

VARIETY CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN

11-9-54

TENT No. 36

1954 CREW

Officers

JAMES CARRERAS, M.B.E.
Chief Barker

NORMAN HARRINGTON
First Assistant
Chief Barker

T. O'BRIEN, M.P.
Second Assistant
Chief Barker

NAT COHEN
Dough Guy

BEN HENRY, O.B.E.
Property Master

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W. E. BUTLIN, M.B.E.

GEORGE ELRICK

D. J. GOODLATTE
(Ex-Officio)

Sir DAVID E. GRIFFITHS, O.B.E.
(Ex-Officio)

JOHN HARDING

C. J. LATTA
(Ex-Officio)

C. PEARL

MAX THORPE

A. T. L. WATKINS

R. S. WOLFF
(Ex-Officio)

Press Guy

DAVID JONES

Please reply to

RKO RADIO PICTURES, Ltd.,
2, Dean Street,
LONDON, W.1.

GERRARD 5640

September 1, 1954.

Howard Thomas, Esq.,
Pathe News,
Film House,
142-150, Wardour Street,
LONDON, W.1.

Dear Mr. Thomas,

I am pleased to send you a general press release giving details of the opening of the variety club of Great Britain's L.C.C. Playing Field by Doctor Roger Bannister, at Hurlingham Park, London, on Saturday, September 11.

As you will see from this, a number of civic dignitaries and stage and screen artists will be present on this occasion.

I shall be pleased to provide any facilities if you will let me know your requirements.

Yours sincerely,
VARIETY CLUB
of
GREAT BRITAIN

*Mr. Curtis
Judson
Revised*

DAVID JONES,
PRESS GUY.

Kenneth/Benny/Plowman

THE HEART OF SHOW BUSINESS



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Press Guy

DAVID JONES

Please reply to

DR. ROGER BANNISTER TO OPEN VARIETY
CLUB'S NEW L.C.C. SPORTS CENTRE AT
HURLINGHAM PARK

Col. James Carreras, Chief Barker of the Variety Club of Great Britain, has announced that Dr. Roger Bannister is to perform the opening ceremony at the new London County Council sports centre at Hurlingham Park on Saturday, September 11.

The playing field, which was mainly financed by Variety Club as a result of a special midnight matinee show at the Coliseum, St. Martin's-lane, is dedicated to the Club and the artistes who took part in the performance.

Screen and stage artistes, civic dignitaries and prominent members of the National Playing Fields Association, the L.C.C. and Variety Club will attend the opening, and among the first entertainment personalities to accept invitations are Janette Scott, Tessie O'Shea, Zena Marshall, Jill Adams and Adrienne Corri.

Mr. Victor Mishcon, chairman of the L.C.C., is to preside, and invitations have been extended to Lord Luke and Lord Alanbrooke.

The Hurlingham Playing Field is the second recreation ground to be subsidised by Variety Club in recent years.

Names of artistes who participated in the fund-raising Coliseum show are being commemorated in

♥ THE HEART OF SHOW BUSINESS



2/

a plaque at the Hurlingham ground. They are:-

NOEL COWARD
TONY CURTIS
RHONDA FLEMING
AVA GARDNER
BAND OF GRENADIER GUARDS
ADELAIDE HALL AND MEMBERS OF "KISS ME
KATE" COMPANY
JIMMY VAN HEUSEN
DOROTHY KIRSTEN
THE KEYNOTES
JANET LEIGH
JIMMY MCHUGH
BAND OF ROYAL MARINES (PORTSMOUTH
DIVISION)
THE STARGAZERS
THE SADIERS WELLS BALLET
FRANK SINATRA
TOMMY TRINDER
THE JOHN TILLER GIRLS
MAX WALL
THE WIERE BROS. AND MILDRED SEYMOUR
ORSON WELLES
REGINALD BURSTON AND COLISEUM ORCHESTRA

With the Compliments of: David Jones, Press Guy, Variety
Club, 2/4, Dean Street, W.1. GERRARD 5640

11/9/54

COPY LETTER FROM DAVIS JONES. RKO RADIO PICS. 2.Dean St., W.1.

