 min. and in 1962 he completed his second up race in 6 hrs. 52 min. During the next six years Manie was never out of the gold medals, and in 1967 he won the race, snatching victory from Tommy Malone right on the line.

Manie has carried the Savages colours in the London to Brighton on three occasions, his best performance being his second place (to Bernard Gomersall) in 1966. He was hoping to improve on this the following year but unfortunately fell and sustained concussion. This accident prevented the possibility of the double victories in both Comrades and Brighton that year.

Twice Manie has represented Natal for Cross Country and he has represented Natal in an inter-provincial marathon race against Western Province.

Manie is a very enthusiastic Badminton player. This helps him keep in trim when not in full training. Even so to cut down from 198 lbs. to a racing weight of approx. 150 lbs. must be a daunting task.

At the age of 36, and after ten years of hard training, Manie's years as a top performer are not yet over. He is still always willing to have a go at anything, and immense strength and stamina, that have carried him through so many ultra long distance races mean that he will still be a threat to the younger chaps for some years to come.

This year Manie runs the Comrades in a green number for the first time and joins the elite group whose Comrades numbers are held in perpetuity.

**MANIE**



## Savages on the Border

Way back in the years when the Border was an Athletic Province of some stature the idea of a Border Marathon was conceived. A thin strip of maradam separates King William's Town from East London 37 miles away, and it was felt that an Ultra-marathon over this course would be a good idea. Unfortunately Trevor Gee who conceived the idea was soon to leave the "Fighting Port" and the race's organisation fell into the hands of people who are more interested in the great I, than in running, and no records of the races progress are at hand for us to study.

In the closing years of the Border Marathon's life it was dominated by one of the greats - Savage - Manie Kuhn. The last year that the race was held Kuhn won by 36 minutes from "Iron man Tok Kotze" who had hitch-hiked down for the event. That year 33 entered and the intense heat caught up with twenty of the starters. Kuhn's time of 4 hrs. 5 min. 43 sec. was almost a half hour outside Gerald Walsh's record, but was the second best time recorded. Walsh ran the only year that a tail wind blew.

The writer of this article finished in 13th place with a time of 5 hrs. 59 min. 13secs., my number was also 13, and I inched Terry Quinn out of the dubious honour of winning the trophy for the last qualifier as he was one second over 6 hours.

Also in the line up that last year were Chris Vorster and Twiggy Tripp; Chris finished 4th in a time of 5 hrs. 6 min. One of the big mistakes made that year was the method of presenting the trophies, and one of the leading Savage office bearers had his miniature, presented for qualifying by running under 6 hours, thrust into his track suit pocket - unwrapped - it left a lasting impression on both the recipient and myself.

At about the time the Border Marathon was giving its death rattle, Keith Hind, Ken Wilkinson and I decided that we would like to introduce a club marathon into the Border Programme, and the Cambridge Harriers Marathon was born.

It was a tremendous thrill for us to find four 'out of Province runners' in the line-up for our inaugural race. Bill and Albie Sim from the Savages and Reg O'Leary and Jannie Breed from Port Elizabeth. Albie had one of his last victories over Bill in that race as his time of 3 hrs. 12 min. 27 sec., was better than Bill's 3 hours 15 min. 3 sec.

Jan Breed won the race in fine style from his 17 rivals and set the time at 2 hours 44 min. 21 sec. It looked like a very fast time to us and we felt it would stand for a long time.

After the race at a braai, we stood chatting as runners do and I well remember how Bill's eyes shone as we spoke about the possibility of him breaking 3 hours one day, and how he felt that this was something right out of Grimm's fairy tales.

Running in the race and finishing in joint 11th place in 3 hours 48 mins. was Don Baxter who wore Savages colours but who had settled in East London.

In a junior event over 17 miles that day Alec Wainwright a schoolboy from Dale College finished in 5th place. He was a boy who grew to love running and joined the Savages Club, the next year when he settled in Durban.

The following year the race attracted only two 'out of province' runners Bill and Tony Tripp, Bill incidently is one of three runners who has run the race every year. Trevor Torr who was in years to come to join the Savages Club but who ran this race in the red vest of the East London Club, won the race as was expected in two hours 40 mins. He had previously run a 2 hour 27 min. Marathon and was moving very strongly. Unfortunately all other records of this race have been lost.

Don Baxter did the time keeping and he also seconded Bill, causing the latter to have a flare of temper at having his second "ditch" him at about 20 miles as he hurried through to the finish. The loss of temper cost Tony the honours of a placing to Bill, as Bill wanted to get it over and have some sharp words.

That was the year of the East London Cross Country Championships, and having once been blooded at organising a big race I felt that it was time for us to move into Inter-Provincial class.

As I was running at my usual place in the Comrades, near the back, I noticed in front of me two runners joined by a piece of cloth. Needless to say this was Ian and Gerry. Very timidly I ran up to them and introduced my breathless self. In no time I felt the love that these men have for the sport and so I asked if they would support a move to get a provincial marathon going.

In my complete innocence I little realised that this was the ingredient needed to put a race on a sound footing - if Gerry comes, you've got it made.

Since then I have often planned a race only to hear the question asked - Are the Savages coming? or How many of the Savages are coming? This is the impact that the Savages club is having on a PROVINCE whose headquarters is 400 miles from Durban.

