

This apparatus is within range of all Scottish cross-country clubs. Monkland is not a rich club by any means, and the cost of this apparatus can be afforded by the greatest majority of the clubs.

We have entered a new age in Athletics, and I am of the opinion that electrical treatment for athletes will play a big part in keeping our men fit and well.

I would like you to pay a visit to Coatbridge to see this apparatus in operation, for, mark my words, Monkland have discovered something that will be a lasting benefit to Scottish Athletics.—Yours in sport,

Hon. Sec., Monkland Harriers,
DAVID SCOTT,

Coatbridge.

THE BRITISH GAMES

Dear Walter.—It was good to receive your very interesting letter with papers and cuttings enclosed. The Scots Athlete is a great little paper and you deserve to be congratulated on your very fine effort. I pass the "S.A." on to the local boys and they find it very engrossing.

I was at the British Games on Whit Monday, and, frankly, I was not impressed, enthused or excited by any of the events. The races lacked interest, with about one exception, the open "100." Here P. Braekman, one of the Belgian brothers, reversed the heat position with J. Archer in the final in a close finish. "Evens" was very good under poor conditions.

The other events were all won too easily. The coloured A. S. Wint aroused some comment by his beautiful long stride in returning "49" for the "quarter." He certainly looks a world beater. Other convincing wins were recorded by A. Pennington, who did 22.4 in his cross tie, by D. Burfitt in the youth's 880 doing 2 min. 5.8 sec. in the final, and Gaston Reiff of Belgium in the 3 miles who set a hot pace against a stiff breeze to beat the stylish Breistoffer of France in 14 min. 43 sec. The meeting was conspicuous by the absence of many good runners, which makes one wonder if scratch races are popular at all. I think Joe Binks was disappointed at the non-appearance of Sydney Wooderson and Douglas Wilson.

When I read Jack Crump's letter in the "S.A." regarding the organising of scratch races in Scotland, I smiled a little, for if the British Games is an example, then I am all for "handicaps." I think of the thousands thrilled at the Rangers meeting every year and the thousands who were not, at White City. In summing up, how can races be interesting if we know who is going to win them?

Pass on best wishes and luck to my Garscube clubmates. I am delighted they are so high in the "league" (I like that). And here's success to the Scots Athlete.—Yours sincerely,

WILLIAM T. ROSS.

Ryde,
Isle of Wight.

ROUND THE CLUBHOUSES

Aberdeenshire Harriers Club have training quarters at Rugby Park Hazelhead. Meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Edinburgh Harriers have concluded summer programme. Final points placings:—J. Finlayson, 30; P. Plummer, 20; J. Simpson, 16; J. Howden, 13. Thirty-two new members this season.

Edinburgh Eastern Harriers have held confined meetings at New Meadowbank. 880 yards scratch result—1. A. Falconer; 2. W. A. Orr; 3. G. M. Falconer.

Larkhall Y.M.C.A. points competition in full swing. A. Yuill leading with 8 points collected from sprints. 880 yards, 1 mile, 2 miles, 3 miles still to be run off.

West of Scotland Harriers have resumed activities. Training, Stanalane, Thornliebank. Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Clydesdale Harriers still holding interest with points contest. At present, 1. J. Gillespie, 24 pts.; 2. D. Bowman, 21 pts.; 3. G. White, 18 pts.

Bellahouston Harriers will welcome new or demobbed members any Tuesday or Thursday evening at Bellahouston Sports Ground, Dumbreck Road. Points results so far:—Senior—1. A. McGregor (14 pts.); 2. W. Lamb (11 pts.); 3. J. H. Bertram (7 pts.). Youths—1. D. White (7 pts.); four are tying with 6 points each for second place.

THE SCOTS ATHLETE

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

JULY 1946

No. 4.

