Maureen sets hot pace in the cold

MAUREEN TRANTER, the 24-year-old Wolverhampton sprinter who hobbled out of action last month, zoomed back into the international reckoning at the Midland Counties Womens' A.A.A. Championships at Perry Barr.

She won the 200 metres in 24.6sec., running against the wind into the finish and on a day when the cold made good performances hard to achieve.

It was Maureen's best time over the distance this year and she

MIDLAND WOMEN'S ATHLETICS

looked impressive as she dismissed the threat of 15-year-old Solihull starlet, Sonia Lannaman, who was second in 24.9secs.

Sonia, a junior winner last year, gained valuable experience against more seasoned athletes. She was also second in the 100 metres but could not call it a failure when the winner, Anita Neil, holds a stake in the British record of 11.3secs.

The withdrawal through injury of several top liners and a below-average turnout in some events—only one senior race required heats—robbed the meeting of its usual sparkle although two Commonwealth champions made a strong impression.

Rosemary Stirling, the Commonwealth 800 metres winner last year, kept her Midland 400 metres title and after a brave challenge from her Wolverhampton and Bilston club mate, Verona Bernard, she just missed the championship record with a time of 56-1 secs.

The discus was won for the eighth successive year by Commonwealth champion, Rosemary Payne, of Lozells, and her throw of 168ft. 11ins. is her best this year. Mrs. Payne also won the shot.

Pat Lowe, Birchfield's Commonwealth Silver Medallist, had an easy task against limited opposition in the 800 metres and did well to produce a time of 2 mins. 11.9 secs.

100 metres: 1. A. Neil (London Olympiades) 12 secs; 2 S. Lannaman (Solihull); 3 L. Jay (Bristol). **200 metres:** 1. M. Tranter (Wolverhampton & Bilston) 24.6 secs; 2. S. Lannaman; 3. J. Hall (Solihull). **400 metres:** 1. R. Stirling (Wolverhampton & Bilston) 56.1 secs; 2. V. Bernard (Wolverhampton & Bilston); 3. P. Aldwood (Bristol). **800 metres:** 1. P. Lowe (Birchfield) 2 mins 11.9 secs; 2. S. Barnes (Westbury); 3. R. Brownlie (Bromsgrove & Redditch). **1500 metres:** 1. T. Bateman (Coventry Godiva) 4 mins. 25.4 secs; 2. A. Lovell (Solihull); 3. B. Cardy (Bromsgrove & Redditch).

100 metres Hurdles: 1. A. Robinson (Birchfield) 14.8 secs; 2. L. Curwen (Stoke); 3. B. Thompson (Birchfield). **200 metres hurdles:** 1. L. Robinson, 29.2 secs; 2. B. Thompson; 3 P. Whitehead (Stoke). **3,000 metres walk:** M. Lewis (Birchfield) 15 mins. 36.2 secs; 2. B. Cock (Wolverhampton & Bilston); 3. B. Jenkins (Birchfield). **High Jump:** 1. H. Brown (Notts) 1.55 metres; 2. Whiteman (Northampton). **Long Jump:** 1. L. Jay (Bristol) 5.78 metres; 2. D. Pack (Solihull); 3. J. Brown (Solihull). **Shot:** 1. R. Payne (Lozells) 12.50 metres; 2. J. Frampton (Notts); 3. S. Rowe (Birchfield). metres; 2. D. Pack (Solihull); 3. J. J. Frampton; 3. D. Mellors (Notts). **Javelin:** 1. J. King (Small Heath) 43.94 metres; 2. J. Baker (London Olympiades); 3. S. Corbett (Solihull).

JUNIOR

100 Metres: 1. G. Spurgin (Wolverhampton and Bilston) 12.4 secs. **75 metres hurdles:** L. Brewer (Birchfield) 11.9 secs. **800 metres:** R. Dudelle (Leicester) 2 mins. 28.1 secs. **2,500 metres walk:** P. Branson (Harborne) 13 mins. 54.6 secs. **4 x 100 metres relay:** Birchfield 50.8 secs. **High Jump:** S. Handley (Solihull) 1.44 metres. **Long Jump:** L. Cardin (Birchfield) 5.24 metres. **Javelin:** A. Hale (Birchfield) 30.30 metres. **Discus:** M. Wootton (Lozells) 27.42 metres. **Shot:** S. E. Wadson (Leicester) 37.3 metres.