Anyway I was duly given permission from the Border President

Mr. Dodd to organise an Inter-Provincial Marathon as best as I was able. I thought it would be a good idea to start with a race involving Border, Eastern Province and Natal, as there was already a triangular track match for these provinces in East London on the last Saturday of January each year.

I wrote to Mr. Bob Calder and to Mr. Chris Hattingh outlining the idea, and never heard from either of them in reply. However, being a crafty fellow, I said in my letter that if I received no reply I would take this as tacit agreement to the idea and so the Inter-Provincial Marathon was born.

The first race took place on January 27th 1968 and most of the men who have featured in the Marathon ran the inaugural race which was won by Dave Piper in 2 hours 34 mins. 22 secs. The Harriers also took the team prize as their runners took the first 4 places. In fact only two Savages, Dave Box and Dudley Duck in 5th and 6th places featured in the first ten. The race from Border's point of view was a success as 38 men entered, the biggest ever marathon in the Province.

During this race while running down a hill I came upon Peter Adlam, "How's it going," says Pete, all friendly. "Tough titty," I say, "and I mean it, I've forgotten to plaster my nipples," "Not to worry," says Pete handing me a roll of plaster which he has dug out of his deep pocket. "Great," says I, "What must I do - wrap it round me till I reach the end of the roll?" "Stick around", says Pete and he hands me a razor blade which he digs out of the pocket. On the run he then cuts two suitable sized pieces of plaster and hands them over, "Feel like a cold-drink" asks Pete. This of course is too much, and I gape - upon which he gets the message and tells me that, as we are approaching a cafe and as he has money he is merely being friendly.

The second Inter-Provincial Marathon was bigger, brighter, better, and also hotter. For the 53 starters it was plain hell, but a little blonde haired fellow by the name of Bagshaw had entered and Bagshaw running in a temp. of 88°F and humidity of 81 percent melted through the course in a new record of 2 hrs. 32 min. 40 sec.

This year was the race of the swim and a few of the runners, one case confirmed, cannot explain the long time between 15 and 20 miles. At this stage the course passes close to the sea, and this is the bluest, coolest most inviting water a weary marathon runner fighting the macadamised adversary has ever seen.

That year the Savages won the team prize with 1st 3rd and 5th places, Bagshaw, Orchard and Davey; Ian Jardine was the oldest finisher and the time keepers had a new experience in waiting 5 hours 51 mins. for George Collingwood to totter in. George doubtless had a new experience as one of

the Border runners also finished in the 5 hour class, but he has been banished to Omroohoo and we will not hear from him again.

The 1970 Inter-Provincial Marathon saw the race come of age, teams from Germiston Callies and Western Province entered as well as our usual friends from Natal.

Dave Hensman and a little unfit Dave Bagshaw had a duel for perhaps 10 miles before Hensman said good-bye to the field. His time of 2 hours 30 min. 34 secs. is once again a course record, a unique feature of the course being that every time a Marathon has been run it has brought a new record. Western Province almost frightened Natal, and Celtic almost frightened Savages. The winners are decided on time not placings as I feel a run of some several minutes better than the next man demands more than a mere point differentiation. Savages time was 8 hrs. 20 min. 48 secs. and Celtic took 8 hrs. 24 min. 31 secs.

During the years that I have known the members of the Savages Club I have grown to love the club. It spontaneous warmth is a feature of the fellowship generated by Road-Running. It is with deep sincerity that I wish them all the best in the years that lie ahead. They have given so much to the sport I love.

BOET RABIE.

# Messages of Congratulations

## Collegian's Harriers A.C.

On behalf of Collegian's Harriers Athletic Club I congratulate you on your achievements over the past decade.

You have produced many first rate athletes, but for me your greatest achievement lies in your large membership. This indicates the good fellowship which exists in your club.

We thank you for the support which you have given our events in the past and send you our good wishes for the future.

Percy Reid,  
President Collegian's Harriers Athletic Club.

## Durban A.C.

On behalf of the Durban Athletic Club we wish to offer our heartiest congratulations to Savages Athletic Club on the occasion of their Tenth Anniversary. We would like to stress the fact that this Club, during its short life, has benefited many business men, who in normal circumstances would drive their cars in comfort, whereas the powers behind the executives of Savages have urged their men to do firstly short runs, and then later longer ones, even to competing in the Comrades Marathon. People do not realise the benefit to the health of those men who have performed this feat.

We trust that very shortly the teams from their newly formed track section will match the powers of their road men.

BOB CALDER  
PRESIDENT.

### **Bluff A.C.**

We of B.A.C. would like to thank Savages for the excellent support they have given to our Club in the past, and take this opportunity to congratulate them on their Tenth Anniversary and to wish them every success in the future.

ERNIE VENTER  
CHAIRMAN.

### **Ladysmith A.C.**

We of Ladysmith A.C. have always had a very happy association with Savages and look forward to many more years of happy co-operation and it gives me great pleasure to wish all members and the Club, every success in the future.

DART BOUSFIELD  
PRESIDENT

### **Natal University A.C.**

Natal University Athletic Club wish to associate themselves with the others who are offering their congratulations to Savages A.C. as they now begin their second decade in the Athletic world. We trust that they will achieve as many successes during the next ten years as they have in the past. Their successes on the road and across the country have been outstanding. We look for similar performances on the track as well.

ATHOL JENNINGS  
CHAIRMAN.  
NATAL UNIVERSITY DURBAN.

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