

Records of the English Cross- Country Union

**Reference:
ATH/ECCU**

Records of the English Cross-Country Union

ATH/ECCU Records of the English Cross-Country Union 1911-1989

Records of the English Cross-Country Union comprising minutes and meeting papers, 1975-1983; annual reports, 1932-1970; publications, including programmes relating to the annual championships; and a small number of statistics and results. The majority of papers date from the mid-20th century although the collection does include a newspaper cutting relating to the 1911 National Championship. Some items appear to have been the property of George M. Adam and Harold M. Abrahams and are marked as such.

These records are of interest to those studying amateur sports, athletics culture and cross-country racing in the mid-20th century.

Administrative history: The National Cross-Country Union was founded in 1883 in order to control cross-country running under the Laws of the Amateur Athletic Association. The Union's first President was Walter Rye, the founder of Thames Hares and Hounds. Prior to 1883, Thames Rowing Club was organising cross-country runs as a means of keeping fit during the winter months, although these races were perhaps best described as paper-chases. This led to the formation of cross-country clubs, the first being Thames Hare and Hounds and the first so-called 'National' race was held in 1876 in Epping Forest. This race, incidentally, was declared null and void as the competitors had lost their way en route. Clubs then formed themselves into Associations: the Midland came first in 1879, the North in 1882 and the South in 1883 (the East was not formed until 1933). An initial meeting was held to discuss the formation of a national body on 19 May 1883 and the National Cross-Country Union came into existence. The first national race for which it was responsible was held on 1 March 1884 on the Four Oaks Race Course, Sutton Coldfield. But it was not until 1914 that new rules were agreed by the AAA and the Union was formally made responsible for the organisation of cross-country running.

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In 1933 the organisation was renamed the English Cross-Country Union (ECCU), this name was deemed more appropriate since the constituent members of the United Kingdom had their own cross-country bodies. ECCU became affiliated to the International Cross-Country Union and the British Olympic Association.

Sources: records of the English Cross-Country Union; 'English Cross Country Union 1883-1983: a brief history researched and compiled by G. L. N. Dunn', Stapleford: Cambridgeshire, 1983

Arrangement: These papers have been arranged into the following four series:

Administrative records;

Publications and printed material;

Statistics and results;

Miscellaneous

3 standard boxes (comprising 4 bundles, 5 files and 60 items)

Access: Open

Access conditions: Access to all registered researchers.

Copyright: Permission to make any published use of any material from the collection must be sought in advance in writing from the Director of Special Collections (email: special-collections@bham.ac.uk). Identification of copyright holders of unpublished material is often difficult. Special Collections will assist where possible with identifying copyright owners, but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material.

Language: English

Creator name: English Cross-Country Union

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Custodial history: This collection was previously in the custody of the National Centre for Athletics Literature (NCAL).

Archival notes: Papers arranged and described by Mark Eccleston, March 2015, in compliance with General International Standard Archival Description (ISAD(G), second edition, 2000; and in-house cataloguing guidelines.

Related material: Other archive collections, formerly held as part of the National Centre for Athletics Literature (NCAL), are catalogued as collections distinct from this collection. They comprise both institutional archives and collections of personal papers of athletes, athletics administrators, journalists and others associated with the athletics world.

Catalogues of the institutional archives available on the online archive catalogue are as follows:

Amateur Athletic Association: papers, 1880-1992. Finding No: ATH/AAA;

English Cross-Country Union: papers, 1911-1989. Finding No: ATH/ECCU;

Midland Counties Amateur Athletics Association: papers, 1900-1991. Finding No: ATH/MCAAA;

Midland Counties Cross Country Association: papers, 1898-1985. Finding No: ATH/MCCCA;

Midland Counties Women's Amateur Athletic Association: papers, 1949-[1980s]. Finding No: ATH/MCWAAA;

Northern Counties Women's Amateur Athletic Association: papers, 1933-1989. Finding No: ATH/NCWAAA;

Northern Cross-Country Association: papers, 1906-1983. Finding No: ATH/NCCA;

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Northern Women's Track and Field League:
papers, 1982-1983. Finding No:
ATH/NWTFL;

Southern Counties Amateur Athletic
Association: papers, 1958-1983. Finding No:
ATH/SCAAA;

Southern Counties Cross-Country
Association: papers, 1911-1990. Find No:
ATH/SCCCA;

The Sports Council: papers, [1940s]-2001.
Find No: ATH/SC.

