

ADMINISTRATION

The often unsung heroes of any club are its administrators. Clubs are for the members, but no club will flourish without astute control and guidance by managers who are in touch with the aspirations of the members, both from a running viewpoint and socially. From the start, Calliope Harrier Club had administrators who worked to provide varied and entertaining programmes. The requirements of the top runners were never neglected but the needs of everyone else were amply provided for, with most club events being run on a handicap basis. The Eyre Teams Race, the Kohn Cup, the Ambler Shield and the Clayworth Pairs – all these major events were and still are decided on a handicap basis, giving everyone something to run for. And the administrators had and have the foresight to have combined runs and races with other clubs, so contributing to the development of a friendly rapport among the harrier fraternity. The rivalry may be intense but it is never anything but good-humoured. The administrators too have always ensured that the club was on an adequate financial footing. There were times when it would have been a real temptation to overtax the finances, but the administrators wisely refrained from such actions.

Calliope Harrier Club then has been well served over the years by administrators who frequently not only served as officials but also actively competed. It is most unfortunate that a lot of the club's precious early records were destroyed. However, research has managed to retrieve the names of most of the Calliope administrators.

First patron was Mr E Le Roy, owner of the land that Le Roy's Bush now occupies, and still a regular training ground for Calliope harriers. Patron for many years from near the inception of Calliope to the late 1950s was Mr E J Osborne, Mayor of Birkenhead for seventeen years and a keen supporter of the club through to his death in 1969. Mr Bruce Stuart, another strong supporter, was patron for a number of years to 1961, and was succeeded by Mr T H Halcrow, a Birkenhead real estate agent who promoted the club through to 1965. Mr E Reid, managing director of Reidbuilt Homes and generous sponsor of Calliope Harrier Club's Reidbuilt marathon, became patron in 1966 and provided material support in that role through to 1979. There has been no patron for many years now, although C W Fell has raised the question as to why not on a number of occasions.

President of the club is an important post and Calliope has been well served over the years. W E (Bill) Patterson held the position from 1930 until his death in 1940. He



Roy Bennett

took a very active role in those important formative years. Owning a cartage business, part of which was the night soil collection, he used to provide members with transport to a lot of the races. An open truck on to which the harriers clambered was the vehicle used. Mrs Beatrice Clow, a life member, was president in 1941, and after the War Frank Taylor, part-instigator of Calliope, took over through to 1950. The next noteworthy name was J A Darroch, president from 1954 to 1957, in 1962 and again in 1964 and 1965. A large man with a strong personality, he commanded respect and had boundless energy. Bob Crowe had the role from 1966 to 1968 and again in 1971 and 1972, a time when Calliope was becoming numerically stronger and stronger.

President from 1973 to 1975 and from 1978 to 1980 was Roy Bennett. Roy had a strong interest in all facets of the sport and, as an architect, was instrumental in making progress towards improved facilities for the club. He did not lack the common touch, on one occasion struggling through a New Zealand veteran champ's track event with a wide grin on his face, clutching at his Calliope shorts to stop them falling down after the elastic had broken. A future president, C W Fell, after falling about laughing, told him tongue-in-cheek he had disgraced the Calliope uniform. Rev. Dennis Taylor (1976-1977) and Brian Turner (1982 to 1985) took the club forward. They were followed by Martin Fuller (1986 to 1993) who presided over a crucial period in Calliope's history. Martin was closely involved in the inauguration of the Hyatt-Kingsgate half-marathon event which has provided Calliope with real financial stability, in the incorporation of the club, and in the move to the club's

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present clubrooms at the War Memorial Park. C W (Bill) Fell continued the momentum through to 1997, Trevor Mouldy strongly promoted moves to encourage greater involvement in the club by secondary school aged runners, and from 1999 to the present Robert Purdie has been president, enhancing a harmonious interlinking of competitive and social activities within Calliope.

The records are not good, but it is known that by 1962 Calliope Harrier Club had its own chairman who in effect reported through to the president. The chairman (the first one recorded was S Watkins) had a lot of influence over the day-to-day running of the harrier club. Chairmen over the years have been: S Watkins, R Crowe, K Stone, C W Fell, S Foster, M Glen, S Lee, L Smith, M Burke, M Fuller, R Strachan, R Kent, M Wade, K Kent and R Davis. Virtually all were runners with an inside knowledge of what makes harriers tick.

Secretaries and treasurers form the behind-the-scenes backbone of a club. Often forgotten, they are essential to the functioning of the organization. There have been close to fifty secretaries of the Calliope Executive and the Calliope Harrier Club, and around forty treasurers of the two sections. All were important, but some names in particular stand out. The very first secretary was W S Taylor. He was followed by J Osmond. Mrs G Stone was secretary of the executive between 1967 and 1972. Mrs Terrie Horne held the position between 1976 and 1979, Peter Forbes between 1986 and 1989, Bruce McLean from 1999 to 2002, and Lise Davis to the present day. Over the years there has been a rapid turnover of Harrier Club secretaries (what does this mean?). Miss Nancy Walker was the probable first (1963 and 1964), and secretaries who have lasted more than two years since then have been T O'Connell (1984 to 1986), R Barker (1994 to 1996) and Lise Davis (2000 to 2002).

First treasurer of Calliope Harrier Club was C M Jewel. Others of note have included J Osmond (1931 to 1933), E Bentley (1936 to 1938), V J Hampton (1950 to 1953),

K Stone (1962 to 1966), F Rattenbury (1967 to 1969), M Stevens (1979 to 1981 and 1995 to 1997), P Dallow (1999 to 2000 and 2002) and M Wade (1998 and 2003 to 2004). Steve Lee held the executive treasurer's position from 1985 to 1993. First noteworthy Calliope Harrier Club treasurer was G Bateman (1970 to 1972). Others to command attention include S Thomson (1974 and 1975) and C Carmichael (1998 to 2002). Two names stand out. Bruce McLean was treasurer for seven years (1979 to 1985) and Graeme Wells gave eleven years' service from 1987 to 1997.



Graeme Wells

Handicappers are a necessary evil in a harrier club, particularly in Calliope where virtually all the important races are run on a handicap basis. The handicapper can never win of course. He has to handicap himself out of races, so can never win (that however hasn't stopped Weatherley and McLean – their excuse is that the others in their teams all simultaneously ran boomers). If he starts beating an old rival and handicaps himself behind that rival he immediately is asked by the rival who he thinks he is. If he puts a top runner in a B team because the runner hasn't tried in a time trial, he is immediately told in blunt terms where he can place his selection policy. Not that that worries him. If a Calliope runner or team wins an interclub handicap event (particularly if it happens frequently) he is immediately told by the opposition that he cheated. There is of course no truth in this. Two Calliope handicappers who have been so impugned are sanguine in the knowledge that it is their intelligent insight into the capabilities of Calliope's harriers combined with an indepth knowledge of the disqualification rules, that ensures success. There's no need to mention names but Weatherley and McLean won't mind – they know they have the expertise.

Despite the negatives, there is never a problem finding a handicapper. Noteworthy names from the past are F Taylor and I Cape 1930, L J Lanigan 1938 to 1939, L Vincent 1963 and 1964 to 1967 and 1974, L Darroch 1964 to 1967, R Weatherley 1972 to 1975 and 1979 to