

THE SCOTS ATHLETE

PRICE
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TAKING THE FIRST FENCE in the first lap of the Midland District 4 x 2½ Miles Relay. G. White (Clydesdale H.) on front, extreme left, was leader at end of circuit.

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THE SCOTS ATHLETE

To Stimulate Interest, to Develop Enthusiasm
and to Encourage Sportsmanship in Scotland

Edited by WALTER J. ROSS

Editorial Offices—69 ST. VINCENT STREET, GLASGOW, C.2.

JANUARY 1947

No. 10.

Annual Subscription 6/6

RUNNING COMMENTARY

by J. E. FARRELL

(Scottish 3, 6, and 10 miles Champion).

The main events of the December programme were the District relays and, with these completed, training is now, in the main, confined to longer distances. The chief feature of the relays was the closeness of the finishes, especially in the Midland and South-Western sections, where yards only separated winners from runners-up.

Smith Brothers Part in Hawkhill Win

In the Eastern relay, old internationals, "Suttle" Smith and C. Smith, played a conspicuous part in a steady Hawkhill team, brilliantly led by W. Robertson, just out of the Forces, who, incidentally, put up the fastest time of the day, followed by J. Smart (Edin. Southern), second in recent novice championship, and C. Robertson, of Thistle. The Smith brothers clocked the same time, and as it was a mere 20 sec. outside fastest time over this 24 mile course, the question arises—how good will these experienced campaigners prove themselves over the more suitable longer stretches? Will they be once more a danger to international aspirants?

Bellahouston Strong Over Country

In surely one of the closes and most exciting races of the series, Bellahouston, proved narrow winners of the Midland relay championship, beating the holders, Maryhill, by less than 10 yards, with Victoria Park a close 3rd, and Shettleston well in the picture.

It was a most appropriate win for

the Bellahouston Club, especially in view of their recent Jubilee celebrations; and, of course, it is a good thing for the honours to go round.

Springburn's performance in finishing fifth, was also an excellent one, and as the club has only recently been reformed, their future prospects are very bright.

Lamb's Return to Form

Without detracting any credit from other splendid performances, I put Lamb, of Bellahouston, as the personality of the race. Not only because of clocking third fastest time of the day and bringing his club from a badly-placed position to a commanding one, but, also, because of the strong and confident manner of his running, unsurpassed by any of the participants. A continuation of this form is sure to bring him into the international reckoning once again.

D. White, of Clydesdale, who led at the first change-over, and Christie, of Bellahouston's "C" team, who also ran an inspired lap over this sector (beating prominent senior men) are both novices who ran fairly well in the recent novice's championship without setting the heather on fire.

Both showed their class on this occasion, and it may be said, in condonation of White's performance in the recent novice championship, that he ran in sand-shoes, which were entirely unsuitable for such a sodden country course.



THE MIDLAND RELAY

(1)—The start takes place from Westerton Station. (2)—"Dunky" out getting first-hand information. (3)—Runners strung out near end of first leg. (4)—A "shuttle" change-over, with TOMMY LAMB (Bellahouston) just starting a great second lap.

Andy Forbes, of Victoria Park, who clocked fastest time, is in a special category, having proved himself, up till now, perhaps the best performer of the winter season, and certainly one of the most promising distance runners revealed in Scotland for some time.

West Kilbride's First District Honour

In the South-Western relay, the recently-formed West Kilbride were also involved in a "dust-up" with Auchmountain, whom they just managed to beat by the narrow margin of 15 yards, with Greenock Wellpark a similar distance behind in third place. Few will grudge the enthusiastic West Kilbride men this success, and it may inspire them to further notable performances.

The pick of the individual performances resulted, as expected, in Frank Sinclair, of Wellpark, and James Reid, of West Kilbride, in, respectively, first and second places.

The District Championships

The next big events in the cross-country calendar are the respective District Junior Championships, the districts being, respectively, Eastern, Midland, and South-Western.

For the benefit of the uninitiated, it may be pointed out that the term "Junior" refers to status and carries no age-limit. Cross-country runners who have represented their Country are ineligible, as are counting members of first and second teams in the National Championships, as well as the first three individuals. The previous individual winner of a Junior Championship and members of winning Junior team are also ineligible to compete in a further Junior Championship.

These tests, as well as the Club Championships which are scheduled round about the same period, may throw some light on form and prospects for the National Championship some weeks later as, up till now, form has had to be judged from the shorter-distance races, and may be said to be potential rather than actual.

It is now possible to discuss prospects in these district championships.

Eastern District Junior Championship

This race takes place on February 1st, 1947. What of the individual prospects? I would not care to pinpoint the winner, but suggest a short

leet, consisting of W. Robertson (Hawthill), J. Smart (Edin. Southern) and C. Robertson and P. Donnachie (Dundee Thistle). Had he retained last year's form, Charlie McPherson, of Aberdeen, would have been hard to beat.

For team honours, I have a sneaking fancy for the all-round strength of Dundee Thistle to beat their Dundee rivals, Hawthill, but the latter, with the benefits of the coaching of the Smith Brothers, are not to be lightly dismissed, while Edinburgh Southern are gaining strength and ought to be in the running.

Midland District Junior Championships

Scheduled for January 25th, a week earlier than the other district races. This should also prove a splendid race.

For the individual title, I confidently take A. Forbes, of Victoria Park, to win.

Forbes Clearing Obstacles

Towards the end of the track season Forbes proved himself perhaps the best distance runner on the track, but there were some who were doubtful if he would show similar form over road and country. Subsequently Forbes has shown equally convincing form over road and short country trails, and this seven miles' test, on January 25th, may solve the final problem of whether he can get the distance. Should he do so, he should not only go on and earn selection for the international team for Paris, but should go on the short leet for the winning of the Individual title in the National Championships.

The only point that may mitigate against his championship chances is that of slight staleness setting in. Forbes, as anchor man of Victoria Park's improving team, has done a power of racing for his club, and I know, from personal experience, how easy it is to go stale in similar circumstances. But perhaps Forbes, and Coach Munro, have the answer to any danger of that possibility.

Among other promising contenders for the Midland title may be Jim Clark and R. Mathieson (Maryhill), George Craig and Ben Cairns (Shettleston), G. Lamont (Victoria Park), D. McFarlane (Glasgow Y.M.C.A.), and A. Warton (Garscube).