Catalogues of personal papers available on
the online archive catalogue are as follows:

Abrahams, Harold Maurice (1899-1978),
athlete, administrator, commentator and
journalist: papers, 1902-1989. Finding No:
ATH/HA;

Adam, George Mair (1898-1989), athlete,
coach and athletics administrator: papers,
1909-1989. Finding No: ATH/GA;

Binks, Joseph (Joe) (1874-1966), athlete and
athletics commentator: papers, [1920s-
1950s]. Finding No: ATH/JB;

Cardew, Martin H. (b 1927), athlete: papers,
1964-1988. Finding No: ATH/MHC;

Cullum, Dennis Noel Johnson (1913-1985),
athlete and coach: papers, [1930s]-1985.
Finding No: ATH/DC;

Ives, Bert (1890-1975), athlete and athletics
administrator: papers, [1920s-1970s]. Finding
No: ATH/BI;

Jewell, John Christopher (1912-2001),
athlete and athletics commentator: papers,
1897-2002. Finding No: ATH/JJ;

Lloyd-Edgley, Ralph: scrapbook, [c 1924]-[c
1931]. Finding No: ATH/RLE;

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MacLean, Duncan (1884-1980), athlete and coach: papers, 1948-1977. Finding No: ATH/DM;

Monk, Walter Harry (Wal) (1896-after 1965), athlete: papers, 1918-1961. Finding No: ATH/WHM;

Morgan, Wilf (b 1935), athlete and athletics historian: papers, 1937-2012. Finding No: ATH/WM;

Newton, Arthur Francis Hamilton (1883-1959), athlete: papers, [c 1904]-[1990s]. Finding No: ATH/AN;

Payne, Howard (1931-1992), athlete: papers, 1899-[c 1975]. Finding No: ATH/HP;

Percy, Joe W. (1912-2001), athlete and athletics administrator: papers, 1910-1997. Finding No: ATH/JWP;

Powell, Edgar Robert Leslie (Peter), (fl 1920s-70s), athlete: papers, 1813-1988. Finding No: ATH/ERLP;

Richards, Wilf (b 1906), athlete and journalist: papers, 1924-[mid-20th century]. Finding No: ATH/WR;

Roberts, Dave (fl 1930s-1990s), athlete and statistician: papers, [1930s]-1991. Finding No: ATH/DR;

Simpson, Colin J. (1929-2011), athlete and athletics administrator: papers, 1945-1990. Finding No: ATH/CS;

Tatham, Wilfrid George (Gus) (1898-1978), athlete: papers, 1908-1960. Finding No: ATH/WGT;

Thomas, Dr Philip, athletics administrator and coach: papers, [c 1900]-[late 20th century]. Finding No: ATH/PT;

Vargas, Charles Climaco (1905-1975), athlete: papers, 1921-31. Finding No: ATH/CCV;

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Ward, Leonard H., athletics coach: papers, [mid-20th century]. Finding No: ATH/LW;

Watman, Melvyn Francis (Mel) (b 1938), athletics journalist and statistician: papers, 1980-1993. Finding No: ATH/MW;

Wight, Robert M., athletics administrator: papers, [mid-20th century]. Finding No: ATH/RW;

Winter, Arthur E. H. (d 1990), athlete and athletics commentator: papers, [early 20th century]-1983. Finding No: ATH/AW;

Yarrow, Squire Stevens (1905-1984), athlete and athletics administrator: papers, 1938-1984. Finding No: ATH/SY.

ATH/ECCU/2/2/11	Athletics programme: cross-country racing	3 March 1973
	English Cross-Country Union 'Championships' held at Parliament Hill Fields, London.	
	With loose insert detailing results.	
	1 item	
	Access: Open	
ATH/ECCU/2/2/2	Athletics programme: cross-country racing	11 March 1961
	English Cross-Country Union 'Championships' sponsored by News of the World and held at Parliament Hill Fields, London.	
	1 item	
	Access: Open	
ATH/ECCU/2/2/6	Athletics programme: cross-country racing	4 March 1967
	English Cross-Country Union 'Championships' sponsored by News of the World and held at Royal Agricultural Showground, Costessey, Norwich.	
	1 item	

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- Access: Open
- ATH/ECCU/2/2/4 Athletics programme: cross-country racing 29 February 1964
- English Cross-Country Union
'Championships' sponsored by News of the World and held at Western Park, Leicester.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- ATH/ECCU/2/2/18 Athletics programme: cross-country racing 5 March 1983
- English Cross-Country Union
'Championships' sponsored by Provincial Insurance and held at Stopsley Sports Centre, Luton.
- With loose inserts detailing results.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- ATH/ECCU/2/2/5 Athletics programme: cross-country racing 5 March 1966
- English Cross-Country Union
'Championships' sponsored by News of the World and held at Graves Park, Sheffield.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- ATH/ECCU/2/2/3 Athletics programme: cross-country racing 2 March 1963
- English Cross-Country Union
'Championships' sponsored by News of the World and held at Coldham's Common, Cambridge.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- ATH/ECCU/2/2/7 Athletics programme: cross-country racing 2 March 1968
- English Cross-Country Union
'Championships' sponsored by News of the World and held at Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield.

