

ANNUAL REPORT

Presented to the Members of the St. George District Amateur Athletic Club
at the Annual Meeting held in the Masonic Hall, Hurstville, May 3, 1926.

Gentlemen:-

We place before you this evening, for your perusal the Fifth Annual Report and Balance Sheet of the Club for the year ending March 31, 1926, with the hope that you will take to heart what is said and do all in your power to advance the St. George Amateur Athletic Club both on and off the racing track.

Generally speaking, instead of dealing with matters of fact, an Annual Report is a succession of compliments. Of course, there is perhaps an excuse for exalting the doings of our Distance Section, both as a team and individually. The succeeding paragraphs speak volumes in this direction - here your Club has rapidly come to the front.

However, the same cannot be said of the Track Division. There is no getting away from the fact that the Club did not maintain public patronage at its Summer mid-week night meetings on Hurstville Oval to anything like the extent of the 1924-1925 period. This is much to be regretted. We are of firm opinion that the N. S. W. A. A. can materially assist us next track season by permitting inter-club matches to take place at night on Hurstville Oval. Providing this is done, with the vast improvements which are now being effected on the Oval, the Club will soon regain its former standard.

MEMBERSHIP: Our membership for the year was slightly in advance of the previous twelve months, closing at seventy financial members. It is such an easy matter to increase the club's membership that it is difficult to account for such a low figure. If each member would but make up his mind to bring along one other during the ensuing year, what an organization this Club would be!

SOCIALLY: During the year the Club conducted its first Annual Ball, at the Masonic Hall, Kogarah, also a "Smoko" at the School of Arts, Kogarah, to welcome back H. Taylor, Hon. Manager, A. Gainsford and C. Weeks, members of the Australasian C. C. team who represented New South Wales at Wellington, N. Z. Special invitations were also extended to Messrs. E. J. Fitzsimmons, M. J. McKenzie (Cumberland), B. Swinbourne, H. Hayden (Botany). Both these functions were socially and financially a success, and the catering was splendidly carried out by Mrs. Colvin, one of the club's keenest supporters.

ACTIVE ATHLETICS - DISTANCE SEASON (Club Events): Once again the Road Season provided members with ample competition, so much so that the Saturdays remaining from "Open" competition were all too few. Thanks to the support accorded by local trades people, races were held at Hurstville, Carlton, Rockdale, Brighton-le-Sands and Arncliffe. On an average seventeen men contested each event. Covering the distance season was a Point Score Competition, which was won by C. Lemon with 55 points, second and third places being taken by T. Hasler 52 and S. Gainsford 48 points respectively.

5 MILES NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIP: Held for the first time, the race took place on June 6 and was won by R. Chadwick with a margin of $39\frac{1}{2}$ secs. His time was 30 mins. 6 secs - good running for the hilly Hurstville Course. T. Matterson 30.45 $\frac{1}{2}$ secs was second and R. Medlin 31 mins. 5 secs. third. Matterson (allid. 2 mins. 55 secs.) secured the sealed handicap.

5 MILES SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP: Held on the Hurstville Course for the "Stewart" trophy presented by Mr. Stewart, Jeweller of Kogarah. Alleyne Gainsford not only retained his title, but reduced his club record by 11 secs. to 28 mins. 56 secs., and in winning he also gained the Hart Cup outright. R. Chadwick (29.6 $\frac{1}{2}$) was second and S. Gainsford (30.36) third. C. Lemon allowed 5 mins. 20 secs. secured the sealed handicap by the narrow margin of $1\frac{1}{2}$ secs.

OPEN HANDICAPS: For the third successive year St. George members performed very ably in Open Handicaps. The club opened its winning list on June 20, with the Annual East Sydney 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles Road Race, in which Stan. Gainsford, from the 1.55 mark captured the event in 15.20 running time. Next in order came the Annual Western Suburbs 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -miles handicap, St. George not only fielded the largest entry but captured the trophy with that sterling performer, Charlie B. Weeks. He had

the fairly short mark of 1min. 10 secs. and won in hollow fashion in 19.50, registering only 10 secs. slower than Harold Hayden (Botany) fastest time.

We now pass on to open event No. 3, and here we find on July 4, Maurice Moroney of our club out-distancing the opposition in the Annual St. George 5-miles' road race at Hurstville. Once again St. George topped the entries with twenty-one nominations.

