The Formation and Early Years of the W.A.
Veterans' Amateur Athletic Club

(Col Junner, John Gilmour and Cliff Bould in the 5km race at Box Hill, 1973)

by Rob Shand

The Formation and Early Years of the WA Veterans' Amateur Athletic Club

The club's first newsletter, dated 1st July 1974, listed performances of club members at McCallum Oval on the 19th May, indicating that the club was formed about April 1974 with Keith MacDonald as President, John Gilmour, Jack Collins and David Carr as Vice Presidents and Cliff Bould as Secretary/Treasurer assisted by Tony Morton. The veteran movement, however, commenced some six years previously with Cliff Bould's participation in inter-club meetings in Perth. The 'Veteran Athlete' No. 15 of June/July 1974 comments:

> "Cliff Bould is one of the 'odd' individuals who continue to compete well into middle age and was well over 50 when competing in inter-club meetings in Perth, apparently much to the annoyance of the local officials – the more they complained, the more events Cliff ran in. He had a fair idea that for his age he must be running world class times, so he wrote to "Athletics Weekly" in the U.K. to find out how he stood. They sent him the results of the U.S.A. Masters meet in San Diego of 1968 and as the result of a letter he wrote to the organiser, David Pain, to see if he would be permitted to run in their championship, he was invited to take a team over".

IN 1969

At 53 years of age, Cliff Bould competed in San Diego in the National Masters Veterans Championships winning the 2A- 3 miles, lapping the field in a world age-best time. He followed that performance up with a win in the 6 miles, lapping the second place-getter and finished off with a third place in the marathon. On the Saturday before Cliff ran 16m 32s for the 3 miles in an all-comers meet.

IN 1970

Cliff again went to the U.S.A. to compete in the U.S. National Masters Championships where, by winning both the 2A 3 miles and 6 miles, he received the award for the outstanding athlete in the 50-60 age group. He was accompanied on this trip by Colin Junner who gained two third places.

IN 1971

Cliff participated in his third U.S. National Masters Championship, this time accompanied by John Gilmour who won the 2A- 10,000 metres, with Cliff second, and then won the 5,000 metres as well. They both participated in the Mission Bay Marathon, which was held the day after the championships, with John finishing fourth and Cliff sixth in the 2A age group. This time it was John Gilmour's turn to win the outstanding athlete's award.

The idea of forming a Veterans Athletic Club was discussed by Cliff Bould and John on the return flight from the U.S.A. and in 1972 a small group formed but did not consolidate into a Club until some time later.

IN 1972

An Australian Veterans team travelled to Cologne in West Germany for the first World Veterans Championships. On the way Cliff Bould, John Gilmour, Colin Junner and Wally

McCabe joined the American team in a pre-championship tour of England and the Scandanavian countries competing in London, Helsinki, Stockholm, Gothenburg and Copenhagen giving the four West Australians invaluable competitive experience. It was not until after their return to Perth that they managed to get the Club going with the support of Dick Horsley, Jim Smith and Colin Baker. Cliff Bould, John Gilmour, Colin Junner, Dick Horsley, Jim Smith, Colin Baker and David Carr would be the foundation members of the club, which was formed to cater for athletes 40 years and over. For the purpose of competition the athletes were divided into classification by age which, prior to 1975, was in 10 year age groups. As the movement grew the groups were reduced to 5 year classifications.

1973

Really saw the birth of the veteran movement in Australian, the first Australian Veterans Championships being held at Box Hill in Melbourne in December. A team of Americans and Canadians took part in these championships and five athletes from Western Australia made the journey across the Nullabor to participate – Cliff Bould, John Gilmour, Colin Junner, Jim Smith and Colin Baker. John Gilmour won the trophy for the outstanding athlete in the Class 2 group.

In the WORLD WALKING CHAMPIONSHIPS held in Hamburg, West Germany on 29th September Dick Horsley created a class 3A world record in the 10k.