Not far behind these men, and liable

to spring a surprise, are novices D. White (Clydesdale), Christie (Bellahouston), and strongly built W. McMillan (Springburn), plus Jas. Bissell (Maryhill)—a much improved runner.

Of the afore-mentioned runners, Jim Clark has been nursing a leg injury and, fearing a recurrence, has lost some of his confidence. But if this lad gets into his stride again he will make any one hop to beat him. D. McFarlane, of Glasgow Y.M.C.A., reserve in last season's international team, is keen to improve on that performance, and his recent fastest lap in the Y.M.C.A. relay shows him to be running as well as ever.

Lamont, of Victoria Park, is the enigma of this race. Holder of the Scottish Command cross-country championship last year, in which he beat international runner McAllister, of Shettleston, he is one of Scotland's fastest milers, but his form is as variable as a weather barometer. I believe that lack of training facilities, due to his employment, is the chief factor in his topsy-turvy form.

George Craig, of Shettleston, son of an ex-cross-country champion and internationalist, and brother of Archie Craig, also an ex-internationalist, is now beginning to show some form at the right time, and may be Forbes' chief rival for the individual title. Twice winner of the National Youths' Championship, and also of the Novice Championship, his promising career was interrupted through the war, but he may now fulfil his early promise—and a trip to Paris is well within his capabilities.

For team honours in this race, Victoria Park, Maryhill, and Shettleston should provide the winner, with a slight preference for the chances of the first two. Bellahouston's best runners are nearly all seniors, and I doubt if they have the all-round strength to win a race of this nature. In a lesser degree this may also apply to Shettleston.

In this Victoria Park-Maryhill duel, the former have, perhaps, classier individuals, but Maryhill have all-round reserve strength, and with conditions of 12 to run and six to count in the points' reckoning, Victoria Park cannot afford to carry a passenger to win. Victoria Park can count on men such as Forbes, Lamont, McFarlane, Adam,

Ritchie and Cunningham, while Maryhill have Clark, Mathieson, Hoskins, Bissell, Scholes, Wilkie, Coogan, and Glendinning to uphold the tradition of their club.

South-Western Prospects

In the South-Western District Junior Championship, James Reid, late of Beith Harriers and now of the recently formed West Kilbride A.C., looks a certainty for the Individual title, as Frank Sinclair, the splendid Greenock Wellpark runner, is a senior and ineligible to compete. Prior to the war Reid was showing fine promise, and now, with greater strength, is rapidly coming to the forefront. In only mentioning Reid I may be doing an injustice to some dark-horse, possibly from the Greenock teams, but one cannot entirely ignore known form.

The team event may be a close affair. West Kilbride will be all-out for a further success for an Ayrshire team, but I rather fancy the all-round strength of the Greenock clubs for an event of this nature, with a slight preference for the chances of Auchmountain.

Youths' Championship Rehearsal

The Youths' race, over 2½ miles, confined to Midland clubs, which takes place on the same day as the Midland 7 miles Junior Championship, may be a dress rehearsal for the National Youths' Championship on March 1, as the field is likely to include R. Smith (Garscube) and W. Young (Vic. Park), who are reckoned to be among the classiest contenders for this title. Young, highly thought of, will require to be good to hold Smith, who ran into a classy 4th place against senior runners in the recent National Novice Championship.

International Prospects—Quest for Speed

With the international in Paris drawing ever nearer, many competent critics, anxious to see Scotland put up a show in this event, have stressed, from time to time, the need for speed-work and collective training, especially in view of the fast, light courses usually used for this event. Speed merchants of the type of Forbes, Lamont and Sinclair, if able to combine stamina with their undoubted speed, might form a spear-head along with some of the experienced stayers,

to, at least, improve materially on last year's ignominious display at Ayr. So far, any scheme is merely tentative, but time is fleeting, and if anything is to be done—it must be done immediately. The pooling of all resources, collective and personal, can never bring anything but gain, and, at least, demonstrates purpose.

Pujazon and the Continentals

The form of the French and Belgian teams, coupled with the exceptional speed of the individual star, Pujazon, has brought this question of speed into bold relief, as, apparently, the Continentals train specifically for speed.

Pujazon proved during the summer season that he is an exceptional 3-miler by his displays against Wooderson in the Great Britain v. France match, and again in the epic 5000 metres event in Oslo. Then, also in Oslo, he won the European steeplechase championship.

But in assessing the speed of the French star, we must consider his amazing performance in the France v. Finland match at Colombo Stadium, in the 1500 metres event, which is not considered his speciality. Here, he clocked 3 min. 53.3 sec., only half a second behind Siltaloppi, of Finland, and a mere 6 sec. behind Lovelock's previous world record made in Berlin, in 1936.

Can Pujazon Avoid Staleness?

The fact that many of our noted stayers are considered to indulge in too much racing, in both summer and winter seasons, leads one to ask whether the wonderfully versatile Pujazon can successfully defend his international cross-country individual title in March after having indulged in such a hectic programme of international racing during the summer.

Wooderson Over Country

That Wooderson can travel over country when he likes, is revealed by his recent breaking of a course record. He may, or may not, indulge in any serious racing over country, but it might be interesting to watch developments.

Sunshine and Records for Wint

We who are enduring the icy hand of winter must envy Wint and Company taking part in the Central American Games at Barranquilla (Colombia). Incidentally, Wint won the 400 metres

in record times for these Games, clocking 48.6 sec. in his heat, and 48 sec. in the final.

Jamaica, including Wint and McKenley in their team, also won the 4 x 400 metres relay in 3 min. 18 sec., also a new record for these Games.

Good News of Archer

The news that John Archer, of Notts, European 100 metres champion, is making a good recovery from his recent broken leg and may run next summer is pleasing to all sportsmen. Maurice Bingham, of Finchley, who broke his leg in a climbing accident in 1942, made a great come-back from his injury and is now reckoned to be running as well as ever. Archer may take inspiration from his example. The latter's accident was sustained in a rugby match, and, mention of that game brings to mind that many noted sprinters are keen on this code. Ex-British and Empire champion, C. B. Holmes, who recently announced his retirement from running, is playing so well that he has been suggested as a probable for an England team, while "Copey" Murdoch, a noted member of Bellaboustone's pre-war relay team, is still hitting the high spots with Hillhead F.P.s.