Records of the English Cross-Country Union

- With loose insert detailing results.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- ATH/ECCU/2/2/9 Athletics programme: cross-country racing 28 February 1970
- English Cross-Country Union
'Championships' held at Royal Lancashire Agricultural Showground, Stanley Park, Blackpool.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- ATH/ECCU/2/2/1 Athletics programme: cross-country racing 12 March 1921
- National Cross-Country Union
'Championship' held at Doncaster Racecourse.
- With manuscript annotations and loose insert.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- Physical description:** Photocopied programme
- ATH/ECCU/1 Administrative records 1932-1988
- Administrative material relating to the organisation of the English Cross-Country Union, including minutes and meeting papers, 1975-1983; and a large sequence of annual reports, 1932-1970
- 2 files
- Access: Open
- ATH/ECCU/2/2/10 Athletics programme: cross-country racing 18 March 1972
- English Cross-Country Union '59th International Cross-Country Championships' sponsored by Persil and held at Cambridge.
- 1 item

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	Access: Open	
ATH/ECCU/2/2/8	Athletics programme: cross-country racing	1 March 1969
	English Cross-Country Union 'Championships' held at Parliament Hill Fields, London.	
	With loose insert detailing results.	
	1 item	
	Access: Open	
ATH/ECCU/3/1	Statistics	[1960s]
	Comprises miscellaneous typescript and manuscript statistics relating to National and International Cross-Country Championships between 1877 and 1967.	
	It appears that these statistics were compiled by Harold M. Abrahams.	
	1 file	
	Access: Open	
ATH/ECCU/2/1	Handbooks	1935-1989
	Incomplete sequence of handbooks comprising lists of past presidents and secretaries; details of committee members and life members; annual reports and balance sheets; results of National Championships; and fixture lists. Later volumes include membership lists; and details of affiliated associations and clubs:	
	/1: 1935-1936	
	/2: 1936-1937, photocopy including the Handbook of the Northern Cross-Country Association	
	/3: 1949-1950	
	/4: 1950-1951	
	/5: 1951-1952	

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/6: 1952-1953

/7: 1953-1954

/8: 1954-1955

/9: 1955-1956

/10: 1956-1957

/11: 1957-1958

/12: 1958-1959

/13: 1959-1960

/14: 1960-1961

/15: 1961-1962

/16: 1962-1963, includes loose insert

/17: 1963-1964

/18: 1964-1965

/19: 1965-1966

/20: 1966-1967

/21: 1967-1968

/22: 1968-1969

/23: 1969-1970

/24: 1970-1971, includes loose inserts

/25: 1972-1973

/26: 1973-1974

/27: 1974-1975

/28: 1976-1977

/29: 1977-1978

/30: 1978-1979

/31: 1979-1980, with loose insert

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/32: 1980-1981

/33: 1981-1982

/34: 1982-1983

/35: 1984-1985

/36: 1985-1986

/37: 1987-1988

/38: 1988-1989

38 items

Access: Open

Physical description: Cover is detached from /4

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|-----------------|---|---------------|
| ATH/ECCU/2/2/12 | Athletics programme: cross-country racing | 2 March 1974 |
| | English Cross-Country Union
'Championships' held at Graves Park, Sheffield. | |
| | With loose insert. | |
| | 1 item | |
| | Access: Open | |
| ATH/ECCU/2/2/15 | Athletics programme: cross-country racing | 4 March 1978 |
| | English Cross-Country Union
'Championships' sponsored by Provincial Insurance and held at Roundhay Park, Leeds. | |
| | 1 item | |
| | Access: Open | |
| ATH/ECCU/2/2/14 | Athletics programme: cross-country racing | 13 March 1976 |
| | English Cross-Country Union
'Championships' sponsored by Provincial Insurance and held at Western Park, Leicester. | |
| | With loose insert detailing results. | |

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- 1 item
Access: Open
- ATH/ECCU/2/2/16 Athletics programme: cross-country racing 3 March 1979
English Cross-Country Union
'Championships' sponsored by Provincial Insurance and held at Stopsley Regional Sports Centre, Luton.
- 1 item
Access: Open
- ATH/ECCU/2/2/17 Athletics programme: cross-country racing 7 March 1981
English Cross-Country Union
'Championships' sponsored by Provincial Insurance and held at Parliament Hill Fields, London.
- 1 item
Access: Open
- ATH/ECCU/2/2/19 Athletics programme: cross-country racing 3 March 1984
English Cross-Country Union
'Championships' sponsored by Provincial Insurance and held at Newark Showground.
- 1 item
Access: Open
- ATH/ECCU/2 Publications and printed material 1921-1987
Handbooks, athletics programmes, histories and periodicals relating to the English Cross-Country Union and cross-country racing in the United Kingdom.
- 4 bundles and 60 items
Access: Open
- ATH/ECCU/3/2 Results 1979-1983
Comprises small number of typescript results from various meetings primarily organised by the English Cross-Country Union.