PRICE 3d.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 4/-

S.A.A.A. CHAMPIONSHIPS

REVIEWED BY GEORGE DALLAS



Mr. G. Dallas is, of course, Hon. Secretary, N.C.C.U. and Western District S.A.A.A. It is good that an opportunity is given for such a splendid review to go in print. "George" has been actively associated with the sport for many years, and perhaps ere long someone will come forward and tell the full story of his life-time of service.—Editor.

First of all, please allow me to congratulate the authors of this splendid periodical—a much felt want—in these days when newsprint is so limited and affecting our usual mediums of publicity which undoubtedly helps to liven up our movement. May the Editor and his able assistants succeed in staying the course and weather the period of

uncertainty to arrive at the goal when it can be said "The Scots Athlete" is now a self-supporting organ maintained by those who have a right to sustain its lifetime.

Now for the review of the Fifty-fourth Championships, for which I was invited to make a modest contribution. After a lapse of seven trying years in our lifetime the Scottish Amateur Athletic Association resumed their annual Championships at Hampden Park by kind permission of the Queen's Park Football Club. On the last occasion, in 1939, the youths series of tests were linked with this fixture. This year, however, it was deemed advisable to separate the classes, and I think it was a wise decision, and in some respects at least, it may be said that results have justified the steps taken. Athletically and financially both the Youths Championships at Edinburgh on June 8, and the Senior fixture on June 21 and 22 paid handsome dividends, which exceeded expectations. Both efforts have certainly substantially augmented the coffers of the Association, and I would venture to say that monies accruing therefrom may figure in the region of 70 per cent. of the total liquid assets standing in the name of the S.A.A.A.—a position never before known in the history of the movement.

So much for my remarks on the material side of the programme. What about the athletic analysis of the first post-war venture? Do results suggest the possibility of an early return to pre-war standards, and are the prospects bright enough to hope for the day soon when Scotland may be able to take more than an ordinary place in International Athletics?

Certainly we have one or two personalities capable of making their mark in the field of first-class competition. Undoubtedly Alan S. Paterson, Victoria Park A.A.C., H. D. McD. Clark, Greenock Wellpark Harriers, and John B. Panton, also of Victoria Park, emerge at once as a trio qualified for the special attention of the experts looking ahead for Olympic possibilities.

Let us, however, take the results of the Championships in the recognised chronological order and see if there are not others heading for advancement, yes, into the category of those just named.

Hugh Broadley, of Glasgow Y.M.C.A., who won the 100 yards in grand style, must be regarded a potential sprinter of high grade repute. When it is borne in mind that Broadley only sprang into prominence just a year ago, shortly after he was demobbed, his progress to the top has indeed been rapid. Actually his performance of 10.1 sec. at Hampden, good as that was, fails to prove that on more than one occasion he raced in the gait of an even-timer. I still think, too, that as a furlong runner we have yet to see the best of him in that department. Possessed of all the attributes of a physically well equipped athlete, carries a poise and balance of a champion. Geo. Macdonald, Victoria Park, has been a notably consistent performer for a couple of seasons. Of a different type of sprinter, the quick striding action characteristic, with a compact style, leads one to prognosticate a future of further promise for Macdonald, who has, on important occasions, held sprinters of better reputable claims only. Macdonald will again beat 23 seconds with more ease than he did at Hampden where the track is not just 100 per cent. firm enough for fast times.

In the "quarter" J. B. Panton stands alone as his form at present suggests. He was not called upon to exert himself to get inside 52 secs. time that he has well beaten on auspicious occasions. He travels along in a deceptively speedy manner, with a short striding action not usually associated with first rate quarter milers.

J. S. Taylor, Aberdeen University, is, I believe, one who, if he perseveres, will make a better half-miler than even the

Hampden form showed. The confidence exhibited in "trailing" the leaders and timing a most judicious effort to beat his field including the Youth Champion, J. S. Hamilton, and another fancied candidate, F. G. Jewell, gave the impression of a thoroughly experienced runner at the distance.

I have a sneaking feeling that had F. Sinclair, Wellpark Harriers, decided to go for the "half" instead of the mile, another story may have been told.