To N.R.A. 2.9.54.

Dear Mrs. Shearer.

I am pleased to send you a copy of a general press notice released giving details of the opening of the Variety Club's L.C.C. Playing Field by Dr. Bannister at Hurlingham Park, London, on Saturday, September 11th. (2.30 p.m.)

As you will see from this a number of civic dignitaries and stage and screen artists will be present on this occasion. I shall be pleased to provide any facilities if you will let me know your requirements.

Yours sincerely,

Sgd. David Jones.

(Press Guy.)

NEWSREEL ASSOCIATION.

.....

DR. ROGER BANNISTER TO OPEN VARIETY CLUB'S NEW LCC SPORTS CENTRE AT HURLINGHAM PARK.

Col. James Carreras, Chief Barker of the Variety Club of Gt. Britain has announced that Dr. Roger Bannister is to perform the opening ceremony at the new L.C.C. sports centre at Hurlingham Park on Saturday, September 11th.

The playing field which was mainly financed by Variety Club as a result of a special midnight matinee show at the Coliseum, St. Martin's lane, is dedicated to the Club and the artistes who took part in the performance.

Screen and stage artistes, civic dignitaries and prominent members of the National Playing Fields Association, the ICC and Variety Club will attend the opening, and among the first entertainment personalities to accept invitations are Janette Scott, Tessie O'Shea, Zena Marshall, Jill Adams & Adrienne Corri.

Mr. Victor Mishcon, chairman of the LCC is to preside and invitations have been extended to Lord Luke and Lord Alanbrooke.

The Hurlingham Playing Field is the second recreation ground to be subsidised by Variety Club in recent years.

Names of artistes who participated in the fund-raising Coliseum show are being commemorated in a plaque at the Hurlingham Ground, they are:

- NOEL COWARD/ TONY CURTIS/ RHONDA FLEMING/ AVA GARDNER/ BAND OF GRENADIER GUARDS/ ADELAIDE HALL & MEMBERS OF "KISS ME KATE" COMPANY/ JIMMY VAN HEUSEN/ DOROTHY KIRSTEN/ THE KEYNOTES/ JANET LEIGHT/ JIMMY MCHUGH/ BAND OF ROYAL MARINES (PORTSMOUTH DIVISION)/ THE STARGAZERS/ THE SADLERS WELLS BALLET/ FRANK SINATRA/ TOMMY TRINDER/ THE JOHN TILLER GIRLS/ MAX WALL/ THE WIERE BROS. & MILDRED ~~XXX~~ SEYMOUR/ ORSON WELLES/ REGINALD BURSTON & COLISEUM ORCHESTRA.///



LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL

11.9.54

ROOM 113 · COUNTY HALL · SE1

WATERLOO 5000 · EXTENSIONS 7700 · 7667 · 7668 · 7865

PRESS BUREAU

At Hurlingham Park on Saturday, 11th September, at 2.30 p.m., Dr. Roger Bannister will make a speech, unveil a plaque, "break the first tape" and present the trophies when he opens the L.C.C.'s new sports centre on the occasion of the finals of the County of London Amateur Athletic Championships.

The Chairman of the L.C.C. (Mr. Victor Mishcon), accompanied by Mrs. Mishcon, will preside.

The guests will include the Chairman of the National Playing Fields Association (Lord Luke) and Lady Luke; the Chief Barker of the Variety Club of Great Britain (Col. James Carreras) and Mrs. Carreras; the Mayor and Mayoress of Fulham (Cllr. W. Rankin and Mrs. Rankin). The Chairman of the Council will be joined in welcoming the guests by the Leader of the L.C.C. (Mr. I. J. Hayward) and Mrs. Hayward; the Chairman of the L.C.C.'s Parks Committee (Mr. A. J. Kemp) and Mrs. Kemp and the Chief Officer of the Parks Department (Mr. L. A. Huddart) and Mrs. Huddart.