1974

Saw a marked increase in veteran competition in Australia and the W.A. Veterans Athletic Club representatives – Cliff Bould and Dick Horsley participated in the second Australian Veterans Championships in Sydney with Dick continuing to the Victorian State Championships where he participated in walks and field events. Western Australia was represented by Colin Junner and John Gilmour in the Australian Veterans Cross Country Championships in Adelaide over a course which was extremely tough and included several hills which even the front runners walked up. After the race it was ruled that this course would not be used for any future veteran championships.

"The Veteran Athlete" No. 16 of September 1974, stated that Cliff Bould was the secretary of the newly formed W.A. Club, which had 21 members. The club's newsletter of 4th November, 1974, reported that for the first time ever veterans' events were included in the Saturday Inter Club Competitions at Perry Lakes on 2nd November, 1974.

IN 1975

A team of five West Australians competed in the third Australian Veterans Championships at Olympic sports field, Kingston, South Australia on 29th and 30th March: John Gilmour, Noel Goff, George Cavill, David Carr and Jim Smith.

The First World Masters Track and Field Championships

Followed from the 11th-17th August in Toronto Canada, and nine West Australians joined the Australian contingent of 50. Prior to the main competition, the United States Veterans Championships were held in New York on August 9th and 10th, in which John Gilmour,

Colin Junner, Wally McCabe, George Cavill and Noel Goff took part. John won the award for the outstanding athlete in the 50-60 year age group. Unfortunately, Colin Junner sustained an injury at this meeting and was not able to compete at Toronto. In Toronto John Gilmour broke the world record for the 3000m in group 2B and won the 5000m. Dick Horsley won both the 5k and 25k walks. Other members of the W.A. veterans who competed were Alan Merrett, George Cavill, Jim Smith, Wally McCabe and Noel Goff. Cliff Bould acted as physiotherapist. At the Annual General Meeting in April, 1975, Keith McDonald was re-elected President with Cliff Bould as secretary and assisted by Dick Horsley. Vice Presidents John Gilmour, David Carr and Jack Collins retained their positions and Tony Morton became treasurer. For 1975 club subscriptions were $5.

IN 1976

A team of four West Australian veterans and two pre-vets competed in the fourth Australian Veterans Championships in Brisbane from 16th – 18th April. This was the first time that pre-veterans (30-39 years) had participated. John Gilmour won all his four events and George Cavill took the steeplechase title. David Carr and Cliff Bould were each placed in events. Peter Gare was second in both events but his pre-vet partner Ross Calnan was unplaced.

The A.G.M. was held late in 1976 taking place on June 20th when Bill Hughes was elected Patron of the Club with Keith McDonald re-elected President. Vice Presidents Gilmour and Carr were joined by Dick Horsley while Jack Collins took on the treasurer's tasks. Rob Shand was elected Secretary and Cliff Bould Liaison Officer. With the Australian Veterans Championships due to be held in Perth in 1977 a steering committee was elected which in addition to the committee members, included Jim Smith, Peter Gare, Fred Stewart and David Jones.

1969

U.S. National Masters Championships, San Diego, California

3rd – 6th July

Class 2A (50-59)

3 miles	Cliff Bould	First	16 m 39.6 s
	World age best		
6 miles	Cliff Bould	First	34 m 20 s
	Best time of the year		
Marathon	Cliff Bould	Third	3 h 10 m 0 s

1970

U.S. National Masters Championships

2nd – 4th July

Class 1 (40-49)

6 miles	Colin Junner	Third	32 m 14.5 s
Marathon	Colin Junner	Third	2 h 48 m 0 s

Class 2 (50-59)

2 miles	Cliff Bould	First	11 m 18.5 s
3 miles	Cliff Bould	First	17 m 43.8 s
6 miles	Cliff Bould	First	36 m 40 s

1971

U.S. National Masters Championships

1st, 2nd and 4th July

Class 2 (50-59)

10,000 metres	John Gilmour	First	35 m 42.8 s
	Cliff Bould	Second	37 m 06 s
5,000 metres	John Gilmour	First	17 m 07.9 s
	Cliff Bould	Fourth	18 m 01 s
Marathon	John Gilmour	Fourth	3 h 18 m 0 s
	Cliff Bould	Sixth	3 h 39 m 0 s

