THE SCOTS ATHLETE

To Stimulate Interest, to Develop Enthusiasm and to Encourage Sportsmanship in Scotland Edited by WALTER J. ROSS

APRIL 1946

No. 1.

PRICE 3d.

OUR FIRST ISSUE

THE STARTING POST

We are "All Ready" to start a new venture. Scotland has at last succeeded in bringing out a magazine to cover the athletic field. We are determined to do well and stay the distance. Every harrier will agree on the need for a journal such as this. We hope that it will fill a breach in the armour of Scottish sport.

Now Is The Time

One canont think of a more opportune time to embark on a crusade of sporting journalism than this very month of April 1946. The world is just recuperating from an orgy of violence and a nightmare of suffering and despair which lasted for the past six years and we are looking forward to brighter days of happiness and pcace with ample time for physical recreation. Out of that holocaust, Scotland came out no better than any other country. In fuct, considering the result of the International Cross-Country Championship, held at Ayr, it would appear that the standard of our runners has deteriorated in relation to the other countries, with the possible exception of England whose certainly did not hit the high spots. This state of aff.airs in the athletic world does not augur too well for Scotland from a competitive point of view. This may seem somewhat pessimistic, it is not intended to be so, but, we must face reality. There is room for great improvement. The arrival of our paper The Scots Athlete immediately following the debacle of the Scots at Ayr only denotes the invincible spirit of enthusiasm. It can, must and will be an organ and expresison of patience, andarance, and strength.

April, a month of fervent activity and preparation. Mother Nature has



J. C. PLOCKHART, Shettleston Harriers, first Scot home in International C.C. Race at Ayr, fuishing 15th. He was individual winner at Brussels in 1937,

discarded her winter garb and life begins anew. The birds are singing, buds are springing and there is warmth in the air. Let us increase our athletic activity and enthusiasm. Let it syncronise with the rebirth of nature. The Scots 'Athlete has sprung up with the early flowers and like the flowers it should be rather refreshing to every harrier in the country. It is the ideal month to be born. April, the month of happy promise, the prophet of a glorious summer that is to be, the forceller of health abundant, of sunshine and roses. April, the symbol of vitality.

Share Your Fellowship

Mr. Jack Crump, British A.A.A. Hon. Team Manager, speaking at the wellfilled meeting, organised by the Victoria Park A.A.C. in the Christain Institute, Glasgow on "Olympic Gemes, Part and Future," emphasised the need to share our facilities, share our knowledge and experiences. He said that we even should share our coaches. We agree and endorse all that he said but we would have also said, as even more important, "Share your fellowship." Though of course, the speaker implied it and took it for granted. Nevertheless, we think it cannot be emphasised enough. Often in the hurly burly of competition, we look to the winning of a race as the be-all and end-all in Sport. 'The beauty of our sport lies in the friendship it gives, the sociability that arises from appreciation of a common endeavour. The primary object of this paper will be to foster sportsmanship which in turn should make for good and responsible citizenship.

Olympic Games

Since it has been recently announced that the Olympic Games are to be held in London in 1948, Scotland needs a paper of its own more than ever to act as a spur. It shall act as a stimulus to each club-member, stirring him or her to concentration and action. It will be a central and focal point of industry and activity, registering ability and progress.

Already, Scotland has a quintette that have shown themselves capable of representation in the Olympic Games. These are Alan Watt, Shettleston Harriers, Alin Paterson and John Panton of Victoria Park A.A.C. and our two marathon men, Duncan McL. Wright and Donald Robertson of Maryhill Harriers. There are others who are potential participants provided they get the necessary co-operation. backing and coaching, particularly worthy of mention are A. Broadley of Glasgow Y.M.C.A.; J. J. Donnelly, Garscube Harriers; W. H. D. Conacher, G.U.A.C. and V.P.A.A.C., in the sprints. We see no reason why Ferd Sinclair, Greenock Wellpark, John Hoskins, Maryhill and Gordon Smillie, V.P.A.A.C., should not make the grade in the middle distances. On different occasions they have revealed their class. It is our intention to give every Scottish Olympic potential all the support and publicity possible. Moreover, there are many controversal points of view in practically every aspect of the Olympic Games. We will welcome full discussion from anyone who has anything useful to say. This is your paper.