INTERMEDIATE

100 metres: R. Martin (London Olympiades) 12.5 secs. **400 metres:** J. Spiers (Bromsgrove & Redditch) 58.7 secs. **80 metres hurdles:** L. Dryndale (Solihull) 12.1 secs. **800 metres:** M. Cope (Birchfield) 2 mins. 14.7 secs. **High Jump:** G. Lazarus (Leicester) 1.45 metres. **Javelin:** T. Sanderson (Wolverhampton & Bilston) 37.48 metres. **Long Jump:** T. Sanderson 5.46 metres.

Meeting off—and row is on

Mercury Sport Reporter

"WE have had county championships cancelled because of a lack of officials but never because of a lack of athletes," Mr. Mike Farrell, the A.A.A. Midlands representative commented upon hearing that the Gloucestershire County Championships scheduled for R.A.F. Innsworth, had been cancelled.

"Regardless of how many entries are received, championships should still proceed as planned. If only one club enters athletes and they take all the medals, this shows either apathy or a lack of athletes of the necessary calibre on the part of the other clubs," he said.

"If the entries are low, then it may be the case that several events are cancelled, but it is unthinkable to cancel the complete programme and I shall be writing to the Gloucestershire executive to demand a full explanation."

Mr. Terry Haines, secretary of Gloucester Athletic Club, issued a scathing attack on the county officials.

"This is the only job they have to organise in the year and their failure to do this means that they are serving no useful purpose.

"I am bitterly disappointed over the cancellation, but the reason they offer is unacceptable. Last year was a bumper year for entries, but for the three years before that the entries were fewer than this year and the championships were run," he said.

Sympathy

The county secretary, Mr. Ron Freeman, sympathised with Mr. Haines, but added that he was only acting upon instructions from his executive committee who felt that with only 99 competitors — 200 entries with doubling up in various events — they were unable to run the championships.

"Last year we won the Battle of Britain Trophy at Leicester with many of the Gloucester athletes in the county side and we will be looking for their support again this August to retain that trophy, but I can understand Mr. Haines's feelings on the matter," he said.

With the heavy programme facing the various clubs, it will be impossible to stage the championships this season, but Mr. Farrell said he was surprised that Gloucestershire had arranged their championships on the recommended date.

"Normally they do not abide by the A.A.A. recommended date and I was under the impression that this year's championships were to be held on June 19, the date of the Midland area championships," he said.

The Gloucestershire chairman, Mr. Harry Fuller, who made the final decision to cancel the championships, was on holiday yesterday and unavailable for comment.

Festival Trophy cycle clash

The Birchfield Cycling Club stage the 19th Festival Trophy cycle race meeting at Salford Park on Wednesday (7.15 p.m.).

Competing clubs are Birmingham R.C.C., Solihull C.C., Glendale C. & A.C., Bromsgrove Olympique, Beacon R.C. and the holders Salford Park C.R.A., who take part in sprints, points, a double harness pursuit, devil, and a madison time trial.

The meeting ends with the B.C.F. Division Championship at the new distance of 20,000 metres with a full field of top riders.

● *STRIDING HOME . . . Rosemary Stirling about to break the tape for victory in the 400 metres event with a time of 56.1 seconds.*

Three records from Staffs. county challengers

STAFFORDSHIRE county athletic championships event secretary Mr. E. S. Skidmore was upset about lack of support from senior athletes for yesterday's title events at Tipton.

He said: "Less than a handful of senior athletes who took part this afternoon were from the Staffordshire team who came sixth in the inter-counties event at Leicester last week."

Three championship best performances were set at Tipton.