Loughborough in the News

The position of A.A.A. professional coach has been offered to Major G. H. G. Dyson, at present on the staff of Loughborough College. He is the former Essex hurdler and record-holder, and has a special knowledge of field events and would co-operate with A.A.A. honorary coaches. Major Dyson will be chief coach at the summer school at Loughborough College in August.

A.A.A. Marathon Venue

The Loughborough district in Leicestershire is preferred to the congested London area, for the A.A.A. marathon course next year. Splendid facilities are available there, and the proposed date has been changed to August 23rd.

Swimmers, Too!

For swimmers, a training course, to last two weeks, will be held at Loughborough College. This college will be reserved for a week prior to both European Games and Olympics, and will be the headquarters of the British team before they move off to their permanent swimming quarters.

Scottish Record Passed

Alan Paterson's High Jump record of 6 ft. 6½ in., made at Rangers Sports, in August, has now been officially passed by the S.A.A.A., who, in addition, have also decided to present him with a plaque, in recognition of his great feat in winning four championships — Scottish (Senior and Youth's) and British (Senior and Youth's).

Paterson, now awaiting his call-up, will, no doubt, be gradually building himself to gain that bit extra strength which would assist him for next season's events. For example, Lester Steers, who holds the world's high jump record of 6 ft. 11 in., stood 6 ft. 0½ in., and weighed 198 lb. (14 st. 2 lb.) Paterson, young, tall, and slimly built, requires strength as well as ever-improving technique for 1948 Olympics.

Festive Races Revive Memories

The Christmas and New Year novelty races, in which each member gives a prize and takes away a prize, revive memories of some of the features of cross-country running which tend to be dying-out. The craze for speed, plus an already overburdened racing programme, has infected even this purest form of sport, with the result that the hares-and-hounds pursuit matches with the latter following the devious trails laid by the former, and the cyclists versus harriers packs are being elbowed out of the fixture list. Cross-country running, as well as being an exhilarating and vigorous sport, is also a pleasant recreational pastime embodying good fellowship amidst surroundings of sky and green pasture—a tonic to mind and eye.

The division of packs into slow, medium and fast cater for all tastes. In addition to these standard packs some clubs used to feature a special "business man's" pack for runners whose sole object was an easy trot over selected country trails for health and recreational reasons alone. It is to the good of the sport to have these features maintained.

RACE FIXTURES

Jan.

- 25—Greenock Glenpark 7 miles Handicap Orangefield
- 25—Edinburgh Northern H., Junior Championship (Road) ... Cameron House
- 25—Dundee Hawkhill H., Club Championship ... Fairfield Street
- 25—Midland District Junior Championship (7 miles), Youths' (2½ miles) ... Hamilton

Feb.

- 1—Maryhill H. Championships (Senior and Youth) ... Maryhill
- 1—West of Scotland H., Junior Championship ... Stanalane
- 1—Eastern District Junior Championship ... Edinburgh
- 1—South-Western District Junior Championship ... Ayr
- 8—Clydesdale H., 7 miles H'cap. Clydebank
- 8—Motherwell Y.M., 10 miles ... Y.M.I.
- 15—Victoria Park A.A.C. Championship (Senior and Youths) ... Milngavie
- 15—West of Scotland Championship Stanalane
- 15—Eastern League Race ... Arbroath
- 15—Edinburgh Northern H., 9 miles Handicap ... Portobello Baths
- 15—Garscube H., Championship: (Seniors, 10 miles; Youths, 2½ miles) ... Westerton
- 15—Shettleston H. Club Championship Gartocher Road
- 15—Y.M.C.A. C.C. Championship ... Renfrew
- 15—Auchmountain H. 10 miles Handicap Carwood Street
- 15—Dumbarton A.A.C. Club Championship Brock Baths
- 15—Greenock Glenpark 10 miles Handicap Orangefield
- 22—Universities' International ...
- 22—Edinburgh Northern H., H'cap for Members of 25 years and over Musselburgh

March

- 1—National C.C. Championship: Sen. and Youths' ... Lanark
- 8—Edinburgh Northern H., Consolation Handicap ... Portobello Baths
- 15—Motherwell Y.M., Point-to-Point...Y. M. I.
- 15—Dundee Hawkhill H., H'cap Race Fairfield Street
- 22—Greenock v. Glasgow Team Race Carwood Street
- 29—Dundee Hawkhill Road Championship ... Invergowrie
- 29—Garscube H. Road Championship Westerton
- 29—International C.C. Race ... Paris
- 29—Vale of Leven A.A.C., 4 miles Youths' Race ... Alexandria
- 29—Dumbarton A.A.C. 2 miles Road Handicap ... Brock Baths
- 29—Greenock Glenpark 5 miles Road Race Orangefield
- 29—Shettleston H. 6 miles Road Race Gartocher Road

April

- 5—"Around Dundee" Open Relay ... Dundee
- 5—Clydesdale H. Road Race ... Clydebank
- 12—Dundee Hawkhill Consolation Race Fairfield Street

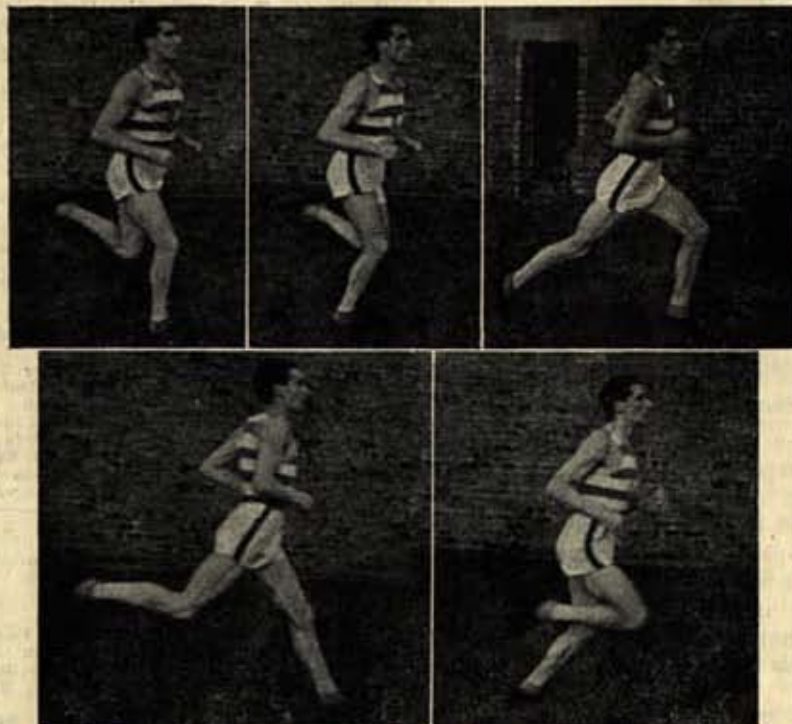
May

- 16/17—University Athletic Union Championships ... White City
- 26—British Games ... White City

PHOTOFLASH

No. 2

ANDREW FORBES (Victoria Park A.A.C.)