Straight Speaking

The editor has no official standing in either the S.A.A.A. or the N.C.U. He is just an ordinary member of a local club. This need not be a drawback, indeed, we think it should be an asset. We will not become an apologist for any reaction, but on the contrary, we will act as the voice of the athlete himself, giving the sport dynamic purpose. Needless to say we are not opposed to the official organisations, we are in favour of them. We will aid those bodies to carry out their function. Still, we will always claim the right to criticise. Very often the views of officials are divorced from those of the runners. We would not say it is deliberate rather it is a natural tendency. Every lover of the sport will agree that this attitude is not desirable. If criticism is used to further the sport, then we sincerely believe that officials will welcome it when necessary. Let it be clear, however, our aim is not to drive a wedge between the officials and the runners. We want them more closely knit together than ever in the past. But officialdom must remember it is not a body to talk down to, or to dictate to the athletes. It should purely be the organised expression of their desires. On the other hand, the runners should recognise the benefits derived from their exhuberant enthusiasm, the upsurge of youth being tempe-ad with realism, knowledge and experience of their guardians of the sport.

Conclusion

Cross-country work is now at an end. It was a fine, exciting season and reminded us of pre-war days. Next season will bring us back to normal with all the old-time championships. Meanwhile, we will devote our space to track and road-running mainly. The Scots Athlete is on its way. It has taken a modest start, but it is determined to stimulate interest, develop enthusiasm and to encourage sportsmanship in Scotland.

Every time you acquire a new interest, or a new accomplishment, you increase your power in life. No one who is deeply interested in a large variety of subjects can remain unhappy. The pessimist is the person who has lost interest.

--- Wm. Lyon Phelps.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

By J. E. FARRELL.

Cross-Country Championship threw on June 8th in conjunction with the into bold relief the poverty of British long distance running.

England were poor, but still far in advance of Scotland's inglorious display . . . at the same time it must be said in mitigation that the hot weather and fast, almost-track-like course, did not help our boys . . . also the slip-shod arrangements made for them prior to the start were not helpful..

E. G., Mr. Crump, the English team manager button-holed a certain wellknown Scottish athlete personality asking why the Scottish team should be walking miles round the course on the morning of the race.

Jimmy Flockart and Willie Sommerville were comparative individual successes but it is a sad commentary on Scottish cress-country running when the first Scotsman home is only 15th.

Who will be the first Scottish Champion of the post-war era? Resumption of the 10 miles track championship takes place on Saturday, April 27th, at Helenvayle Park and should provide a yard-stick of comparison with pre-war form. As most of the contenders will be found from the ranks of the ill-fated International cross-country team it would indeed be difficult to forecast a probable winner . . . Favourites prior to the International would undoubtedly have been Harry Howard and J. E. Farrell . . . but if Jim Flockart elects to start he has shown that in the mood he is still a menace to the best of Scotland's distance experts. . . .

The choice of Helenvale Park as venue may be open to criticism. For while the cinder track is excellent the short track may provide time-keepers with a number of headaches, but with Fred Evans in charge of his own track, arrangements should go smoothly.

Quite a number of marathon aspirants are expected to participate in the 10 miles championship as it affords an opportunity of testing their speed before they settle down to the heavier grinds . . . and speaking of the marathon I learn that the first Scottish

The result of the International Marathon Championship will take place cottish Junior Track and Field Championships at Meadowbank, Edin-

> This championship will fill a much needed gap. It seems strange that marathon experts Duncan Wright and Donald Robertson having for years proved themselves the best in Britain should have no opportunity of acquiring the status of Scottish champion at this distance.

Much of the credit for the enthusiasm for road running at present is due to the personality and example of the famous "Dunky." Equally proficient as an athlete and an organiser he has literally put Scotland on the map in a road running sense. This was especially noticeable during the difficult war years . . . The plethora of road races affords a great opportunity for budding marathon talent and with the Olympic games due in London 2 years hencewho knows but Scotland will provide at least one marathon contender for Britain in the Olympic series . . . apart from racing, training on the road is admirable for reaching a high state of fitness and well-being. . . .