Dave Black (Small Heath Harriers), the inter-counties 5,000 metres champion and European junior record holder at the distance, was fastest 1,500 metre man in a best time of 3 mins 54.6 secs.

In the 2,000 metres junior steeplechase, Ron Harris (Burton A.C.) set a best time of 5 mins 34 secs.

Another best performer was P. Butcher in the senior 5,000 metres. He won in 14mins. 30.2secs.

SENIORS

400 metres hurdles: F. Kelly (Wolverhampton and Bilston) 55secs.
1500 metres: G. D. Black (Small Heath) 3min. 54.6.
100 metres: R. Walters (Wolverhampton and Bilston) 10.8sec.
400 metres: C. Bode (Wolverhampton and Bilston) 51.5.
800 metres: D. Guest (Wolverhampton and Bilston) 1min. 53.8sec.
5,000 metres: P. Butcher (Dudley and Stourbridge) 14min. 30.2sec.
200 metres: R. Walters (Wolverhampton and Bilston) 22.2sec.

YOUTHS

100 metres: 1, G. Peters (Wolverhampton & Bilston) 11.4 secs.
200 metres: G. Peters 23. secs.
400 metres: S. Downs (W'hampton & Bilston) 55.6 secs.
800 metres: K. Barber (Hanley HS) 2 mins 2.7 secs.
1500 metres: H. Elliott (W'hampton & Bilston) Andrew 31.3 secs.
1,000 metres: Steeplechase: D. Hudson (St. Peters HS) 3 mins. 4.2 secs.
100 metres hurdles: J. Roberts (Wsmpton & Bilston) 14.6 secs
Long Jump: K. Lovelock (Burton AC) 5.38 metres.
High Jump: T. Roberts 1.62 metres.
Javelin: J. Hickman (Dudley & Stourbridge H) 46.54 metres.

JUNIORS

100 metres: C. Nimmo (W'hampton & Bilston) 11.5 secs.
200 metres: C. Nimmo (Wolverhampton & Bilston) 23.5 secs.
400 metres: G. Deech (W'hampton & Bilston) 57.2 secs.
800 metres: M. Downes (Stafford AC) 1 min 58 secs).
1500 metres: P. Haywood (Newcastle HS) 4 mins 5.9 secs.
2,000 metres Steeplechase: R. Harris (Burton AC) 5 mins 54 secs (Championship best.
Long Jump: D. Garbett (Cannock GS) 5.97 metres.
High Jump: S. Barber (Unattached) 16.52 metres.
Triple Jump: M. Cannavan (W'hampton & Bilston) 13.24 metres.
Shot: D. Godman (Newcastle HS) 13.04 metres.
Discus: P. Sobik (Stoke Coll) 37.32 metres.

Bill Tancred, the British discus title holder, won an exciting duel with fellow-international Denis Roscoe on the first day of the Leicestershire and Rutland championships at Leicester.

Tancred (Birchfield Harriers) recorded a throw of 55.48 metres, only 2 metres outside of his national best, to set up a county record.

Roscoe (Thames Valley Harriers), who was leading in the event until Tancred's final throw, finished runner-up with a personal best throw of 55.44 metres.

Roscoe went on to win the shot event with a distance of 15.75 metres and so end policeman Mick Meade's 11-year reign as champion.

In the 1,500 metres former British Universities champion, Martin Knowles (Leicester University) pulled off a fine victory over Birchfield Harriers' European junior silver-medallist John Boggis, clocking 3m. 51s.

100 metres: C Monk (Leicester Coritanian) 10.9s.
400 metres: I. Whiteside (Preston Harriers) 50.6s.
Shot: D. Roscoe (Thames Valley Harriers) 15.20 metres.
Discus: W. Tancred (Birchfield Harriers) 55.48 metres.
High Jump: S. Phillips (Loughborough College) 1.90 metres.
Triple Jump: C Mainwaring, 13.78 metres.