Since recovering from a leg injury sustained at the beginning of the last track season, Andrew Forbes, of Victoria Park, has proved himself one of our most versatile runners.

He has returned consistently good times on Track, Road and Country, and in the last six months has put up the fastest time in the Glasgow Transport two-mile track race, the Dundee "Kingsway" Road relay, and the Midland District cross-country relay.

Always a stylish runner, with a smooth even action which is a pleasure to watch, Forbes developed strength and stamina during the war years, when he served with the R.A.

Both attributes—strength and stamina—were tested in the B.A.O.R. 1500 metres title contest. On that occasion, with the other competitors, Andrew had to battle against an October gale, and, by fine running and good judgment, won the event in 4 min. 10 sec.

A non-counting member of the winning Victoria Park (1939) Midland team, Andrew must be regarded as a hot favourite for this year's individual title. A sound judge of pace and tactics, he has, I think, the experience to decide the race in his favour.

Furthermore, if he can maintain his present form he will be a valuable asset to Scotland's international team, at Paris, in March.

MORPETH RACE RESULT

Holden Wins Road Race Duel With Farrell

As we go to press, the famous Morpeth to Newcastle road race has been run. The race, which was organised by Newcastle Harriers, is held annually on New Year's Day, but was withheld during the war years.

Readers will be anxious to know how the race went, since it brought together for the first time in a race of its kind, three of Britain's Olympic marathon potentials, namely, Jack Holden, Tipton Harriers; John Emmet Farrell, Maryhill Harriers; and Harry Howard, Shettleston Harriers.

The clash of those two great personalities, Jack Holden, 30-miles world's record holder, four times international cross-country champion, and acknowledged to be one of the greatest distance runners ever, and J. E. Farrell, the only person ever to have won the Scottish 3, 6, and 10 miles' championships (a unique record especially when one considers they were all won in the same season—1946) and Perth-to-Dundee (22 miles) record holder, aroused the Tyneside people, and thousands cheered the 52 runners en route.

On the same evening as the race, a good report of the event appeared in "The Newcastle Evening Chronicle," most of which we reproduce here, presenting a clear picture of the race.

It should be recorded that the winner, Jack Holden, was 1 min. 8 4-5th sec. outside the record made by G. Craven (Gateshead H.), in 1939.

The heading to "The Newcastle Evening Chronicle" article was the same as the sub-heading above, and read as follows:—

The pace at the start was a cracker one, for just past the golf course at the top of the bank coming out of Morpeth the field was already strung out with Holden five yards in the lead. After a mile Holden, Farrell and Howard were

together, and there was no change after 3½ miles.

Just over a third of the course had been covered at the first check point at Stannington where Holden and Farrell lead Howard by six yards. The time of Holden and Farrell (23 min. 33 sec.) was 48 seconds outside the record.

Outside Record

At the foot of Blagdon Bank Howard fell behind, and at Blagdon check point Holden led Farrell by two yards, with Howard 300 yards behind. Holden did not look like breaking the record at this point, as he was 63 secs. outside Craven's time, set up in 1939.

Seaton Burn saw Farrell take the lead for the first time, heading Holden by two yards in the time of 44.31—well outside the record.

A great tussle developed with Holden once more in the lead over Farrell at Gosforth Park by three yards, and Howard, the nearest, more than half-a-mile away. Holden's time at this point was 53.52.

Farrell took the lead just before the Rugby ground was reached, where he was three yards ahead, but coming into Brandling West Park, Holden was ahead by 200 yards in 1 hr. 13 min. 52 sec. (over 1 min. outside the record).

After the race it was found that Holden had ran almost half the distance with a septic heel, and his performance in the circumstances was a glorious one.

Individual Placings

- 1—J. T. Holden (Tipton Harriers).
- 2—J. E. Farrell (Maryhill Harriers).
- 3—R. S. Walker (Saltwell Harriers).
- 4—B. L. Helmsley (Gosforth).
- 5—R. G. Fall (Gosforth).
- 6—H. C. Wright (Saltwell Harriers).
7. W. M. McKinley (Bellahouston); 8. G. Porteous (Maryhill); 9. W. Harding (Heaton); 10. J. M. Lindsay (Bellahouston); 11. J. N. Thompson (Newcastle); 12. T. Stobbs, senr. (Benwell); 13. J. Martin (Maryhill).

Maryhill are to be congratulated on once again winning the team race.

BY THE WAY

There were over 180 persons present at Bellahouston Harriers' Jubilee Dinner, at Cranston's Restaurant, Glasgow, on Friday, 20th December, 1946, at which the Editor was a guest. Mr. J. R. McDiarmid was in the Chair, and conspicuous among the many prominent sporting personalities present were Mr. Struth and Mr. Bowie, Rangers F.C.; Mr. D. Turner, Partick Thistle F.C., Mr. J. Gardiner, Queen's Park F.C.; and Mr. W. S. Unkles, Third Lanark F.C., a very distinguished runner in his youth. Of the running fraternity and past champions that were present it would be difficult to single out one with greater records or personality than another. But it was very pleasing to see in attendance one of the greatest Scottish runners of all time, Jack Paterson, looking the picture of health and fitness. Can anyone claim to have a better record than Jack? He was Scottish $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, 1 mile, and 10 mile champion in 1900, and for three years previous was 4 miles champion.

