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BANNISTER OPENS NEW TRACK:

This is the new London County Council Sports Centre at Hurlingham Park. Despite teeming rain, thousands pack the stands for the opening ceremony, performed by miracle-miler, Roger Bannister.

With complete disregard for the dampness, Bannister runs out to the track. The site of the new sports arena was once Hurlingham's number one polo-ground. But now, by breaking the tape, Bannister marks the completion of a new stage in the scheme to make it a public park, with the accent on field and track sports. Two-Ten Tessie O'Shea is another guest at the ceremony, for stage and screen stars helped to create the sports centre. Thanks to their efforts, the Variety Club of Great Britain was able to donate £11,000 towards the scheme. The arena, which is designed for all field events, has a six-lane running track, including a 220 yards straight. Football and cricket pitches, hard tennis courts, a putting green and a netball court are also provided. Hurlingham is the second recreation ground assisted by the Variety Club who believes that, only by providing the very best sporting facilities, can Britain breed Bannisters-of-the-future.