Winners in the Nottingham championships at Nottingham yesterday.
4 x 100 metres relay: Notts. A.C. 3 mins. 28.4 secs.
200 metres: B. Harrison (Notts. A.C.) 22.7 secs
400 metres: B. Harrison (Notts. A.C.) 49.6 secs.
1500 metres: J. D. Richardson (Notts A.C.) 3 mins. 56.7 secs.
3,000 metres: R. Miller (Notts. A.C.) 14 mins. 50.8 secs.
Discus: N. Wilson (Notts. A.C.) 41.43 metres. 137ft. 3ins.
Shot: Arnold (Notts. A.C.) 12.72 metres.

● Paul Nihil stepped down to the 3,000 metres walk in the Surrey championships, at Motspur Park, and set a world best performance with 11mins. 31.2secs.

This beat the previous best mark set by Russia's Bruno Junk in 1952, by one-fifth of a second.

TENNIS ROUND-UP

Battrick wins second title in 70 minutes

GERALD BATTRICK won his second tennis title in three weeks when he beat the 30-year-old Dane, Jan Leschly, in the final of the Rothman's tournament at Chichester.

The 24-year-old Welshman, who only two weeks ago won the British hard court title at Bournemouth, gave a fine performance to beat the Dane 6-2 9-8 in 70 minutes.

Judy Dalton, the experienced, hard-hitting Australian, won the £75 women's singles by beating 17-year-old Janet Newbury (U.S.A.) 6-1, 6-4.

After sharing the first two games Mrs. Dalton won the next five games for the loss of only six points. Other results:

Lesley Charles (Worcester) and Miss J. A. Fayter (Devon) won women's doubles final, beating Miss B. Hawcroft (Australia) and Miss M. Pryde (N. Zealand) by 8-9, 6-1, 6-4.

Men's doubles final: Leschly and R. Moore (South Africa) beat Battrick and K. Fletcher (Australia) 6-3, 7-5.

● With an exhilarating display of power tennis, Australia's Colin Dibley upset the odds to beat Bob Hewitt 6-1, 6-4 and win the men's singles title at the Bio-Strath Northern tournament at Didsbury, Manchester.

Twenty-six-year-old Dibley, who less than a year ago gave up his job as a customs officer at Sydney Airport to play full-time tennis, served with such incredible power that South Africa's Hewitt was never in the game.

In the first set, top seed Hewitt trailed 5-0 before holding his serve.

In the all-American women's final, unseeded Kris Kemmer, who beat three seeds on her way to the final, could not match the greater experience of favourite Patti Hogan and lost 6-2, 3-6, 6-3. Other results:

Mixed doubles final: R. Keldie and Miss P. S. A. Hogan (U.S.A. beat T. Koch (Brazil) and Miss P. A. Teeguarden (U.S.A.) 6-3, 8-6.

Nastase wins

● Ilie Nastase became the first Rumanian to reach the final of the men's singles at the French international championships by beating American Frank Froehling 6-0, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2.

It will be an all East-European final for the second successive year. In the other semi-final Czechoslovak champion Jan Kodes beat Yugoslavia's Zeljko Franulovic 6-4, 6-3, 7-5. Other results:

Junior men's singles semi-final: S. Verboys (G.B.) beat F. Cauzolle (France) 6-2, 3-6, 6-3; C. Barazzutti (Italy) beat L. Jankowsky (Czechoslovakia) 6-4, 6-2.

● Only six British players have been accepted for the men's singles at Wimbledon. The entries show that outside of the three contract professionals, Roger Taylor, Mark Cox and Graham Stilwell, only three other home players have gained direct entry to the championships.

They are Gerald Battrick, Peter Curtis and Stanley Matthews.

Practically every big name in tennis will be in the draw, including two notable veterans, Frank Sedgman and Pancho Gonzales, both 43. Sedgman won the men's singles in 1952.

Bahama prize for golfers

MIDLAND members of the Grand Bahama Golfing Society hold their first tournament meeting with other British members at Sunningdale on Friday.

For the professionals, an all-expenses-paid trip to Grand Bahama Island is being offered. For the amateurs prize vouchers will be at stake.

One Society member who will be missing from the event is Harborne's Peter Butler, who is competing in the Midlands during the week.