Uddingston Welfare A.A.C. received a welcome visit recently from Major Hamish Mumme, whose name will be familiar to many West of Scotland athletes. He is at present on leave from India, where he has been on service with the Gurkha Rifles, and is looking fit and well and hoping to be demobbed in time to participate this track season. Many will remember his front-rank performances in sprints prior to the outbreak of war, and his track appearances would be sure to give spectators thrills.

Jock Reid of Birchfield Harriers is determined to be known in his own right, rather than as a brother of Bobby Reid, the famous Scottish internationalist. Last year he finished 12th individual in the English cross-country Youths' Championship at Leamington, and had the honour of leading home the Birchfield team.

Still a youth, "Jock" means to be farther up this year, and no doubt he will as he trains under the eye of "Bobby," who incidentally, may not run in the Scottish Championships, in favour of having a tilt at the English title.

Best of luck to both, particularly from all the old Ayrshire friends.

It is common knowledge that J. E. Farrell was both a well-known swimmer and wrestler before he took up running. There are many noted runners who were originally attached to other sports, which leads one to believe that running is a captivating sport inducing a lasting interest.

International Champion, Jim Flockhart, was formerly a cyclist, and J. Suttie Smith, of Dundee, our 10 mile record holder, was a noted physical culturist and swimmer before coming to the forefront of the running game. It has been



averred that had Internationalist Bobby Reid shown desire for top-class football instead of running, he would have become Scotland's international right back.

Chef d'Hotel, to the average person, might imply someone's profession, but it actually signifies the name of a runner of international repute who is the French 800 metres champion. Chef d'Hotel was acclaimed first by the French sports public as a great racing cyclist. Britain's great half-miler and Olympic potential, Tom White, was also a known cyclist before we heard of his great running feats in the Middle East.

Boxing, too, has given way to the romance of running. Jack Lovelock, 1936 Olympic 1500 metres champion, is reputed to have been able to apply himself very usefully at the "noble art."

On the contrary, according to some people, if the late Benny Lynch had interested himself in running he would have been a world-beating runner instead of a world's champion boxer. He was very happy "on the road."

Our own Alec Kidd, home on leave and expecting demob in a few weeks' time, was converted to running because of his enthusiasm for boxing. He wanted to put in extra training nights for the Amateur Boxing Championships and so he started training with the Garscube lads from Westerton in his desire to build

up his stamina. He enjoyed the runs and was tempted out in a 6 miles cross-country handicap. His first race was a revelation—finished second off the novice mark from a fairly large entry. From that date, as far as Alec was concerned, running was "leading in points" before he actually gave boxing "the knock out." In the S.C.C.A. test at Motherwell, in 1945, Alec was a good third to J. E. Farrell and Harry Howard. At 22 years of age, Alec will add keenness and colour to Scottish athletics.

And who would imagine that Alec Hay, joint champion with brother Albert, of Garscube, and runner-up this year in Scottish 3-miles track championship, with his very heavy stride and almost cumbersome style, is a very beautiful and graceful Highland dancer and has many classes in and around Inverness? "Sandy" is training to defend his title again this year and, no doubt, will have a bid for International honours, which he narrowly failed to achieve last year.

There may be a coal crisis but Shotts miners can certainly "pull their weight." Last year their Welfare A.A.C. team competed in 11 Tug-of-War contests and won 10, including one championship (104 stones).

Airdrie Harriers expect to figure even more prominently on the track this coming season. Airdrie have their own running track at Scarhill Park, and have now completed their plans for the erection of a brick pavilion with modern equipment.

BROKEN TIME PAYMENT

The article in last month's issue of the "Scots Athlete" on the question of "broken-time" payments, by our contributor, James L. Logan, under the heading "To Pay or Not to Pay," has aroused considerable comment.

Prominent officials and athletes have expressed their desire to state their various approaches to the subject. This free discussion should be beneficial to our legislators.

A few people, so prejudiced in their opposition to payments, are not keen on discussion on the matter. This is a sign of weakness rather than strength. Open discussion and free expression is the basis of progress. Full consideration of the points for and against, now, will mean that our delegates to the I.A.A.F. will be speaking for the considered opinion of the whole Amateur Athletic movement.

It must be remembered that this is an international problem more than a domestic one. The advocacy of "broken-time" payments in Great Britain would probably not have gained any great significance but for it being thrust from outside.

The question must be faced in full light of the approach of other countries.

Bearing these points in mind, let's hear from you!

The following very neat reference appeared in the popular weekly feature "Games and Players," in "The Glasgow Herald," on 2nd October, 1946:—

"When Mr. Lindmann, of Sweden, defied the amateur athletic laws at Oslo, in August, and announced that his association would make payments for

'broken time,' he brought to the boil once again a controversy which has simmered for years. According to amateur laws, anyone who accepts money for competing is a professional. The advocates of 'broken time' payments would like (without damage to amateur status of competitors) to refund wages lost while competing. Quite naturally the Swedes feel strongly on these questions, for they have recently lost the services of their most famous runners, Haegg and Andersson, both disqualified for accepting money payments. Yet a simple solution is not easy to find.

The distinction between amateurism and professionalism in athletics has always been a practical one. Amateurism has masked much hypocrisy and some dishonesty; but on the whole it has worked better than professionalism. For it must be emphasised that professionalism has been tried, and some would say 'convicted,' for at least a century. It is possible that some intermediate status could usefully be established, but the difficulties are many. The only successful instances of "paid amateurism" to come readily to mind are the Australian cricket touring teams; and they have quite different conditions from those facing an athletics team. If the reformers will come down to detail and produce a scheme they will bring the discussion from the heights of ethics, where it has no business, to the level of practice. Their scheme must answer the questions — 'How?' 'How much?' and 'How often?' It must not abandon control or the way is open to plain professionalism."



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Editor's Chat

Our first expressions of 1947 are those of appreciation of all the well-wishing letters and greeting cards we received around Christmas-time. The warm and friendly spirit shown gives us great encouragement in our crusade to popularise athletics.

May we, in turn, send New Year greetings to all our Scottish readers, to our "brithers" o'er the Border, to our American associates, and to sportsmen everywhere.

Included in our very nice Christmas mail was a letter from joint-champion of Garscube, Albert Hay, now resident in Canada. He would like to be remembered by all his old friends and race-rivals. Albert has been competing quite successfully in Canada, but we say no more, since we intend reproducing part of his most interesting letter next month.