NEW SOUTH WALES CHAMPIONSHIPS: For our own club, the most successful ever. Here is the list. Novice C. C. Championship of N. S. W., conducted by East Sydney A. A. C. at Rose Bay on June 13, 1925, won by H. H. Vaughan of the Manly Club. A "red letter" day for our men, for St. George easily captured the Teams' Championship with 28 points, finishing its first four men as follows:--A. S. Williams 4, E. Mavin 7, S. Gainsford 8 and R. Chadwick 9. The club's officers were naturally elated at this success, and hope that it will be the fore-runner of other fine achievements. Mr. Williams in particular deserves special mention for he ran practically "green". St. George congratulates heartily Mr. Vaughan of the Manly Club, who so ably took the individual title in 30 mins. 50 secs. N. S. W. Senior C. C. Championship: Held at Randwick Racecourse on August 1, 1925. Thanks to Charlie Weeks, St. George registered a fine victory. The placed men were:- C. B. Weeks (St. George) 27.52 2/5ths, 1; H. Hayden (Botany) 28.2, 2; H. J. Mackenzie (Lidcombe) 28.6, 3. Naturally we congratulate the man who made history for us, but we cannot pass on without admiring that old time champion, Harold Hayden, who won the State 10 miles as far back as 1912, and is still going strong. Your team filled second place to Botany in the Teams' Championship, and their success is praised. Next time we hope to go one better. 10 Miles Track Championship: Held at Kensington Racecourse on August 6, 1925, and controlled for the first time by the Association owing to the views on postponement expressed on the day by the original controlling body - the South Sydney Club - the teams' race was abandoned. For the second year in succession our fine stayer - Alleyne Gainsford - won the title, narrowly defeating Charlie Weeks. The winner's time, 56.9, was a splendid performance on the heavy track. St. George finished four men in the first nine - some performance.

AUSTRALASIAN CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP. Held at Wellington, N. Z., on August 29, 1925. Of the six representatives from N. S. W., St. George Club furnished two in the persons of Alleyne Gainsford and Charlie Weeks. The 10,000 metres course was flooded, a quagmire in fact, and men never fared worse. New Zealand easily won the championship with a record of twelve points, filling 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 6th. Victoria was second, N. S. W. last. Mr. Harold Taylor (St. George) was the Manager of the team.

MANLY MODIFIED MARATHON: (12 1/2 Miles) Held at Manly, September 12, 1925, the placings were: M. J. Mackenzie (Cumberland) 1hr.7mins.26secs. (course record) 1, A. Gainsford (St. George) 2, R. Bateman (South Sydney) 3. St. George triumphed on the teams race, and thus hold the Proud Cup. Our team finished as follows:- A. Gainsford, 2; S. Gainsford, 4; A. Williams, 5, and L. Robinson, 7, 18 points. Cumberland was second with 26 points and South Sydney 3rd with 56 points. Congratulations to "Jeff" Mackenzie on his record win.

MERIT OUTSTANDING:- Of outstanding merit was the defeat of the famous Botany Harriers in the teams' section of the Novice C. C. C. and the Manly Marathon. It is no small matter to do this, and then supply the winner of the N. S. W. Senior C. C. C. and State 10 miles' track Championship, as well as the runner-up in the 10 miles and Manly Marathon. During the Winter Season St. George gained more first prizes in open company than any other club, and as well headed the open entry list with 140 nominations. It will be a case of look-out for St. George, Winter 1926.

TRACK SEASON (Club Events): During the Summer Season the club held its customary Wednesday Night Sports Meetings at Hurstville Oval. Thanks to the efforts of a few - but only very few - ardent officials and the help of caretaker, Mr. Dunbar, these meetings were put through to schedule. Let us do something more than leave it to just a few next Summer, and thus bring our Track Section back to the standard of a couple of seasons back. R. Wright with a total of 30 points won the point score competition, followed by T. Cope, 28 points, E. Jordan and A. Bell, 25 points each.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS: Held at Hurstville Oval (commencing Jan. 27) and Sydney

Sports Ground. Fred Matson made a fresh club record of 42.5 $\frac{1}{2}$ for the running hop, step and jump, and equally the record in the 16-lb. shot put with 30ft. 6ins. Other club records were 3-miles walk by A. Harper, 24 mins. 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ secs.; Javelin throw, 146ft. 2ins by O. Matson; 1 mile walk 7.34 4/5ths by J. A. Harris; and Discus throw 106.5 by O. Matson. Results were as follow:-

100 Yards	- J. Lockeridge 10 7/10	: 440 Hurdles	- H. Bennett 64 4/5"
220 "	- J. Lockeridge 25 secs.	: High Jump	- W. Potter 5'5"
440 "	- J. Lockeridge 55 "	: Broad Jump	- F. Matson 19'1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
880 "	- H. Walker 2.12 4/5"	: Hop, Step & Jump	- F. Matson 42'5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Mile Run	- H. Walker 4.55 1/5"	: Pole Vault	- F. Matson 8'6"
Mile Walk	- J. A. Harris 7.34 4/5	: Javelin	- O. Matson 146.2
3 Miles Walk	- A. Harper 24.24 $\frac{1}{2}$: Discus	- O. Matson 106.5
3 Miles Run	- H. Moboney 16.34 1/5	: 16-lb. Shot	- F. Matson 30'5"
120 Hurdles	- O. Matson 19 1/5"	: 16-lb. Hammer	- O. Matson 65'3"

DUNN SHIELD CONTESTS: Held on Sydney Sports Ground on 5th and 12th December, and won by Western Suburbs A. A. C. with 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ points, to whom congratulations on their well-merited success. Our men did not show up as well as expected, our only win coming the way of O. Matson in the Javelin with a throw of 159.2. He also registered a good third in the Discus at 106.5.