Donald Robertson who was home on leave recently is not due for demobilisation till Autumn but expects to get a home posting soon. He looks very fit, is getting an opportunity for training and hopes to make a determined bid to win the title he last won in 1939. At 40 years of age, Donald, a careful liver and keep-fit "faddist," still rates as probable Olympic Competitor for Britain in the great long-distance classic . . . If Donald and Dunky go for the A.A.A. Marathon the sparks will fly. Tom Richards recognised as England's best marathen man goes for the Polytechnic marathon in June.

. . . In conversation with Bobby Reid after the International he could not account for his indifferent display but offered no excuses. Bobby expects to be in Scotland as a member of the Birchfield team in a 2 mile event later on in the season. Bobby has braten (9 m. 25 s.) all the way. Let's hope he does not over-race this season as some critics have explained his recent display in terms of staleness.



With acknowledgments to "Dundec Evening Telegraph

AROUND DUNDEE

too good for the main opposition of three internationals in their team were cessful race. Shettleston Harriers with of the spice from an otherwise suc-Maryhill Harriers, the holders were unable to send a team. This took some held on Saturday, 6th April, 1946. inrecube Harriers and Auchmountain larriers and won easily. The relay race around Dundee was

slowness of the times in comparison with the existing lap-records shown. Shettlestor. "B" team dropped out at the 2nd lap after a fine effort by Paterson in the 1st log. No doubt he was carefully conched by his clubmate, very high wind must account for the Though run in brilliant weather, the

young lad, shows distinct possibilities, Alex. McDonald, Auchmountain, pulled his club well up in the 3rd legand was 3 seconds faster than Harry Willie Connor, but Paterson, just a

Here are the full results :-

RIVERSIDE TO BROUGHTY FERRY

2. Shettleston H. " B" (Patterson) Record H. Scoles (M.H.) ... 1. Shettleston H. (Connor) - 21.58 27.36

3. Abchmountain H. (McKinven) 2
4. H.M.S. Condor "B" (Wright) 2
5. Garsenhe H. (Gold) — 2
6. Dundee Th'stle (Donachie) — 2
7. Dundee Hawkhill (Kieller) 2
8. Garseihe "B" (Ross) — 2
9. Condor (Whalley) — 2
10. Condor "C" (Mooring) — 2
11. Hawkhill "B" (McMahon) 2 25 13 25 17 25 21 25 21 25 21 21.59

> 4. A. H. (Bryce state)
> 5. Condor "B" (Dunne 31.43) 5.
> 6. D. H. (Davidson 30.51) — 5.
> 7. G. H. "B" (McGinley 30.28) 7.
> 8. Condor (Gross 32.22) — 8. Condor (Gross 32.27) — 9. "C" (Ledbetter 32.47) 10, D, H, "B" (Bickerstaff 32,25) 57.28 2 G. H. (Flockart 28.1) ---Record-J. E. Farrell (M.H.) -3, D. Th. (A.M. Donnet 29.27) OLD GLAMIS ROAD TO INVERGOWERS 56,55

Record-G. Burdett (S. H.) ---1 14.10 11,611

1. S. H. (Howard 24.20) — 1 2. G. H. (Mulgrew 25.18) — 1 3. A. H. (McDonald 24.71) — 1 4. D. Th. (C. Donnet 24.54) 1 5. G. H. "B" (Causon 26.28) 1 6. Condor "B" (Wyatt 27.27) 1 7. D. H. "B" (McKenzie 27.37) 1 8. Condor (Hall 28.30) — 1 9. Condor "C" (Matt ews 27.46) 1 10. D. H. "B" (Montague 28.16) 1 1 16.49 1 20.36 1 21.27 1 24.41 1 21.48 16,85