Just heard from David Livingstone, enthusiastic secretary of Springburn Harriers, that his club are preparing for Jubilee celebrations sometime in March. Hoping to have their club-history published, too!

What a fervour there must have been in Scottish athletics 50 years ago, when we think of all the Jubilee festivals held recently and coming off in the near future.

We have Hamilton Harriers' history by us, for printing next month. Who is preparing your club's history?

Provisional notice of the A.G.M. of the Scottish Amateur Athletic Association, to be held in Edinburgh, on Saturday, 22nd February, 1947, has been sent to club secretaries by Mr. Gilbert, Hon. Sec., S.A.A.A., 17 Pearce Avenue, Edinburgh 12. Clubs omitted notice should write to Mr. Gilbert, or inquire at our offices.

This meeting should be a momentous one for Scottish athletics, provided not too much time is taken up in discussion of paltry matters.

All eyes will be on the meeting, and many people are surmising, and hoping, that a grand athletic offensive will be launched in view of the 1948 Olympics.



The Association can rest assured that any progressive proposals will be acclaimed joyfully by Scotland's youth. The interest is there—dynamic leadership will reap reward.

Perhaps the question of coaching will be taken up.

In the July (No. 4) "The Scots Athlete," our friend and contributor, J. E. Farrell, put forward the suggestion that coaches should pool their ideas and experience, which, he claimed, would be to the advantage of the whole sport.

This suggestion ought to be implemented. The advancement of the standard of the whole country must come before the desire of increased prominence of one club over another. Each club would have something to gain. United effort would be a challenge, heralding progress, and would show to the world our wholeheartedness in trying to improve the standard of our athletes.

We believe that Mr. T. M. Anderson, Principal, Scottish Physiotherapy Hospital, has a successful coaching scheme organised for Central Junior Football League team trainers, and, we see no reason why he should not be asked to work in a similar capacity for athletics.

As readers know, Tom Anderson has a great enthusiasm for our sport, and has helped many of our young athletes, including Alan Paterson, in gaining

technique. His suitable facilities, the great use he makes of his cine-camera, his knowledge of technique, massage, and the workings of the body, and his ever readiness to co-operate, presents a great opportunity for the formation of a coaching school. If nothing is mooted along these lines at the S.A.A.A. meeting, we are sure clubs in the Glasgow area will band together in an effort to get the best out of all our coaches through a united training scheme, which could only spell success.

Incidentally, readers will be glad to know that Mr. Anderson has written an article for publication in "The Scots Athlete" next month, which will be most beneficial to sprinters.

We regret that we have been unable to publish a full report of the Eastern District Relay this month, but we propose to give a full analysis of the Eastern League Races, which series has been successfully continuing, in the coming issue.



"DUNKY" WRIGHT'S FIRST MARATHON RECALLED

Dear Sir.—Please find enclosed my subscription for your paper; I have had difficulty in getting it, and I want to make sure this time.

I have been interested in athletics since 1905 and still run out with the youngsters and find it the finest sport in the world.

Some day, maybe, you will let me tell the story of "Dunky" Wright's first marathon race. I was with him and gave him his times, and, perhaps, a little advice, for at that time I had been running marathon races for almost 15 years. I was also with him in his last marathon, when I again gave him his times.

I must congratulate you on a fine paper which has been needed for a good few years.—Yours faithfully,
G. S. BARBER, Maryhill Harriers.

FRIENDLY GESTURE FROM WALTON A.C.

Dear Mr. Ross.—Very many thanks for kindly sending me copies of the "Scots Athlete," which contained most enjoyable reading.

I have enclosed a copy of my club's latest gazette which you might find interesting. Our member, L. C. Lewis, who is mentioned several times in the gazette, when stationed in Scotland, joined Dundee Hawkhill Harriers 2nd claim.

We hope that it will be possible to arrange either a track or cross-country fixture with one of your smaller clubs in the near future; it would be nice to arrange an alternate fixture one year in Scotland and then our H.Q. the following year.

Wishing you every success with the "Scots Athlete."—Yours sincerely,

J. F. HARDING,

Hon. Secy., Walton A.C.
Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS

Dear Sir.—May I point out an omission which has been made under the sub-heading "Representing Their Country," of the article "Running Commentary," appearing in the December issue of your Magazine.

My reference is to the name of George MacKenzie, who, for so many years, carried the colours of the West of Scotland Harriers with much distinction.

Here is a chronicle of the years of this athlete's appearances in the International cross-country event: 1904, 1905, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1912, 1913 and 1914.

Thus, with nine years of representative service George MacKenzie runs himself into third position in the list of placings of Scottish athletes gaining representative honours in this contest. Moreover, it is highly probable that, but for the incidence of the war years of 1914-1918 MacKenzie would have had, at least, as many appearances in this race as have been credited to D. McL. Wright.

With every good wish for the success of your Magazine.—Yours truly,

D. A. JAMIESON.

Edinburgh.

The District Relays



THE MIDLAND RELAY

By EDWIN TAYLOR (Hon. Secy., Midland Dist., N.C.C.U.)

The Midland District of the N.C.C.U. held their 10-miles Relay Championship—4 laps of 2½ miles each—from Garscube Harriers' Pavilion, Westerton, on Saturday, 7th December. Conditions were decidedly wintry, which made "the plough" resemble corrugated iron, and the stubble, to quote a competitor, "was like an Indian fakir's board of nails!" Twenty-one teams were sent off by Starter Condie Chalmers to the bang of the gun and shouts of encouragement from supporters.

George White of Clydesdale returned in the lead—time 13 min. 32 sec.—causing a mild sensation, and followed by Willie Somerville (Motherwell Y.M.)—time 13 min. 33 sec.; J. Christie (Bellahouston "C")—13 min. 34 sec.; and Archie Peters (Maryhill "A")—13 min. 45 sec.

The Phantom Pacemaker

The second lap brought a change-over in the leading places, with Tommy Lamb (Bellahouston "A") returning in 13 min. 26 sec., and J. Hoskins (Maryhill "A") 13 min. 58 sec.; Harry Howard (Shettleston "A") 13 min. 54 sec.; and H. Cole (Vale of Leven)

following; thus "The Vale" proving they have certainly discarded their novice status. It is here, however, we find that Tommy Lamb had been looking anxiously in this lap for "the man in front," of whom he had failed to catch even a glimpse after passing Johnny Hoskins; and, to use his own words, he had "blasted after him," but without success. Unfortunately, or rather fortunately, in the heat of contest, Lamb's arithmetic was at fault—he had over-counted the men he had to catch. The point arises—Can a protest be lodged against the use of a phantom pacemaker?