The Society, which has nearly 1,000 members in the U.K., will have other meetings before at least 400 take golfing holidays in Grand Bahama in December and January to coincide with the Bahamas National Open and the International Open, which Butler won earlier this year.

The all-sports page . . .

League 'yes' to live T.V., 'no' to re-runs

LIVE television coverage of big match soccer is coming next season. But there will be no "inquest" re-runs and aftermatch discussion by players or managers of controversial incidents.

These were the top talking points after the Football League's annual meeting in London.

Generally, however, it was an A.G.M. of little change. Everton's call for two substitutes was turned down, Nottingham Forest's attempt to get an investigation into Sunday play was rejected and a Coventry proposal for more Friday football got a similar "no" from the delegates.

Even the bottom clubs in the Fourth Division, Barrow, Hartlepool, Lincoln and Newport County were re-elected.

Southern League Hereford United topped the non-league contenders.

It was agreed to make entry of the League Cup compulsory.

Also approved was a plan to compile merit lists of referees and make twice-yearly bonus payments to those receiving the best marks.

The top third in the referees' list would get £50 each time, the middle third £37.50 and the bottom third £25.

Secretary Alan Hardaker revealed a new deal being negotiated between the Management Committee and the television companies.

Kept clear

The League plan for next season envisages live second-half coverage of six League Cup matches, two Texaco Cup matches, the Football League v. Scottish League and four internationals.

The matches would all be in mid-week, mainly on a Thursday, keeping clear of all other football.

In addition there would be nine late evening recordings of mid-week F.A. Cup replays and European cup games.

"We don't mind them re-running goals and other exciting incident, but we object to having a referee's split-second decision pulled apart and criticised in slow-motion time after time and then the players and managers allowed to join in the criticism," said Mr. Hardaker.

Coventry chairman Mr. Derrick Robins made out a very strong case for allowing clubs to choose which weekday they wanted to play on.

His club wanted to play a dozen or so matches on Friday night and he claimed Coventry could add £4,000 to the receipts of each match.

His proposal was heavily defeated, however.

About his club's failure to gain admittance, Hereford manager John Charles said: "I feel the votes cast for other non-League teams probably cost us a place. But we are very pleased with 22 votes on our first serious attempt to get in.

● BILL TANCRED . . . Leicestershire discus winner with distance of 55.48 metres.

CYCLING

EDWARDS EDGES OUT BAYTON

KINGSWINFORD cyclist Phil Bayton (Thornhill C.C.) just missed a stage win in the Tour of Britain on the 103-mile leg from Barton-upon-Humber to Nottingham.

The Staffordshire based rider was edged out of first place in a sprint finish by his Great Britain "A" team captain, Phil Edwards.

It was a fine performance by Bayton who had helped to create the early action which sent clear four riders after 10 miles.

Other members of this break were Clarke (Regions), race favourite den Hertog (Holland) and Smolik (Czechoslovakia).

They were joined after 50 miles by Edwards, Duchemin and Roques (both France), and Konechny (Chechslovakia).

Fast pace

With the chasing bunch applying pressure, the break maintained a healthy pace. They completed the 103 miles at an average speed of 27.86 m.p.h., the fastest day's racing of the Tour so far.

Grant Thomas (Birmingham R.C.C.) was 19th in 3 hours 44 minutes 10 seconds, with Bob Jones (Birmingham R.C.C.) 22nd in the same time.

Dutchman den Hertog regained the overall lead, his 21 hours 46 minutes 12 seconds giving him a 26-second advantage over Duchemin.

Edwards's win moves him up to sixth place in 21 hours 50 minutes 44 seconds.

The Dutch suffered a set-back when Piet van Katwijk crashed after 60 miles and broke his collar bone. He is now out of the race.

Stage six (103 miles Barton-upon-Humber to Nottingham): 1 P. Edwards (G.B. 'A') 3hr. 44min. 46sec.; 2, F. Bayton (G.B. 'A') same time; 3, J. Smolik (Czech) same time; 4, M. Duchemin (France) same time; 5, P. den Hertog (Netherlands) same time; 6, P. Konecny (Czech) 3-41-49.