The occasion marks the completion of the second and almost final stage of the L.C.C.'s £150,000 scheme for buying and laying out as a public park about 20 acres of the Hurlingham Polo Club's grounds.

The first $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres of Hurlingham Park to be completed by the L.C.C. was opened by the Rt. Hon. Dr. Edith Summerskill (M.P. for Fulham West) on 8th October, 1952.

Dr. Roger Bannister's "open declaration" on Saturday will bring into use another 15 acres with a $2\frac{1}{2}$ acre sports arena on part of what was Hurlingham's No.1 polo-ground. The sports arena has a six-lane running track (four laps to the mile) with the unusual feature of a 220 yards straight, and with all facilities for field events. Within the track area there is a football pitch for special matches and outside the track are two more football pitches as well as cricket and football pitches for school use. There is a covered stand for 2,700 spectators and dressing rooms with showers, first aid room and refreshment room.

Towards the £31,000 layout of the sports arena itself, the L.C.C. has devoted the £11,000 generously given through the National Playing Fields Association by the Variety Club of Great Britain, whose representatives at Saturday's ceremony will include Tessie O'Shea, Janette Scott, Zena Marshall, Jill Adams and Adrienne Corri.

In addition to the sports arena, three hard tennis courts, cricket practice nets, a putting green and netball court are provided within the area, together with car-parking facilities.

The opening ceremony -

2.15 p.m. - The Chairman of the L.C.C. and Mrs. Mishcon arrive and are received on the putting green by the Chairman of the Parks Committee and Mrs. Kemp and the Chief Officer of the Parks Department and Mrs. Huddart.

- 2.20 p.m. - Arrival and reception by the Chairman of the L.C.C. and Mrs. Mishcon, of the Chairman of the National Playing Fields Association and Lady Luke, the Chief Barker of the Variety Club and Mrs. Carreras and the Mayor and Mayoress of Fulham.
- 2.25 p.m. - Dr. Roger Bannister arrives. He will be received by the Chairman of the Council and Mrs. Mishcon who will introduce him to those assembled on the putting green.
- 2.30 p.m. - When the above have taken their places on the platform opposite the grandstand, the Chairman of the Council will speak in welcome to the guests. Dr. Bannister will speak and declare Hurlingham Park open. Mr. Victor Mishcon will then invite Dr. Bannister to unveil a plaque which will later be erected at the entrance to the Park and reads:-

Hurlingham Park

The National Playing Fields Association and the Variety Club of Great Britain in conjunction with leading artistes of Great Britain and America have generously provided funds towards the cost of this playing field at Hurlingham Park

In the entrance to the grandstand there will be another plaque bearing the names of the artistes who participated in the Coliseum show at which the funds were raised.

After the plaque has been unveiled, a vote of thanks will be moved by Lord Luke.

The Chairman of the Council will then lead the platform party on to the track, where Dr. Bannister will open the London Amateur Athletic Championships Finals by "Breaking the first tape" on the new running track.

Dr. Bannister, with the Chairman of the Council and his guests will watch the Championships Finals from the Royal Box until about 3.45 p.m. when they will have tea and the opportunity of meeting other guests including Tessie O'Shea, Janette Scott, Zena Marshall, Jill Adams and Adrienne Corri as well as other representatives of the Variety Club and the National Playing Fields Association.

5.30 p.m. - At the invitation of Mr. A. J. Kemp, Chairman of the L.C.C.'s Parks Committee, Dr. Roger Bannister will present the trophies to the winners of the Championships events.

The Press are very cordially invited to the opening ceremony and the Championships Finals. There will be every facility for taking photographs. Application for admission cards should be made as soon as possible to the Press and Information Officer at County Hall (tel. WAT.5000, Ext.7700).

Some notes about the Championships Finals, Hurlingham Park and the L.C.C.'s sports and athletics facilities are attached.