In the third lap, only slight changes took place. Bellahouston still led, with G. Anderson 13 min. 54 sec., chased home by Charlie McLennan (Shettleston) 13 min. 45 sec.; R. Mathieson (Maryhill) 13 min. 57 sec.; and Victoria making their presence felt in the person of G. M. Cunningham, 14 min.

We now had all the makings of a first-class tussle in the fourth and last lap, and so it proved to be. Andy McLean (Bellahouston) set off with about 60 yards from Jimmy Flockhart (Shettleston) who had 10 yards from Emmet Farrell (Maryhill), followed by A. Forbes (Victoria Park) 25 yards behind—practically a well-framed nandicap, as the result confirmed. Despite a typical Farrell effort (13 min. 14 sec.) to which we have become accustomed, McLean finished first by about 8 yards in 13 min. 33 sec., looking remarkably unworried by the challenge on his heels. A. Forbes returned the excellent time of 13 min. 12 sec., to bring his club into 3rd place, with Flockhart 4th in 13 min. 42 sec.

The foregoing has mentioned only the leaders, but some grand running was put in further down the list notably Ben Cairns (Shettleston "B") who brought his team from 18th to 6th place in the second lap; and but for the first lap times being missing, it would be confirmed that his time ranked with the fastest. Also A. McGregor (Bellahouston "B") from 17th to 9th; and

R. Mulgrew (Garscube) from 13th to 7th in the second lap; and J. C. Morton (Springburn) 13 min. 38 sec., from 11th to 5th in the third lap. Worthy of note is J. Christie (Bellahouston "C") credited with 13 min. 34 sec., to finish 3rd in the first lap in front of his club's "A" team and "B" team.

Altogether a grand afternoon's sport. Congratulations to Bellahouston on their success.

THE SOUTH-WESTERN RELAY

By GEORGE PICKERING

(Hon. Secy., S.W. District N.C.C.U.)

The S.W.D. 4 × 2½ miles cross-country championship was held at Johnstone on 7th December, 1946.

Eighteen teams representing eleven clubs entered for the event. The trail contained road and very flat grassland, which was very suitable to the speedy runners.

Provost Briggs of Johnstone set off the runners on the first lap, and the end showed the three Greenock clubs in the first three places—W. McLean (Glenpark) 11.39; J. Bownes (Auchmountain) 11.51; J. Rippingale (Wellpark) 11.53—which meant only 14 seconds separated these three teams.

The second lap showed some surprising changes. Veteran A. K. McDonald (Auchmountain) had taken the lead with a time of 11.53, with D. C. Wark of Kilmarnock, one of the fancied teams, running close behind, his time being 11.52; T. Thompson (Wellpark), third, doing 12.0. It was a most exciting race and there was another change at the end of the third lap.

We find Kilmarnock now leading, J. Wyllie clocking 11.44, with R. Smith (Auchmountain) 12.10, and Glenpark back to third place with W. Williamson returning 12.9.

At the start of the last lap there was great speculation as to what club would finish victor. F. Sinclair (Wellpark), the most fancied runner in the field, and of whom much was expected, had a hundred yards or so to make up.

The question was—Would he take his team's colours to the front?

However, there was one club that nobody seemed to be watching—West Kilbride—who had moved up from seventh to fourth place, and with stylish J. Reid of that club having taken over with a thirty yards' lead from F. Sinclair, we were prepared for fast times over this lap, and so it proved. J. Reid, West Kilbride, came in sight first and passed the winning-post in 11.16; followed by J. McKinven (Auchmountain), 11.45; with F. Sinclair (Wellpark) third, clocking 11.2, which proved to be the fastest time of the day.

It is impossible to mention all the clubs or competitors who took part in this race, but to winners and losers alike I say "Well done!" It is not the result that matters but the sport.

At the presentation which took place after the race, Mr. T. McKay, President of S.W.D., handed over to West Kilbride the Struthers Shield along with medals to the first three teams:—1st, West Kilbride (J. Park, 12.22; T. Reid, 11.56; G. Houston, 12.2; J. Reid, 11.16) 47.36; 2nd, Auchmountain (J. Bownes, 11.51; A. K. McDonald, 11.53; R. G. Smith, 12.10; J. McKinven, 11.45) 47.39; 3rd, Wellpark (J. Rippingale, 11.53; T. Thompson, 12.0; J. Lobban, 12.47; F. Sinclair, 11.2) 47.42; 4th, Kilmarnock, 47.55; 5th, Greenock Glenpark, 48.7; 6, Auchmountain, 48.58; 7th, Kilbarchan, 50.29.

A word of thanks to Johnstone Y.M.C.A. Athletic Club, for trail stewards, and to all District officials who helped to make this race a success.

EASTERN DISTRICT RELAY

The Eastern District 10 miles cross-country relay championship, was held at Dundee, on Saturday, 7th December, 1946.

Dundee Hawkhill H. won by 200 yds. from Dundee Thistle. Kirkcaldy Y.M.C.A. were third.

Hawkhill also provided the fastest individual in W. Robertson, a Hawkhill lad not long out of the Army, who has

been improving rapidly and showed excellent form.

Here are the full results:—

1. Dundee Hawkhill (W. Robertson 15.12, D. Taylor 15.54, J. S. Smith 15.33, C. Smith 15.33) 61 min. 52 sec.; 2. Dundee Thistle (N. Ewan 15.45, C. Robertson 15.22, C. Donnett 15.58, P. Donnachie 15.40), 62 min. 35 sec.; 3. Kirkcaldy

Y.M.C.A. (J. Preston 15.36, J. Peacock 15.57, W. Duncan 15.46, E. Clark 15.31), 62 min. 50 sec.; 4. Edinburgh Southern; 5. Edinburgh University; 6. Condor "A."

Fastest individual times:—

	Min.	Sec.
1. W. Robertson Hawkhill	15	12
2. J. Smart, Edinburgh Southern	15	19
3. C. Robertson, Dundee Thistle	15	22

Edinburgh Harriers' Open Xmas Handicap

In the East, Edinburgh Harriers' well-known Open Christmas Handicap, postponed during the war years, was resumed once again in the usual good style, on 21st December, 1946. Prizes were of Christmas fare variety, quite up to pre-war standard and as plentiful in number.