INVERGOWRIE TO KIVERSIDE

DUNDEE ACTIVE

own affairs. With the interest in Dun-tee there is ample room for two glubs. During the war Dundse has served the sport well and have done much to Thistle and Dundee Hawkhill has diswar-time union of Dundee

was ably organised by them was surely organise the S.A.A.A. Marathon Chamheep running in Scotland alive. the full distance. the first step to a championship over Perth to Dundee (22 miles) race which donable. In many respects they should have been allowed to sponsor it. The The Dundee clubs were keen to

have started training. amous brother Charlie of Hawkhill Nutty Smith and his not quite so linthminints will be glad to know that

BROUGHTY FERRY TO OLD GLAMIS ROAD winning the Scottish title again. C. Melville in 23,20 and looks good for

THE EAST FIX MARATHON

planning to restart. Stewart's F.P.s and Herriot's F.P.s are concentrating on sonians and Trinity Academicals are part in the revival of Edinburgh Athletics this season. Already Wat-F.P. Clubs will play an important coaching, whilst

a distance of 26 miles, 385 yards. will be run from Falkirk to Edinburgh, sports programme on Saturday, June 8. which will form part of the Edinburgh The Scottish Marathon Championship

into Meadowbank. mittee and the route will be by Lauries-ton, Polmont, Maybury Road, Ferry Road, Pilrig, Easter Road, and thence ton, Polmont, the S.A.A.A. Eastern District Com-This was decided at a meeting of

stars may also appear. trum expected, several Continental a week after the British title events at meeting will now be held on July 27, burgh Corporation "Holidays at Home" the Scottish Junior Championships, two open events-120 yards and one mile ondon. In addition to the English andicaps—will be included. The Edin-In addition to the usual events in

appointed starter. a well-known Edinburgh Northern man the St to take over in his stead, Mr. Quaskley. and efforts are being made to per uade retiring from his handicapping post There is some word of Mr. T. Jack Andrews coach, has been

FOOTBALLERS' TREBLE

Jump, in the 100 yards, 220 yards, and broad winner was A. Kiddie, the Aberdeen April, at University Park, opened their season on Saturday, 18th f.C. outside right, who was succes ful St. Andrews University Athletic Club Results A triple

100 YARDS_ 1. A. Kidd'e; 2, F. Bell;

3, A. Bean, Time, 10 8-10 sec.
229 Yards—I, A. Kiddie; 2, A. Cohen;
3, C. G. Martin, Time, 23 5-10 secs.
880 Yards—I, A. Lindsay; 2, G.
Pride; 3, A. Young, Time, 2 min, 16 sec.
One, Mille—I, A. Lindsay; 2, A. Peacock; S, A. Campbell Meakin. Time

Halley; 2 (equal), C. G. Martin and White. Distance, 18ft, 3in, min. 8 5-10 sec. THROWING THE DISCUS-1, J. BROAD JUMP-1, A. Kiddie; 2, T. S.

G. Inch. Distance, 82ft. 4in.

M. Jamieson (Scottish Champion) beat

The club's walking section is going

MY FIRST SIX MILES CROSS-COUNTRY RACE

This article first appeared in a works paper, "The Rangefinder." Its simplicity and quiet humour, which harriers will appreciate, makes the reproduction worth while,—Editor.

I started off with a 4 minute start from scratch man, but I lost half-aminute looking for the trail and this was a disconcerting psychological fact so carly in the race.

However, I caught up, and we ploughed through fields (in not too bad condition) and clambered over fences; and as we had travelled about 1½ miles, I had hopes that my new pants and singlet would remain in a respectable condition. However, this illusion was almost immediately shattered.

With a bound, the boys and I crossed n burn, and I had my head half-way through the next fence, or I would have assuredly staggered back into the burn at the sight that met my eyes. Picture the worst muddy field you ever saw, and imagine that a herd of Clydesdales had stampeded over it. I immediately thought of those inestimable horses as my feet sank nine inches into a glaury hoofprint. It did not help in the least being over five stone in weight (well over). Fortunately (?) the patch further on resembled the Lake District, but I was unappreciative of the fact that clean water would take the mud off, and striving vainly for a dry bit. I struggled on, thinking, "the convoy must go through."