1972

Cross Country Championship, Epping Forest, England

23rd August

Class 3 (50-59)

5 miles	John Gilmour	First (Fifth overall)	27 m 38 s
	Cliff Bould	Third	30 m 26 s

Track and Field, Crystal Palace, London

24th August

Class 1 (40-49)

5,000 metres	Wally McCabe	(56th o/a)	18 m 31 s

Class 2 (50-59)

5,000 metres	John Gilmour	First (4th o/a)	16 m 21 s
	Colin Junner	Third (27th o/a)	17 m 29 s
	Cliff Bould	Sixth (38th o/a)	16 m 35 s

There were 150 starters of 40 years and over in this race, which was altered to a road race as it would have been impossible to lap score such a large field. Runners did one lap of the track first.

Twilight Meeting, Olympic Stadium, Helsinki

27th August

Class 1 (40-49)

10,000 metres	Wally McCabe	Tenth (20th o/a)	37 m 10 s

Class 2 (50-59)

10,000 metres	John Gilmour	First (5th o/a) (World Record)	33 m 05 s

40 starters of 35 years and over competed in this race
(Veterans commenced at 35 years in Finland).

Cross Country, Stockholm, Sweden

31st August

Class 1 (40-49)

| 12,000 metres | Wally McCabe | Tenth (35th o/a) | 46 m 58 s |

Class 2 (50-59)

| 12,000 metres | John Gilmour | First (4th o/a) | 39 m 05 s |

Cross Country, Gothenberg, Sweden

6th and 7th September

Class 1 (40-49)

| 8,000 metres | Wally McCabe | Twelfth (15th o/a) | 31 m 42 s |

Class 2 (50-59)

| 8,000 metres | John Gilmour | First (1st o/a) | 27 m 48 s |

Cross Country, Deer Park, Copenhagen, Denmark

9th September

1000 starters

Class 1 (40-49)

| 9 miles | Wally McCabe | Eleventh | 51 m 03 s |

First World Veterans Championships, Cologne, Germany

13th - 16th September

Class 1 (40-49)

| Marathon | Wally McCabe | Forty seventh | 2 h 48 m 32 s |

Class 2 (50-59)

| 10,000 metres | John Gilmour | First | 33 m 20 s |
| | Cliff Bould | Fourth | 36 m 05 s |

5,000 metres	John Gilmour	First (World record)	16 m 05 s
	Cliff Bould	Fourth	17 m 51 s
Marathon	Colin Junner	Sixth	2 h 50 m 45 s

1973

First Australian Veterans Championships, Hagenavers Reserve, Box Hill, Melbourne, Australia

22nd and 23rd December

Class 1 (40-49)

1500 metre walk	Jim Smith	5th	7 m 45 s
	Colin Baker	6th	8 m 33 s
800 metre walk	Jim Smith	-	4 m 01 s
3000 metre walk	Jim Smith	6th	16 m 56 s
	Colin Baker	7th	18 m 23 s
15k walk	Jim Smith	5th	1 hr 28 m 18 s

Class 2 50-59)

10,000 metres	John Gilmour	1st	35 m 15.6 s
	Colin Junner	2nd	36 m 25.4 s
	Cliff Bould	4th	37 m 59.8 s
5,000 metres	John Gilmour	1st	16 m 22.8 s
	Colin Junner	3rd	17 m 28.0 s
	Cliff Bould	5th	17 m 44.0 s

1974

Second Australian Veterans Championships, Sydney, Australia

20th – 21st April

Class 2 (50-59)

10,000 metres	Cliff Bould	3rd	38 m 58 s
5,000 metres	Cliff Bould	3rd	18 m 06 s

Class 3A (60-64)

5k walk	Dick Horsley	1st	26 m 42 s
Shot	Dick Horsley	1st	32 ' 10 "

Discus	Dick Horsley	1st	76 ' 0 "
3k walk	Dick Horsley	1st	15 m 32 s

Victorian Veterans State Championships, Melbourne, Australia

Class 3A (60-64)