The venue this Christmas was from Dr. Guthrie's School, Liberton, and in view of the N.C.C.U. recent decision over novice status, the cross-country course had to be altered to a road course in its entirety. The road course consisted of a double circuit of two and a half miles which, of course, created extra interest to all the spectators present.

With an entry of close on 50 runners, drawn from city clubs and Kirkcaldy, entries came near expectation, although it was nothing near pre-war numbers when as many as 145 runners have "blazed the trail" over the old Glenogle Baths course.

The Lord Provost, Sir John I. Falconer, whom we have to thank most cordially for his attendance and support, started the runners off in real good style.

At the half-way stage J. Smart (Edin. Southern) and second man home in the recent National Novice Championship, led the field, with a new comer to cross-country running in C. J. Hall (Edin. Southern) at his shoulders, followed closely by several others in a bunch.

As the runners came into sight along the long finishing straight, C. J. Hall created quite a surprise, as he was well in the lead from Smart. Hall, running strongly to the tape, eventually won by eight seconds from his more fancied club-mate. Third man home was J. Preston (Kirkcaldy Y.M.C.A.), about half-a-minute behind.

Results:—

	Min	Sec
1 C. J. Hall (E.S.H.)	28	38
2 J. Smart (E.S.H.)	28	46
3 J. Preston (Kirkcaldy Y.M.C.A.)	29	22

Handicap Results:—

	Min	Sec
1 R. Stark (E.E.H.) 5m. 30 s.	25	31
2 J. Tyrall (Kirkcaldy Y.M.C.A.) 3m 10s	26	52
3 A. Y. Thom (E.E.H.) 4m	27	15
4 W. R. Phin (E.H.) 3m	27	19

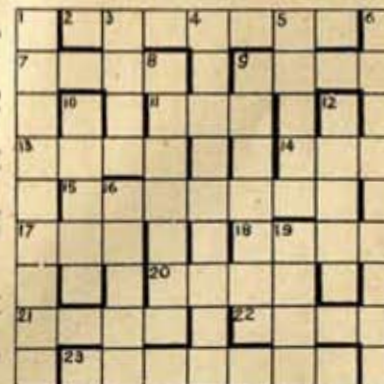
The winner is a newcomer to cross-country running, although, I understand, he showed good running recently in one of Edin. Southern's confined events. During the past summer season he competed with success in several youths' half-mile events. Hailing from Broxburn, he is being tutored by a very well-known "ped" famous as a sprinter and half-miler, and one who should be able to keep a very promising youth on the right road to success.

E. STENHOUSE,

Hon. Secy., Edinburgh Harriers.

ACROSS

- 2—Most young runners to be champion. (7).
- 7—Wooderson has been known as a mighty one (4).
- 9—Spectators often give this to a competitor (4).
- 11—A dead language without head and tail (3).
- 13—Enthusiastic (4).
- 14—Cross-country runners are often over this (3).
- 15—He gives you advice (7).
- 17—Royal College of Organists (abb.) (3).
- 18—Every one of a number separately (4).
- 20—Nobleman (4).
- 21—Heath (4).
- 22—Used for milk puddings (4).
- 23—Sometimes called stickers (7).



DOWN

- 1—He looks after Britain's athletic teams (4, 5).
- 3—One and only (4).
- 5—Hole done in two under par (5).
- 6—Composite athletic contest (9).
- 8—1 down is known as Hon. Team . . . (7).
- 9—They are always first past the post (7).
- 10—Set in high position (5).
- 16—Automaton (5).
- 19—Winglike (4).

LAST MONTH'S CROSS-WORD SOLUTION.

Across:—(1) Acme; (4) Race; (7) Sportsman; (8) Idle; (9) Orbit; (10) Adedoyin; (11) Lope; (13) Star; (14) Top Grade; (17) Main; (18) Play; (19) Ian Panton; (20) Tete; (21) Pole.

Down:—(1) Asia; (2) Mole; (4) Strong Man; (5) Ambit; (6) Enter; (11) Limit; (12) Point; (15) Alto; (16) Eyne.

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69 ST. VINCENT STREET,
GLASGOW, C.2.,
28th February, 1947.

Dear Reader,

It is with regret but out of urgent necessity I write this personal letter and appeal.

The recent Government Order arising from the fuel emergency which made it impracticable to publish a February, 1947, edition of *The Scots Athlete*, though the type had been set and paged ready for printing, only accentuated the heavy losses which are incurred in the production of the paper each month.

Whilst contributors to the magazine, particularly J. E. Farrell (Maryhill Harriers) and Roy Robinson (Shettleston Harriers) have given enthusiastic service and yielded much of their leisure time, I have made great financial sacrifices all to maintain and establish *The Scots Athlete*.

I know the warm appreciation of readers for our magazine and feel sure that you will agree that it would be a great loss to our sport if the paper went down just as its influence was being felt in England as well as in Scotland.

You may not have realised that the paper was produced at a loss, but now that I have placed the fact before you, you may feel a desire to share the financial burden till the paper becomes self-supporting. To this end I am doing all in my power. Actually, the losses on the paper, to the present date, amounts to well over £100.

If, arising from this appeal, the proposed total target (£60) were reached, the magazine would be guaranteed till over the summer season. This target figure can be attained if each enthusiast of the sport were to contribute, say, 2/- or 2/6 to the appeal fund.

I have purposely addressed this letter to you as an individual rather than to your club, for I have felt that the response to the appeal should be a measure of the felt worth of the magazine to each reader.

Perhaps your club will organise the fund among its members, in which event, if you care, you should support.

Individual contributions should be sent to Mr. George Pickering, Hon. Secretary, S.W. District, N.C.C.U., 2273 Dumbarton Road, Glasgow, W.4, who has kindly consented to be convener of the fund.

Another and most useful method of support is to take out a six-months or yearly subscription for a friend.

If you feel *The Scots Athlete* is stimulating interest and developing enthusiasm for our sport in Scotland and elsewhere, and you would like the work to continue, please help now—the matter is urgent.

Yours sincerely,

Walter J. Ross.