

Alfred Edward Tysoe

To jump a couple of years, in 1900, the town of Blackpool had probably its finest moment. An Alfred Edward Tysce won the $\frac{1}{2}$ mile at the second modern Olympic Games in Paris. For Blackpool Harriers it must have been a bitter-sweet moment, because when Tysce won the title he was not a member of their Club any more, but a member of Salford Harriers. Tysce was a member of the Harriers at least in 1898 and maybe 1899, but it appears in 1900 he left the Club, but still resided in Blackpool (Where he is now buried). His finest hour sadly appears to have come under the colours of a rival north-west Club. As highlighted earlier, Salford was a main player in the athletics scene in this period and it seems as though, they were so much so that they lured Blackpool's finest away. (This still requires final clarification). It is also reputed that Salford were notorious poachers of athletes. Further research is needed to clarify this. All that can be stated was that a month prior to winning the Olympic title, when he won the A.A.A.s $\frac{1}{2}$ mile title he was reported to be a Salford Harrier. By this, it is assumed he was with that club when he went to Paris.

However, the Harriers must have played a crucial role in the development of this Olympian. When he returned to Blackpool after winning the title, he had to go into the local press office to report his feat. How things have changed since then. He described the race as the 'half mile scratch' and the games as the 'World Championships'. Since the Olympics were new and the only international games, most athletes probably only saw them as the world championships. He beat Deloge from France to win and pick up his prize (many think the Olympics never involved prizes) of a silver coffee and tea pot worth £16. (See Fig. 7).

It was to everyone's loss that Tysoe died in 1901, only a year after winning the Olympics. Aged 27 he died of pleurisy at his father's home. He was buried in Blackpool.

A. E. TYSOE IN PARIS.

His Part in the World's Championship.

Mr. A. E. Tysoe, Blackpool's champion runner, has just returned from Paris, where he has once more distinguished himself. He came into our office on Monday to report himself, and he looked very well.

He arrived in Paris on Friday, July 15th, at 11 o'clock at night, and ran his heat in the half-mile scratch for the world's championship on the Saturday afternoon.

"I was not in good form, you know," he said, "having to run before I had chance to recover from travelling. The result was I came out the second in my heat."

"Who was the first man?"

"Hall, of Brown's University, America, came out first, although he was only third in the final."

"New for the final?"

"That was run on the Monday following. Deloge, the French champion, was leading until about 300 yards from home, and then I jumped clean away from him and got home with a six yards lead. Cragon, who ran second with me in the English championship, came in second, then Hall, and then Deloge."

"What sort of a reception did you get?"

"I got a good reception both from the English and the American spectators present, who carried me off the field to the tent. The French, however, were not pleased and wanted to make out that I fouled their man, simply because I ran away from him in the last 300 yards. The French runners danced on their marks like dolls. The Racing Club of France, though, treated us excellently well. They treated us to a splendid banquet where champagne was flowing most liberally, while there was a blaze of electric light, and music from a Tsigane orchestra."

"What was your time?"

"Well, the race was slow, being a walk until the last 300 yards. I did it in 2min. 11 1/2 sec. On Thursday of last week, however, I ran in the half-mile handicap when I made the time of 1min. 57 2/5 sec. as against the French time of 1min. 55 sec. I was beaten in my heat, a Norwegian doing it in 1min. 52 sec. from off 85 yards start."

"And the prize?"

"Oh, it was a silver tea pot and a silver coffee pot, valued at £16."

"And the honour?"

"The half-mile championship of the world."

Mr. Tysoe is full of praise of the beautiful architectural of Paris, but complains very much of the terrible heat that was experienced there.

"The Americans, you know, are used to it," he added, "but it was killing to us English fellows."

The treatment of the English A. A. A. too, he describes as being most admirable.

ARIEL.