In the mile, J. Corfield (the English cross-country internationalist, who qualified to compete under the residential qualification) ran a bull-dog race to head G. A. Lamont, Victoria Park, who was regarded as a probable winner of this contest.

Corfield in some respects, is just another Emmet Farrell. For putting plenty of devil into their efforts, there are few to equal this pair. This leads me to refer to the last distance track race, the three miles. J. E. Farrell crowned a fine run of successes, 10 miles in April, 6 miles on Friday, June 21, and closing with the three miles on Saturday, June 22. It may be true to say that the times were not fast, but then there was no one capable of stretching him in either event. Therefore claims that Farrell be linked with Alan Paterson and H. D. McD. Clark in sharing the custody of the Geo. Crabbie Cup for the most meritorious achievements did have some justification, although we learn that had either of Emmet's performances shown the hall mark of championship best it is possible that he may have been considered for the sole custody.

T. Lamb (Bellahouston H.) was in best shape to take the 2 miles steeplechase. He ran very confidently throughout and though I do not think the holder, J. C. Ross (Shettleston Har.) was too fit, Tommy Lamb was every bit an equal on the jumps and much superior in speed on the flat.

For the relay title no one anticipated Victoria Park would fail in their quest. So strong were they in all departments that lukewarm opposition was offered. With Junior and Senior Champions ready to assist at any time, Victoria Park hold an ascendancy that is unassailable in relay racing.

It is a pity we do not witness many

more hurdle events of the quality shown by the Edinburgh aspirants for the 120 yards title. J. G. M. Hart, Edinburgh University, challenger to holder D. W. Deas, Heriot's, and I. Lunn, also Edinburgh University, made it a spectacle worth watching. Hart won, as was generally expected, in very fine time indeed, and he would go far if competition was more frequent.

If Panton and Farrell were out on their own in their respective events, so was Alan Sinclair Paterson, the athletic maestro in the high jump. The boy did not enjoy the happiest conditions in clearing 6ft. 2in. to make championship athletic history. This had set such a high standard in jumping that people look for records from him every time he appears. If he failed at 6ft. 4in. which he set himself to do after he had won the title, three very good reasons could be given; first, he hadn't recovered from a cold which nearly kept him from competing; second was set against the wind; and third, the take-off was anything but ideal. Paterson deservedly shared the honours of the Crabbie Cup with D. McD. Clark, Royal Ulster Constabulary, who broke a long-standing wire hammer championship record in the name of Tom R. Nicolson. Tom, a jovial Kyles of Bute farmer, would be the first to congratulate his successor, who also annexed the honours in the shot putt. Geo. Easton Mitchell, Glasgow Police, is another who earned a double event in the Scots hammer and 56-lb. weight throwing competitions. If only Mitchell could apply himself assiduously to perfecting the throwing of the wire hammer and developing technique in the shot putt allied with physical proportions unequalled by all his rivals, there ought to be no one in Europe to match him.

David Young, another Glasgow policeman who, before the war, figured amongst international celebrities in discus throwing, regained his title of champion.

He, too, only needs to speed up his turn and delivery to get to the front in discus throwing in the British Isles.

In the broad jump, hop-step-and-jump and javelin the competitors were sufferers from lack of competition and until full and free facilities can be obtained I am afraid the standard in

many of the field events will not go much higher than attained at this fixture.

FULL RESULTS

Broad Jump—R. M. Smith, Dundee Hawkhill (21ft. 6in.), 1; D. Brown, Musselburgh G.S., 2; N. M. Baum, Heriot's F.P. A.C., 3.

3 Miles—J. E. Farrell, Maryhill H., 1; A. Hay, Garscube H., 2; A. T. Peters, Maryhill H., 3. Time—15min. 17.4sec.

120 Yards Hurdles—J. G. M. Hart, Edinburgh U., 1; D. W. Deas, Heriot's F.P. A.C., 2; I. Lunn, Edin. U., 3. Time—16 sec.

Pole Vault—K. Maksimzyk, Edin. U., 10ft. 4in., 1; D. M. Hastie, Hillhead H.S., 10ft. 4in., 2; R. F. Edington, Glasgow U., 10ft. 3in., 3. Won by Maksimzyk with first jump.