1500 metre walk	Dick Horsley	1st	7 m 25 s
3000 metre walk	Dick Horsley	1st	15 m 27 s
5000 metre run	Dick Horsley	3rd	20 m 43 s
Discus	Dick Horsley	1st	95 ' 6 "
Shot	Dick Horsley	1st	35 ' 2 ½ "

Australian Veterans Cross Country Championships, St Mary Shepards Hill Recreation Area, Adelaide, South Australia

16 June

Class 2A (50-55)

	Colin Junner	2nd (6th overall)	43 m 05 s

Class 2B (55-59)

	John Gilmour	1st (3rd overall)	40 m 14 s

World Walking Championships, Hamburg, West Germany

29th September

Class 3A (60-64)

10,000 metre	Dick Horsley	1st (World Record)	54 m 24.6 s

1975

First World Masters track and Field Championships, Toronto, Canada

11th – 17th August

Class 1A (40-45)

3000 m	Wally McCabe	29th	10 m 35 s
10k c.c.	Wally McCabe	77th	44 m 05 s
25k walk	W. Jim Smith	9th	2 h 22 m 10 s
5k walk	W. Jim Smith	10th	no times given

Class 2A (50-55)

10k c.c.	Alan Merrett	20th	42 m 23 s
5000 metres	Alan Merrett	12th	18 m 08 s
800 m	George Cavill	7th	2 m 25 s (Heat 2)
5k walk	George Cavill	9th	no times given
110 Hurdles	Noel Goff	3rd	18.7 s
		2nd	18.3 s (Heat)
Long Jump	Noel Goff	2nd	5.21m
			(17 ' 1 ¼ ")
Triple Jump	Noel Goff	No fair jumps	
Pentathalon	Noel Goff	1278 points	
Long Jump		5.14m	(16 ' 10 ½ ")
Javelin		24.34m	(79 ' 10 ¼ ")
200 metres		27.0 s	
Discus		20.34m	(68 ' 4 ½ ")
1500 metres		withdrew	

Class 2B (55-59)

3,000 metres	John Gilmour	1st	9 m 28 s
5,000 metres	John Gilmour	1st	17 m 02 s

Class 3A (60-64)

5k walk	Dick Horsley	1st	26 m 47.2 s
25k walk	Dick Horsley	1st	2 hr 29 m 33.6 s

Third Australian Veterans Championships, Adelaide, South Australia

29 and 30 March

Class 1A (40-45)

3000 metres walk	Jim Smith	6th	16 m 07 s
5000 metres walk	Jim Smith	6th	27 m 18 s
100 metres	David Carr	6th	
400 metres	David Carr	3rd	55.4 s

Class 2A (50-55)

3000 metre walk	George Cavill	1st	16 m 45 s
5000 metre walk	George Cavill	1st	27 m 54 s

Class 2B (55-59)

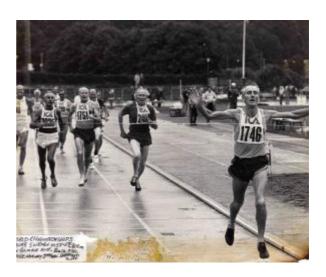|			
200 metres	Noel Goff	3rd	27. 3 s
110 metre hurdles	Noel Goff	2nd	18.7 s
Javelin	Noel Goff	4th	23.28 metres
Long Jump	Noel Goff	1st	5.47 metres
Triple Jump	Noel Goff	1st	10.52 metres
Pole Vault	Noel Goff	2nd	2.40 metres
High Jump	Noel Goff	4th	1.35 metres
800 metres	John Gilmour	1st	2 m 16.9 s
1500 metres	John Gilmour	1st	4 m 53 s
5,000 metres	John Gilmour	1st	16 m 28.3 s
10,000 metres	John Gilmour	1st	35 m 06.5 s

Prepared by Rob Shand
from information provided by   Dick Horsley
                                       Cliff Bould
                                         John Gilmour

John Gilmour winning the 800m in Gothenburg. Sweden, 1977

Cliff Bould in the 1970s

(photos courtesy John Gilmour, Graeme Dahl)