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1 file

Access: Open

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Histories and other printed material

1933-1987

Comprises:

/1: 'The National Cross-Country Union Jubilee Souvenir 1883-1933' edited by J. Bruce Kerr. Includes an obituary for W. W. [William Whiteway] Alexander; history of cross-country running in the Midlands; article 'The National in the North' by J. H. Hardwick; article 'Development of the Sport in the South' by S. Lambert; an appreciation of Charles Otway; article 'The International Cross-Country Association' by W. T. Rainbow

/2: 'English Cross-Country Union 1883-1983: a brief history researched and compiled by G. L. N. Dunn', 1983

/3: 'England Cross-Country Team Media Handbook' edited by Cliff Temple, 1987. Includes history of the World Cross-Country Championships; leading England performances since 1973 in IAAF World Cross-Country Championships; and profiles of Steve Binns, Dave Clarke, Kevin Forster, Tim Hutchings, Dave Lewis, Martin McLoughlin, Craig Mochrie, Paul Roden, Carl Thackery, Barry Smith, Jonathan Richards, Richard Findlow, Martin Amor, Julian Gentry, Phil Hennessy, Nick McCaffrey, Kevin McKay, Simon Mugglestone, Darren Mead, Steve Halliday, Dennis Saunders, Basil Heatley, John Temperton, Jack Davies, Barry Wallman, Dr Frank Newton, Christine Benning, Christina Cahill, Sally Ellis, Jane Shields, Fiona Truman, Alison Wyeth, Jill Hunter, Vera Duerdin, Norma Blaine, Dennis Wright

3 items

Access: Open

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ATH/ECCU/2/4	Periodicals	1946-1956
	Various issues of 'Athletics' and 'Athletics Weekly' which contain reports and results of various inter-county cross-country meetings	
	4 bundles	
	Access: Open	
ATH/ECCU/3	Statistics and results	[1960s]-1983
	Small number of statistics and results relating to meetings staged by the English Cross-Country Union.	
	2 files	
	Access: Open	
ATH/ECCU/2/2	Athletics programmes	1921-1984
	Athletics programmes covering events in the United Kingdom organised by the English Cross-Country Union. All except one programme relates to the Annual Championships, usually held at the beginning of March. As a whole the programmes provide information about meeting officials; basic information about entrants; some loose inserted results; advertisements for other meetings; and details of advertisers and sponsors. Some later programmes include lists of executive committee members; details of sub-committees and delegates to other bodies; annual reports; balance sheets; and results of championships.	
	19 items	
	Access: Open	
ATH/ECCU/1/1	Minutes and meeting papers	1975-1988
	Loose typescript minutes and meeting papers covering 20 September 1975 to 17 September 1983. Includes papers relating to AGMs, Executive Committee meetings and Emergency meetings; reports presented by the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer; agendas; notices to members of ECCU and memorandums to officers;	

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financial information and balance sheets; and some incoming correspondence. The file also includes a review of the structure of ECCU with recommendations, [c 1985]; and ECCU Constitution and Rules, March 1988

1 file

Access: Open

ATH/ECCU/2/2/13 Athletics programme: cross-country racing 1 March 1975

English Cross-Country Union
'Championships' sponsored by Vauxhall Motors Limited and held at Stopsley Sports Centre, Luton.

With loose insert detailing results.

1 item

Access: Open

ATH/ECCU/1/2 Annual reports 1932-1970

Incomplete sequence of printed annual reports comprising agendas, annual reports and balance sheets relating to the English Cross Country Union. Some items includes rules and conditions for racing and constitutions:

/1: 1932-1933

/2-3: 1948-1949

/4: 1949-1950

/5: 1951-1952

/6: 1957-1958

/7: 1958-1959

/8: 1959-1960

/9: 1960-1961

/10: 1961-1962

/11: 1962-1963

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/12: 1963-1964

/13: 1964-1965

/14: 1965-1966

/15: 1966-1967

/16: 1967-1968

/17: 1968-1969

/18: 1969-1970

1 file

Access: Open

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Miscellaneous

1911-1983

Small number of miscellaneous items relating to the English Cross-Country Union including newspaper cutting concerning the National Cross-Country Championship held at Taplow Court, March 1911, taken from 'Sporting Life'; tickets for the ECCU Championships held at Western Park, Leicester, 23 February 1980; and commemorative booklet for ECCU Centenary Luncheon held at The Grand Hotel, Birmingham, 18 August 1983

1 file

Access: Open