N. S. W. CHAMPIONSHIPS: Held at Manly Oval on March 5 and 13th. In the Senior Division, members met with no success, but there is every reason to expect that we shall not be long in this forlorn position - that is, winning big championships in the distance season only. Our well-known all-rounder, Oscar Matson, was the club's nearest approach to a win with his splendid second place in the Decathlon Championship. The final scores were C. D. Spicer (Kensington) points; O. Matson (St. George) 5,163.7948 and C. H. Ebert (Botany) 4714.5976 points. On the second day's events Matson secured far more points than any other competitor. Congratulations to the winner - a good sportsman. In finishing third in the one mile walk, A. V. Harper, practically unknown in this branch of athletics, proved that he should develop into a first-class exponent. With a throw of 83'3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " D. Cox gave us a win in the State Junior Discus Throw, and secured second position in the 12-lb. Shot Putt. H. Llewellyn managed second place in the running hop, step and jump. And "last but not least" Miss G. Phillips gained 2nd honours to Miss E. Robinson in the women's 75 and 100 yards' championships of N. S. W. Well done Ladies!

INTER-CLUB COMPETITION: Held almost throughout the Summer, a splendid success generally. St. George did not do quite as well as expected, but we shall do better. Last season the rules permitted some of the matches to take place on the Hurstville Oval, and public patronage was then a big feature. However this was altered during the season just ended by the Association, and has resulted in loss of local interest and less financially for the club. As mentioned earlier we hope that next season the Association will allow inter-club matches to be held on our fine Oval.

BALANCE SHEET: Reference to the Treasurer's Balance Sheet shows the club to be in a strong financial position, there being a credit balance of £30/1/2.

THANKS: For assistance given us we desire to thank the following:- Messrs. Murphy, Wallington, Hart, Peters, J. Ferguson, R. Jolley, Kable, Smithson, H. Taylor, F. Matson, Senr., Kirkwood, Offord, Stewart, Mark Gosling, M.L.A., L. Dunbar, Mrs. Colvin, the City and Local Press as well as all others who assisted the club materially as well as financially.

RESIGNATION: The most notable resignation of the season was that of our late Hon. Sec. Mr. W. Ellis who, owing to his business taking him part time into the country, was compelled to relinquish the reins of office in December. He proved a worthy successor to previous holders of this most important office.

CONCLUSION: All Office-Bearers retire tonight, but are eligible for re-election. Members, this is your opportunity! Do the right thing by yourself and your club, and elect men who will have the interests of the St. George Amateur Athletic Club always before them. Blessed as we are with an ever-expanding population in the Illawarra District, each and every member should be looking forward to the day when St. George A. A. C. will lead the way not only in volume of membership but in its prowess on the Athletic Field.

For and on behalf of THE ST. GEORGE AMATEUR ATHLETIC CLUB,

	ALLEYN GAINSFORD)	
(Signed)	and)	Joint Hon. Secretaries.
	J. J. WALSH)	

ST. GEORGE DISTRICT AMATEUR ATHLETIC CLUB

BALANCE SHEET

For year ending 28th February, 1926.

Presented to Members 3rd May, 1926.

<u>R E C E I T S</u>		<u>E X P E N D I T U R E</u>	
Cash in hand - 1925	£68 11 1	N.S.W. A.A.A.	
Annual Membership Subscriptions	15 12 -	Affiliation Fee	23 3 -
Donations:		Dunn Shield	1 4 -
B. J. Jolley	£3 3 -	Race Fees to L.A.	4 19 6
F. Watson, Sr.	2 2 -	Printing Annual Rpt	3 - -
J. J. Walsh	1 16 9	Road Race Circulars	5 3 -
H. Taylor	1 16 9	Wemhala Bros.	2 7 6
G. D. Hart	1 1 -	Certificates - Club Championships	2 5 -
W. Peters	1 1 -	Hire of Hall for Annual Meeting - 1925	18 - -
S. Wallington	1 1 -	Parker Studios	7 7 -
J. P. Murphy	1 1 -	Reg. Francis Cup	3 - -
-Kirkwood (Hurstville Hotel)	1 1 -	Petty Cash	2 15 -
Mark Gosling, M.L.A.	1 - -	Social Expenditure	25 7 9
St. George Rugby League	16 - -	Trophies Paid	35 1 1
Miss Rossitter	10 6 -	Hurstville Oval Light Charges	11 - -
H. Nelson	10 6 -	McDonald Testimonial	2 2 -
N. J. Ellis	10 6 -	Cash in hand	68 12 8
Sundry Donations	11 9 -		
Members Fees Hurstville Oval	14 11 8		
Arrears collected	17 - -		
Race Fees collected	11 3 -		
Proceeds Social Accounts	25 7 9		
Sale of Photos	3 17 -		
Returns advertising	3 6 -		
Entries Club Championship 1926	1 12 0		
Interest on money in Bank	1 12 9		
	£ 173 5 9		£ 173 5 9

<u>A S S E T S</u>		<u>L I A B I L I T I E S</u>	
Cash in hand	£ 68 12 8	Outstanding Orders	£ 38 11 6
		Credit Balance	30 1 2
			£ 68 12 8

JOHN A. HARRIS

Hon. Treasurer

Audited and found correct

C. Lemon) Hon.
S. H. Binder } Auditors.