

# THE BURGOYNE INTER-CLUB RELAY SHIELD

**First raced for: 1921**

**Last raced for: Current trophy**

1921-1922	Men's One Mile 4 Man Inter-Club Relay
1923-1924	Men's Three Mile 4 Man Inter-Club Relay
1925-1970	Men's Three Mile 4 man Inter-Club Relay Championship
1971-1999	Men's 5000m 4 Man Inter-Club Relay Championship (not held 1940-45, 1972, 1994, 1996-97)
2000-2003	Men's 5000m 3 Man Inter-Club Relay Championship
2003-2011	Men's & Junior Boys 5000m 3 Man Inter-Club Relay Championship
2012-2016	Men's & Junior Boys 3000m 3 Man Inter-Club Relay Championship
2017	Men's, Masters & Jun. Boys 3000m 3 Man Inter-Club Relay Championship
2018-Current	Men's, Masters, Jun. & Youth Boys 3000m 3 Man Inter-Club Relay Championship

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Alan Hughes Burgoyne was an MP for Kensington North between 1910 and 1922. Within his constituency was the Holland Park Rink, of which he would become the President. During his tenure, amongst other things he oversaw fund raising events for war-veterans by administering carnivals and such like to raise funds for those in need.

In 1921 he donated a shield to the Aldwych speed club as a trophy to be awarded for a four-man inter-club relay event, the first recipients being local rivals, Catford.



*Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Alan Hughes Burgoyne  
30<sup>th</sup> Sep. 1880 – 26<sup>th</sup> Apr. 1929*

The first two events were held over one mile but in 1923 the Roller Committee proposed that the distance be increased to three miles and that skaters be allowed to "relay at will as opposed to appointed times". This format was adopted and remained until the distance competed over became metric (5000 metres) in 1971. Since that time there have been minor alterations to the distance, number of skaters and age group inclusion, but overall the principle of an inter-club relay Championship has remained the same.

At the Roller Committee meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1924 it was proposed to put forward to the NSA Council that the event be considered a Championship event.

Inter Club Relay Race.  
The Following proposal from Mr.R.Marsh Secd. Mr.W.Murray was unanimously passed for recommendation to the Council.  
Owing to the success of the Inter Club Relay Race for the Burgoyne Shield that this Committee recommend to the Council that in future this event rank as a Championship and be known as the Inter Club Relay Championship for the Burgoyne Shield.  
It was unanimously decided by the Roller Committee that the awards for the Inter Club Relay Race if made a Championship by the Committee Council be four bronze medals of the Indivl. Championship Type for the winning team only.

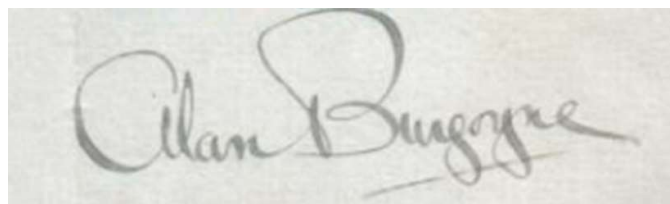
[Minutes from Roller Committee meeting – 15<sup>th</sup> April 1924]

The next meeting of the Committee was on 27<sup>th</sup> October of that year and it was reported back that the Council had approved the proposal.

The late Hon. Secy stated that the Council had approved of and had passed the recommendation of the Roller Committee that the Burgoyne Shield Race should rank as a Championship with the title The Inter Club Roller Speed Skating Championship of Great Britain the words For the Burgoyne Shield not to be a part of the title, but to follow as a description.  
The recommendation of the Roller Committee that the only medals to be given for this event be bronze die medals to each of the four members of the winning team was accepted.

[Minutes from Roller Committee meeting – 27<sup>th</sup> October 1924]

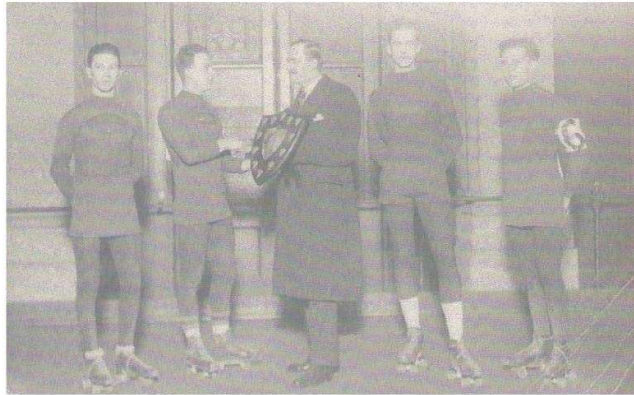
Sir Alan died aged just 45 in April 1929 and his wife, Lady Irene Victoria Easor, would die just nine months later age 48. Little could either of them know that the trophy they donated more than a century ago would continue to provide exciting roller speed skating races and memories for generations to come.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Alan Burgoyne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Alan" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and "Burgoyne" follows in a similar but slightly more compact cursive. The ink appears to be on a light-colored, possibly aged, piece of paper.

## SOME PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS



CATFORD RSC (TOM WILSON HERE)  
1922



ALEXANDRA PALACE RSC  
1929



ALEXANDRA PALACE RSC  
1930



BROADWAY RSC  
1950



BROADWAY RSC  
1950



ALEXANDRA PALACE RSC  
1953





BIRMINGHAM RSC  
1956



BIRMINGHAM RSC  
1957



ALEXANDRA PALACE RSC  
1971



MERCIA RSC  
1979



HERNE BAY FLYERS RSC  
1985



BIRMINGHAM WHEELS RSC  
1987



BIRMINGHAM WHEELS RSC  
1992



NORTH LONDON RSC  
1998



BIRMINGHAM WHEELS RSC  
2010



EAST MIDLANDS RACING  
2012



BIRMINGHAM WHEELS RSC  
2019

## SOME INTERESTING FACTS

- Initially only a bronze medal was awarded to the winning team members but after the Second World War this changed to a silver medal for winners and a bronze medal for second place. It wasn't until 1985 that a gold medal was awarded to the winners after the World and European governing bodies recognised international relays as world/European titles.
- The original shield stood just over 18 inches high, but as the number of winning teams obviously increased it was decided in 1953 to mount the centre shield and surrounding "winners shields" onto a much larger wooden base. It is this shield that is still presented to winning teams today.
- The most number of teams to enter the event has been 19. This was the case for three consecutive years – 1966, 67 and 68.
- Only four rinks/tracks have hosted the event just once – Batley (1948), Granby Halls (1949), Palm Court-Alexandra Palace (1973) and Westbrook Lane, Herne Bay (1986).

- Alexandra Palace hold the record for the most number of victories with EIGHTEEN between 1926 and 2009.
- Vincent Henry has been on the winning team a record ELEVEN times between 2002 and 2019.
- Chris Ampaduh has won the shield eight times between 1987 and 2009 with a record FOUR different clubs – Birmingham Wheels, North London, Salomon and Cadomotus.
- Bill Ross holds the record for the most number of titles (NINE) with a single club – Alexandra Palace - between 1926 and 1938.
- As of 2023 the event has been run a total of 91 times. 62 of those have all been in London and of those, 29 have been at Tatem Park.