

# Amateur Athletic Association Championships

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## Amateur Athletic Association Championships.

Stamford Bridge Sports Ground,

June 30th & July 1st, 1922.

It must have been a pleasant revelation to our Swiss athletes to compete at a sports meeting of such magnitude and right royal success as were the A.A.A. Championships, and if our own champions did not quite succeed in being first past the post, they, as well as Switzerland and the Swiss Colony in Great Britain, can nevertheless be proud of their achievements.

To meet the cream of British, Finnish, French, Italian, Norwegian and Swedish athletes in the preliminaries and qualify for the finals is in itself a distinct success, but the performances of Switzerland's representatives did not end there. They finally secured second places in two events and third places in another two, being beaten by men who are of exceptional and rare merit in their particular class.

Further, it can hardly be disputed that, arriving in this country only two days before the contests were due for decision, this drawback gave them no chance to escape the detrimental effects which a change of air and food unquestionably have on the highly strung nervous systems of athletes.

This is an additional handicap, which our home authorities would be well advised not to impose on their representatives in future. Our champions should have beforehand a sojourn in this country of at least 10 to 14 days, which would help them greatly in combating the harmful influence of our not exactly congenial climate here, and, in addition, would enable them to tune themselves up to "concert pitch" under the guidance of an experienced instructor and advisor—also an advantage which cannot be ignored.

Of course, this entails considerable expense, but, then, the reputation of our athletes and the spoils to be gained by victory should more than justify such outlay; in the general interest of Swiss athleticism this matter is worthy of due consideration.

The events in which the Swiss athletes competed and showed up prominently were: The Half-Mile Final, in which P. Martin took the lead from the start and maintained it at a crack pace for over 600 yards, when he was collared by Griffiths and Mountain, the latter of whom just got up on the tape to win by inches from Griffiths, Martin being third. Time: 1 min. 53 3-5 secs. (standard 2 mins.; world's record 1 min. 52 1-2 secs.). One of the sporting reporters describes Martin as a real flier; however, it is doubtful whether he employed the right tactics by making the pace so hot, hoping to last for such a distance.

In the final for the 220 Yards J. Imbach was pitched against the triple crown hero of the meeting, H. F. V. Edward, of the Polytechnic Harriers. The result was almost a foregone conclusion, for the West Indian is doubtless one of England's finest sprinters of the present day. Entering the straight, Edward led by 4 yards and Imbach eased up, Edward winning for the third year in succession by 10 yards. Time: 22 secs. (World's record 21 1-5 secs.)

For the Pole Jump only two of the five entrants contested the title, viz., No. 4, E. Gerspach, and No. 5, C. Hoff (Norway) which was rather unfortunate for the two competitors, who under the circumstances were called upon to exert themselves in more rapid order than if two or three more competitors had put in an appearance. This undoubtedly tired the two men appreciatively, and our compatriot, E. Gerspach, failed after having cleared 11 ft. 9 in. His opponent, C. Hoff, secured the honours by doing 12 ft. (Standard 10 ft.; World's record 13 ft. 5 in.). Had there been a prize awarded for style, that trophy would unquestionably have gone to Gerspach, whose graceful movements and landing delighted the spectators. He carries one consolation home with him, as with his performance he beat the standing Swiss record.

Throwing the Javelin attracted eight competitors, among whom our Swiss representative, W. Moser, secured 3rd position with a 145 ft. 10 in. throw, 16 ft. 4 1-2 in. more than the best performance of the five British competitors. The winner proved to be the Finn, P. Johansson, whose throw distanced 200 ft. 5 in.; second was H. Klumberg (Esthonia) with 190 ft. 4 3-4 in.

The honours of this excellent meeting were shared in the following proportions: Great Britain seven championships, Finland six, Norway two, France, Italy and Sweden one each.

We trust our promising sporting countrymen have taken back with them pleasing memories—their reception and treatment by their British colleagues and the officials have admittedly been "A.A.A.", and we hope that they will not fail to

accept challenges on future occasions, when they may also share in the honourable distinction of being congratulated upon victory by H.M. King George.

We learn that our compatriots have left their quarters, the Union Helvetia Club, whose guests they were during their stay in London, on Tuesday last for Switzerland. W.



From left to right—J. IMBACH, Geneva; P. MARTIN, Lausanne;  
E. GERSPACH, Basle; W. MOSER, Bienne.

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### Assemblée Mensuelle

aura lieu le MARDI 11 JUILLET, au Restaurant Nuthall à Kingston-on-Thames, et sera précédée d'un souper familial à 7.30 heures (sh. 6/6 par couvert).

Cet avis tient lieu de convocation. Tous ceux désirant y participer sont invités à s'annoncer en temps utile au Trésorier, M. G. Dimier, 46, Cannon Street, E.C.4 (Téléphone: Central 1321).

Les dames seront les bienvenues car l'on dansera après l'assemblée.

### Ordre du Jour.

Procès-verbal.	Banquet Annuel
Admissions.	Election des Commissions
Démotions.	Divers.

A Motor Coach has been engaged for the return journey to Kingston. The Coach will leave Mansion House Place, E.C. at 6.15 p.m. sharp, and return from Kingston for Trafalgar Square at 11 p.m.

The cost of the return journey will be from 3/- to 4/-, according to the number of participants. Seats should be booked at once, as same are limited, from Mr. P. F. Boehringer, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C.4. Telephone: City 4603.