I lost a bit of ground at the railway listening to the directions of a well-meaning civilian, but nothing of much moment occurred for a while. The boys were beginning to string out, and I was feeling strung up. After 4 miles (I did not know the distance then) I was thinking of making a noise like an eruption outside of the farmhouse and then lying down for a rest, when the club champion came up.

When I said, "How far have I to go," in gasping breath, he replied nonchalantly, "Two miles." After a terriffic struggle, I took fresh heart and crashed downbill, with all the brakes off, almost shattering my Axis on the gate at the bottom.

It was one of those Z affairs and I'll remember to ask the boys why they were so careful to shut every one of the gates behind them. We pext came to the village, and it struck me that

a few more small boys along the route might have hastened my pace. I heard the poor chap in front being called a "skinnymalluky" or some other derogatory remark, and feeling acutely self-conscious, I picked up my legs like a 100 yards champion for a bit; to ease up only when danger had past. I must have left them singing, "Smoke gets in your eyes."

For the sake of non-runners, I will explain that it is a hab.t of good runners to run past the line, and then gradually to ease up. In my case, I started to ease up about half-a-mile from the line. The amount I called up at the end, is shown when I beat a couple- of snails in transit. Then my sponsor "Big Bill," bawled out, "Come on, Dave." It took me some time to realise I had still 100 yards to cover, before they took the finishing time for the race, It was an unforgettable experience.

I had a hot bath and shower, and was putting on my togs when the chairman, Mr. Chalmers, made his remarks, about a fine field, ideal conditions, etc. I clapped with the rest. only to discover I had to wait till blackout to ride my blke home; as I had worn my only good socks in the race, and had to put my bare feet into my shoes. Still it has a humourous side, and I hope you can find it.

GARSCUBE HARRIERS CLUB.

The annual whist drive and presentation of prizes was held on the 12th April in the Partick Burgh Hall. The evening was a great success. Prizes were presented by the Hon. President's wife, Mrs. McMorran.

Garscube Harriers Social Club meets in the Partick Burgh Hall (Lesser) every Wednesday and Saturday.

Subscription, 1/3, Wednesday, and 2/6, Saturday.

Ask for Roddy Mulgrew.

The greatest of all follies is to sacrifice health for any other kind of happiness, whether it be for gain, advancement, learning or fame. Everything should rather be made secondary to health.

-Schopenhauer:

AYR AFTERMATH

By A. D. McDONALD

"They were better fed than our men

during the war."

"The Germans permitted and even encouraged them to continue their athletic activities during the Occupation."

"The trail suited them better."

You, too, must have overheard similar criticisms after the recent Cross Country International — mebbe even thought so yourself?

My opinion is that class and general fitness for the task alone carried the

Continental teams to success.

Their tactics—they proved the old adage that it is much easier to go to the front at the start, and stay there, than to make up ground in the latter stages of such a contest.

At a mark roughly 1000 yards from the winning post, I noted the position of all teams, and the Continentals were alone in holding their placings, and, indeed, in five cases they bettered their positions over the final stretch.

At the first point where they left the racecourse for the country, Pujazon and Vande Wattyne gave a wonderful display of steeplechase technique. Every lap, they rose in the air like birds and merely topping the bar in their flight, cleared the hedge and carried on their way without breaking step.

Wonder if they were well fed? Italy, reckoned to be in cahoots with the Nazis, didn't do exceptionally well.

And surely the Germans knew that a healthy body is a healthy mind and that a healthy mind thinks more and gets into action oftener. I have seen marvellous stadiums in Italy and Austria lying in disuse. They had been like that for years and very often all forms of athletics had been banned by the Germans.

I think if we say that they are at the most, one year or eighteen months ahead of us in training, we shall be nearer the mark.

If the class is there, it will come up in a race like this. Our own Jimmie Flockhart is an example. Short of training, his own natural ability carried him through.

Scotland must not despair, but rather pursue a long-term policy and build up a fresh team around young Charlie MacLennan and Bobby Reid. We can hope but cannot expect that Flockhart and E. Farrel will come to our assis-

tance for many more seasons, whilst the others at Ayr that day were just not up to standard, although Howard, who will require very careful nursing for a long time, may strike it and go further ahead next season.

