

# Track and Field



*The Paris "Relais" Race*



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## The Paris "Relais" Race



### The Clubs' Festival

The classic race known as the Paris Relais was born in 1934, thanks to the athletics section of the Stade Français. This very unusual international competition involves a total number of 50 runners in each relay team. The first winners were from London University, whose team included the future 1,500 m Olympic champion, Jack Lovelock of New Zealand (1936).

Throughout the twenty-five times the race has been held, the streets of Paris have revealed a number of famous runners who have chosen to take part in this spectacular event, which is run at an average speed of over 25 km/h. The big names involved are those of Lovelock, Martin, Keller, Hansenne, Bonino, Clare, Bailly, El Mabrouk, Vernier, Pujazon, Collardot, Mimoun, Drut, Nallet, Puttemans, Reiff and a great many others.

The starting and finishing line were fixed at the Jardin des Tuileries in 1934, 1973, 1976, 1977; and otherwise either at the Stade Jean-Bouin or the Parc des Princes. On 24 March 1935, the start was on the turf at the Stade de la Porte de Saint-Cloud, before the start of the France v. Germany rugby match.

After a break of 15 years, the Relais reappeared in 1973, and heralded the reign of Paris University Club, the winners in 1973, 1974, 1976 and 1977. Raymond Lorre, manager of the Stade Français, is now thinking of trying to transform this classic into a festival of athletics by organizing, from 1978 onwards, an inter-city event linking the capitals of the EEC countries.

#### THE PARIS "RELAIS" RACE

1934 University of London Athletics	1 h 00 : 53
1936 University of London Athletics	1 h 00 : 51
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1937 Stade Français	1 h 02 : 07
1943 Racing-Club of France	54 : 42
1944 Racing-Club of France	54 : 05
1945 Union Saint-Gilloise	55 : 13
1946 Union Saint-Gilloise	53 : 09
1947 Racing-Club of France	1 h 00 : 02
1948 Racing-Club of France	59 : 37
1949 Racing-Club of France	59 : 06
1950 Stade Français	1 h 01 : 02
1951 Stade Français	1 h 00 : 21
1952 Stade Français	59 : 19
1953 Stade Français	59 : 18
1954 Stade Français	1 h 00 : 12
1955 Stade Français	59 : 59
1956 Stade Français	59 : 38
1957 Stade Français	59 : 22
1958 Racing-Club of France	59 : 16
1973 Paris University Club	56 : 27
1974 Paris University Club	59 : 45
1975 Racing-Club of France	1 h 00 : 32
1976 Paris University Club	59 : 35
1977 Paris University Club	1 h 00 : 14

*The time is 5.25 p. m., and Paris turns out to watch an exceptional athletics event*