**Senior Cross Country Championships January 4th 1958**

The Herts County Sen Cc Champs were held last Saturday at Stanborough, Welwyn Gdn City over a 7½ mile, three lap course. All the local arrangements were undertaken by Welwyn Athletic Club whose premises were used for the dressing accommodation. A post war record of 64 runners lined up before the starter, the president of the meeting, EJ Power Esq, managing director of Murphy Radio Ltd. M Blyth of SA was the early pacemaker until after half a mile a trio consisting of the brothers(?) M & P Palmer of SA & J Merriman of Wat took up the running. A dour struggle ensued between these three with Merriman putting in frequent Kuts-like bursts in order to break away from the two StA brothers. These efforts finally told on the Watford boy and at the end of the 2nd lap, 5½ miles, the Palmers were able to open up a gap which Merriman was unable to close. Having established a comfortable lead the StA runners were content to share the individual honours coming home together in a time of 40m 36s 100 yards ahead of Merriman 40.54. Both Palmers are Cambridge Blues the younger Brother Michael having won the Inter Varsity race for the past two tears.. Merriman who like M Palmer is in his first season as a sen is considered to be a certainty for the Welsh Empire Games team this summer for either the 3 or 6 miles events. There was a gap of 440 yards between third and 4th places. 4th place eventually being won by H Wilson of Wel 42.10 only after a great fight with fifth man M Wiggs (Wat) 42.18 and 6th M Blyth StA 42.20. The holder of the title (?) Irish international d O’Gorman who has been inactive to the injuries this season nevertheless competed and being far from fit did well to finish 25th. St Albans once again retained the team race whose scoring team finished 1 PP 2 MP 6 M Blyth 12 J Thorpe 13 D Sutcliffe 14 G Allen. As expected there was a tense struggle for 2nd team prize between Wat & Wel. Both teams had the misfortune to lose one of there (sic) stars during the race. Geoff Goode the Welwyn captain was forced to retire at 3m. One of his spike shoes fell apart after ½m and although pluckily continuing with virtually one bare foot he eventually had to give up because of laceration. Watford’s G Howard, the Nat Yth Champ retired at 5½m. Welwyn were the eventual runners up scoring 72 points to Watford’s 84. The placings & times of the Welwyn scoring six were 4 H Wilson 7 A Taylor 9 M Staines 11 H Mc 17 R Taylor 24th J Wenk. This is the third year in succession that Wel have finished runners up to StA but each year the points difference has been narrowed 1956 - pts 1957 - pts 1958 24. Other Wel runners were 33 AB 35 LC 42 CB 49 JD 57 MS 60 DP. The medals were presented by SA Tomlin Esq deputising for Mr Power who thanked the Welwyn Club for the excellent arrangements.

The WGC Boy Scouts provided the markers. Other local officials included FW Newman, recorder Clerk of the Course A Cooper & Marshal C Lindgren. The Referee was Mr H Chinery of StA

The following team has been chosen to represent Herts in the Inter Counties Champs at Rugby on - M Palmer P Palmer J Thorpe M Blyth (all St Albans AC) J Merriman & M Wiggs (Wat H) H Wilson & A Taylor (Welwyn AC) D Cannon (NH) M Staines (Wel) as reserve. This team should give a very good account of themselves and will probably finish higher than their - place last year.

[This would seem to be a draft report (for the local paper?) with some gaps left where facts needed to be verified. - jsg 200404]

[Source B1.48b]