But for spectators it was a grand day's outing, and the number attracted to the Racecourse by the event foreshadows a welcome boom in our sport.

Result

1st France—1, 3, 4, 5, 14, 16—43 points. 2nd Belgium—2, 8, 9, 13, 17, 28—77 points.

3rd England—6, 7, 10, 20, 21, 32—96 points.

4th Ireland—11, 12, 18, 19, 23, 30—113 points.

5th Scotland—(J. C. Flockhart -5, J. E. Farrell 25, R. Reid 26, W. Somerville 33, H. Howard 36, G. Porteous 43)—178 points.

6th Wales—31, 35, 40, 42, 48, 50—246 points.

Individuals

 R. R. Pujazon, France; time 51 min. 51 1-5 sec.

 M. Vande Wattyne, Belgium; 52 min. 24 sec.

3, P. Messner, France; 52 min. 49 sec. 4, A. Presset, France; 52 min. 52 sec.

5, P. Cousin, France; 52 min. 55 sec. 6, J. Holden, England (holder); 52

min. 58 sec.
T. Gibson, A. McLennan and E. McAllister did not count for Scotland.

G. Anderson (Bellahouston H.) was unable to run, through stomach trouble. His loss was clubmate Tommy Gibson's

Perhaps "Gaby" will see Paris next year.

Shettleston Harriers have had a remarkable season. They have won every senior relay and team race on the programme. They provided four of Scotland's international team. Had individual in the unofficial national and first man home for Scotland in the International. With George Craig running with his old power in Belgium, it will be a struggle for class men getting a place in Shettleston's team when he comes home.

SPORTS DIARY

April 27—S.A.A.A. Spring championships Helenvale, May 18—St. Ignatius A.A.C Wishaw, St. Modan's F.P.A.C Stirling, Kirkintilloch and District Sports. 25—Glasgow University Championships Westerlands, Ballieston and District Sports, June 1—Monkland Harriers Coatbridge, Singer's A.A.C Dalmuir, Allan Glen's School, Shawlands Secondary School.	June—Continued 25—Atlanta v. S.A.A.A. West. DistGlasgow, 29—Shotts A.A.C. Kilbarchan ex-Home Guards. Youths' Panel Service (iner-county contests)
7—Glasgow Union of Boys' ClubsHelenvale. 8—S.A.A.A. Junior Champ'ship Meadowbank S.A.A.A. Marathon Championship Falkirk to Meadowbank. Motherwell and Wishaw PoliceFir Park. Babcock and Wilcox	20—Dumbarton Town Council. 27—Motherwell Y.M.C.A., St. Machin's A.A.C., Lennoxtown. August 3—Rangers F.C., Ibrox 5—B.H. International Meeting White City. 10—Cumbernauld A.A.C., Carluke Sports. 17—Milngavie Games. 23-25—European Championship Oslo. 30-31—Cowal Gathering.

THE EDITOR APPEALS

You would like to see this Bulletin every month. It's continuance will be determined by how much it is circulated. We are out of pocket with this first copy. We do not object to that, but our means are very lmited. Do not let the paper be knocked out through lack of finance. If ach reader were to make a small contribution it would take a financial burden from our shoulders. Profit is not our motive; any balance will be put to the improvement of the paper, possibly by increasing its size.

We will not take any paid advertisements from harrier club. If your sports or your cause needs boosting, we will only be too pleasel to do it. The space is free. Publicity will be particularly given to old dubs trying to revive or to new clubs springing up.

Club secretaries should send us reports of their respective programmes. Get your club to appoint a Literary Secretary, your Club Secretary has enough to do already. We have held that position and know the work involved.

Arrange with us to send a copy to your members overseas. It will keep the contact. Have it sent with the good wishes of your club. Senl us letters of criticism, opinion and help. We can learn from each other. Please respond to our appeal at once. An initial response would gurantee the paper for several months.

Every donation will be gratefully acknowledged.

Will you recognise our enthusiasm by giving us moral anl financial support?

Send all communications to the publisher:-

WALTER J. ROSS, 132 EARL STREET, GLASGOW, W.4.