

Is Pirie world's best-ever amateur 3-miler?

L/BOMBARDIER HEWSON SPIKES LIEUT'S GUNS IN HALF-MILE

By
**GEOFFREY
SIMPSON**

ONLY a blistered toe and continuous rain kept record-breaking Gordon Pirie from his usual training-track yesterday.

Today he resumes his bank clerk's job, having in the space of 19 hours become the world's fastest six-miler and won Britain's three-mile title.

Here is proof that complete devotion to a sport by an amateur can crack world records. Countless hours of punishing training, leisure, and pleasure sacrificed the whole year round—that was the price Pirie paid for his wonderful double.

He is prepared to go on paying it. When they told him after Saturday's victory that he was 11 seconds outside Gundar Haegg's three-mile world record Pirie merely said: "I'll go after it some other time." But what a difference in the task of the two men!

Pirie has an everyday job to do. Haegg was a pseudo-amateur, who along with some dozen other Swedes was finally caught out and disqualified for life.

After some of the things I heard about foreign runners in the Olympic Games, who's to say Pirie's 13min 43.4sec. isn't the genuine amateur world three-mile record?

A man with a blister and the overhang of a world-beating run the previous evening ought not to be criticised, but I think Pirie did the first mile too fast (4min. 23.4sec.). He certainly did not lack opposition. Freddie Green, Midlands champion, stuck to him like glue, now and then throwing in a challenge.

BANNISTER RECORD

Green made his last bid to win 600yds. out and got a bump that seemed to take the wind out of him. Anyway, off went Pirie, opening a gap for the first time, and not until the last 300yds. did Green come again.

Then he fairly flew and, from being 40yds. to the bad, finished so much faster than Pirie that there was only 15yds. in it at the tape. Next best performance in these

A.A.A. championships was Roger Bannister's 4min. 5.2sec. mile, in which he had last year's champion Bill Nankeville, pegged back third by a good 25 yards.

It would have been a British record but that, yesterday—while refusing to accept Bannister's recent 4min. 2sec. run at Motspur Park—the Athletic Board ratified his 4min 5.6sec. effort at Oxford in May as a British all-comers' and national best.

Bannister did not take the lead until the bell, and then, lengthening out, went past Nankeville, with lanky Don Beauman hanging grimly on to take second place 12yds. behind.

But we must all have had optical illusions. Bannister seemed to be dying. Actually, his last lap was only a second faster than the first.

NOT TOO OLD AT—

Almost stealing the show were those superb veterans, McDonald Bailey, 32, and Harry Whittle, 31. Those who were writing off Mac as a back number can go hide their heads. Up came the usual double with smooth—as silk sprinting that outclassed all rivals.

Even Brian Shenton, who has been holding Bailey to inches all season, could get no closer than three yards in the furlong final.

It was Bailey's seventh 100 yards and 220 yards double—14 A.A.A. championships in eight years. He is the only athlete with such a record. As for Whittle, he ran his fastest-ever 440-yards hurdles to win his seventh successive title. Two flights out he looked beaten by Alec Hardy. Strength and courage got him home by a yard.

Of the new champions, Brian Hewson, 20-year-old tailor's apprentice, was the best. This delightful mover is doing his National Service as a L/Bdr.—and the man he beat into second place in the half-mile, D. Williamson, is a 2nd Lieut., also in the artillery. A week or two ago the order was the same in the Army championship.

Championship feats at a glance

100 YARDS: E. McD. Bailey (Poly.), 9.8sec. 1; K. A. B. Olowu (Poly.), 10s. 2; O. G. Youngs (Portsmouth), 10.2s. 3.
220 YARDS: Bailey (Poly., holder), 21.4s. 1; B. Shenton (Poly.), 21.9s. 2; C. N. Gibbs (Herne Hill), 22.5s. 3.
440 YARDS: F. G. Fryer (London), 48.8s. 1; L. A. Smith (Rochester), 49.4s. 2; D. J. Rawe (Herne Hill), 49.5s. 3.
880 YARDS: B. S. Hewson (Mitcham), 1m. 54.2s. 1; D. F. Williamson (Army), 1m. 54.6s. 2; C. T. White (Appleby-Frodingham S.C.), 1m. 54.8s. 3.
MILE: R. G. Bannister (Achilles), 4m. 5.2s. (championship best); 1; D. C. Seaman (London), 4m. 8s. 2; G. W. Nankeville (Walton, holder), 4m. 10.4s. 3.
3 MILES: D. A. G. Pirie (S. London), 13m. 43.4s. (championship best); 1; F. Green (Birchfield), 13m. 46s. 2; L. Eyre (Lesvia), 14m. 2s. 3.
2 MILES 'CHANE: E. G. Ellis (Thames Valley), 10m 2.8s. 1; K. E. Johnson (Leicester Coll. of Art and Tech.), 10m 3.6s. 2; W. Berry (Bolton) 10m 14.2s. 3.
120 YARDS HURDLES: F. B. Hildreth (Poly.), 1.4.6s. 1; P. A. L. Vine (Achilles), 1.5s. 2; D. Sullivan (Achilles), 1.5.1s. 3.

440 YARDS HURDLES: H. Whittle (Reading, holder), 52.7s. (English native record, championship best, British national record); 1; A. J. Hardy (Woodford Green), 52.1s. 2; A. L. D. Francis (London Univ.), 54.6s. 3.
HIGH JUMP: D. R. J. Cox (Eton Manor), 6ft. 5in. 1; B. M. P. O'Reilly (Ire), 6ft. 2in. 2; K. Cunningham (Victoria Pk., Glasgow), 6ft. 1in. 3.
POLE VAULT: G. M. Elliott (Woodford Green, holder), 13ft. 6in. 1; M. Mijakov (Jugoslavia), 13ft. 6in. 2; I. Ward (Bury), 12ft. 6in. 3.
HOP-STEP-JUMP: K. S. D. Willehurst (Walton), 47ft. 1 1/2in. 1; W. N. Laing (Poly.), 46ft. 10 1/2in. 2; W. Burgard (Gaarland, holder), 46ft. 4 1/2in. 3.
DISCUS: M. Pharaoh (Christie, holder), 150ft. 4in. 1; V. Krivokapic (Jugoslavia), 155ft. 1in. 2; J. A. Savidge (Navy), 146ft. 5 1/2in. 3.
JAVELIN: M. J. Denby (Thames Valley, holder) 208ft. 7in. 1; B. Danubic (Jugoslavia), 207ft. 11in. 2; K. E. Finnan (R. Ulster Constab.), 202ft. 8in. 3.
TUG (Catchweight): R.A.O.C., Feltham (holders) bt Ford, Dasenham, 2-0.

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