Midland placings: G. Thomas (G.B. 'A') 3-44-10; 22, B. Jones (G.B. 'A') same time.

Team: 1, G.B. 'A', 11-6-16; 2, Czechoslovakia, 11-7-13; 3, France, 11-7-29

General classification after six stages: 1, den Hertog (21-46-12); 2, Duchemin 21-46-40; 3, B. Hubschmid (Switzerland) 21-48-28; 4, M. Hruska (Czechoslovakia) 21-49-47; 5, P. Oosterhof (Netherlands) 21-50-11; 6, P. Edwards (Great Britain) 21-50-44.

Midland placings: 20, Thomas 21-22-7; 31, Jones 22-14-19; 38, Bayton 22-22-19.

Team general classification: 1, Czechoslovakia, 65hrs. 21mins. 17secs; 2, France, 65-21-45; 3, Netherlands 65-22-39.

Points classification: 1, B. Hubschmid (Switzerland) 54pts.; 2, J. Prchel (Czechoslovakia) 50pts.; 3, F. den Hertog (Netherlands) 47pts.

Today's stage is 86 miles from Derby to Birmingham by a roundabout route. It is: Derby (11 a.m.), A.516 Hatton, A.50 Beamhurst, Checkley (11.36 a.m.), Draycott, B.5029 Meir Heath, A.520 Stone (12.22 p.m.), Eccleshall, Newport (12.58 p.m.), A.41/A.5/B.4379 Shifnal, Bridgnorth (1.48 p.m.), Kidderminster, A.456 Hagley, A.491 to M.5 roundabout, A.38 Longbridge, Cofton Park, Birmingham (2.56 p.m.).

● Solihull Cycling Club swept the board in the 12-mile Marsden International circuit race staged by Leek C.C. at Alton Towers, Staffordshire.

Richard Travis, their 18-year-old former national schoolboy sprint champion from Castle Bromwich, got the verdict by two lengths from his team mates George Hutton and Steve Tonry, with Oldham Century R.C.'s Jack Kershaw a further 20 yards down in fourth place.

This quartet had sprinted clear of a leading group of seven riders with just over a mile to go with the Solihull Club's Roger Kempshall taking fifth place ahead of Roy Evans (Mersey R.C.) and Phil Griffiths (Gloucester City R.C.).

● The British kilometre cycling championship at the Leicester Cycle Bowl produced a tie for the first time with Tony Brockhurst and Mick Bennett, of Solihull C.C., sharing the title.

Brockhurst (Leicester Forest East) set up a remarkable 1min. 12.5sec. for the distance which none of the other 31 competitors looked like catching. Then Bennett put in a great burst in the final straight to clock the same time. Ray West, of Oldbury, finished third in 1min. 12.7sec.

Two titles for Paul Blincow

Paul Blincow, from Northamptonshire, won the boys' under-18 and under-16 singles titles in the Derbyshire junior, open and bands championships at Chesterfield. Results:

Boys' under-18: P. Blincow bt. P. Priest 6-0, 6-2. **Under-16:** P. Blincow bt. P. Priest 6-3, 6-1. **Under-14:** D. Wilmot bt. A. Goodman 6-4, 5-7, 8-6. **Under-14 doubles:** P. Goodman and D. Wilmot bt. C. Coupland and A. McGibbon 6-3, 6-2.

Girls' under-18: J. Wheeler bt. R. Lewis 6-0, 6-2. **Under-16:** C. Graham bt. I. Archer 6-4, 4-6, 6-4. **Under-14:** S. Sivil bt. J. Gascoyne 3-6, 6-1, 7-5.

'Post' and 'Mail' golf at Blackwell

On Tuesday and Wednesday the Midland Open golf championship will be played at Blackwell for the Birmingham Post & Mail Challenge Cup.

On Thursday the Birmingham Post & Mail Midland Amateur/Professional Foursomes will be held also at Blackwell.

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