6th September, 1954.

NOTES

FINALS OF THE COUNTY OF LONDON AMATEUR ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

During the war the Council organised many different kinds of activities in the parks (including sports meetings) as part of the "Holidays at Home" programme. After the war it was decided to institute championships for the County of London in the various sports provided for in the parks, and thus encourage the use of the parks and assist in the improvement of the standards of performance in the various sports which has been so marked in recent years. With the co-operation of the governing bodies the Council now organises championships in athletics, bowls, lawn tennis, netball, swimming and cross country running, and in the last two years championships in roller skating and cycle speedway have been started on an experimental basis.

The Council now has ten athletics tracks and the London Amateur Athletic Championships are in their ninth year. They are open to amateurs who have a birth, residential or business qualification in the County of London. Jean Desforges, who won a gold medal in the European Championships at Berne, Sheila Lerwill, the Olympic high jumper, and D.R. Cox, also a well-known high jumper, and Harry Kane, Grafton A.C., who was second in the 440 yards hurdles in the Empire Games at Vancouver this year, are past winners in these Championships. The inclusion of events for juniors (aged 17 to 19) has attracted entries from some of the best young athletes, including, this year for example, Roger Dunkley, the A.A.A. Junior Mile Champion, who established a new A.A.A. Junior Championship record time at the White City, and A.P. Orton, both of Shaftesbury Harriers, of whom great things are expected. Another well-known athlete competing is P.A.L. Vine, Achilles Club.

Athletes in the Finals are those placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in each event in four Area Championship meetings. There are 565 entries.

Arrangements for the Championships are in the hands of Mr. W.J. Pepper, President of the Women's Amateur Athletic Association and a life Vice-President of the Amateur Athletic Association.

Advance copies of the programme for 11th September will be available on request to the Press and Information Office at County Hall on Wednesday afternoon.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS AT HURLINGHAM PARK

The first stage of the development was completed by 8th October, 1952, when Dr. Edith Summerskill, M.P., opened the four and a half acres that had been the stables and paddock of the Polo Club. The layout provided for a large dry playground (for football, cricket and netball as well as a "free play" area), a bowling green, café, shelter, a children's playground with shelter and flower beds and shrubberies.

Development still to come, now that the second stage has been completed, includes the construction of the café mentioned above and service buildings.

At the sports arena track and dressing rooms will be available free of charge two afternoons a week for meetings for competitors of school age, and on other occasions quite small charges will be made to individuals for training and practice. The charges for the use of the ground for athletics meetings and first class amateur football league matches will be £5 5s. on Saturdays and bank holidays, and £3 3s. on other days when no charge is made for admission of spectators. A charge may be made

FINALS OF THE COUNTY OF LONDON MATRONS ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

During the war the Council organized many different kinds of activities in the parks (including sports meetings) as part of the "Holidays at Home" programme. After the war it was decided to institute championships for the County of London in the various sports provided for in the parks, and thus encourage the use of the parks and assist in the improvement of the standards of performance for admission subject to the payment to the Council of a percentage of the gross gate (less entertainment tax), the minimum being £5 5s. on Saturdays and bank holidays and £3 3s. on other days. On Sundays the track will be reserved for athletics practice, but facilities elsewhere in Hurlingham Park will be available to individual football clubs on the usual basis for Sunday games.

SUMMARY OF SPORTS AND ATHLETICS FACILITIES IN THE L.C.C.'S PARKS
(including those at Hurlingham)

Football pitches	-	384
Cricket pitches	-	234
Tennis courts (hard)	-	197
" " (grass)	-	106
Open air swimming baths	-	11
" " ponds	-	3

Athletics tracks at	-	Battersea Park	Hurlingham Park
		Charlton Park	Ladywell Fields
		Crystal Palace	Parliament Hill
		Deptford Park	Tooting Common
		Finsbury Park	Victoria Park

Golf courses at	-	Beckenham Place Park
		Hainault Forest (2 courses)

6th September, 1954