2 Miles Steeplechase—T. E. Lamb Bellahouston H., 1; J. C. Ross, Shettleston H., 2; D. Clelland, St. Modan's, 3. Time—11 min. 9.2 secs.

Mile Relay—Victoria Park A.C., 1; Shettleston H., 2; Springburn H., 3. Time 3 min. 47.2 sec.

16lb. Hammer (Scots style)—J. E. Mitchell Glasgow Police (holder) w.o.; best of three throws, 108ft. 11in.

56lb. Weight—G. E. Mitchell, Glasgow Police (32ft. 8in.), 1; D. Campbell, Glasgow Police (31ft. 2in.), 2; D. McD. Clark, Royal Ulster Constabulary (26ft. 3in.), 3.

Throwing Hammer (wire handle)—D. McD. Clark (163ft. 9in.), 1; D. Campbell (134ft. 2in.), 2; G. E. Mitchell (131ft. 10in.), 3.

6 Miles—J. E. Farrell, Maryhill H., 1; A. McLean, Bellahouston, 2; W. Nelson, Maryhill H., 3. Time—31 min. 43.2 sec.

100 Yards—H. Broadley, Glasgow Y.M.C.A., 1; G. McDonald, Victoria P., 2; S. Warren, Glasgow Police, 3. Time 10.1 sec.

440 Yards—J. B. Panton, Victoria P., 1; H. R. W. Adam, Hamilton, 2; J. Day, Glasgow Y.M.C.A., 3. Time—51 sec.

880 Yards—J. S. Taylor, Aberdeen U., 1; J. S. Hamilton, Victoria P., 2; W. M. Ritchie, Victoria P., 3. Time—1 min. 59.3 sec.

Weight (16lb.)—D. McD. Clark (41ft. 4 1/2 in.), 1; K. Maksimzyk, Edinburgh Univ. (39ft. 4in.), 2; N. M. Baum, Heriot's F.P. (32ft. 4 1/2 in.), 3.

High Jump—A. S. Paterson, Victoria P. (6ft. 2 1/2 in.), 1; H. T. L. Wilson, Trinity Acad., (5ft. 3in.), 2.

Mile—J. Corfield, Tipton and Maryhill H., 1; J. A. Lamont, Victoria P., 2; F. Sinclair, Greenock Wellpark, 3. Time—4 min. 29.4 sec.

Discus—D. Young, Glasgow Police (131ft. 10in.), 1; K. Maksimzyk, Edin. Univ. (123ft. 9 1/2 in.), 2; E. C. K. Douglas, Edin. Univ. (119ft. 11in.), 3.

Hop, Step, Jump—J. Howden, Edin. H. (41ft. 1in.), 1; R. M. Smith, Dundee Hawkhill (41ft. 0 1/2 in.), 2; A. S. Lindsay, St. Andrews U. (40ft. 6in.), 3.

220 Yards—G. Macdonald Victoria P., 1; H. Broadley, Glasgow Y.M.C.A., 2; A. S. Warren, Glasgow Police, 3. Time—22.9 sec.

Javelin—P. G. Shea, Heriot's F.P. (159ft. 0 1/2 in.), 1; F. Kynock, Edin. S. (154ft. 10 1/2 in.), 2; N. M. Baum, Heriot's F.P. (140ft. 11 1/2 in.), 3.

PLEA FOR POLE VAULT

By JAMES L. LOGAN

In a recent issue, athletics was termed the Cinderella of Scottish sport. I should like to carry the metaphor right into the domestic sphere of athletics itself where we have, not one, but several Cinderellas. Notable among these is the pole vault, perhaps the most spectacular event in our varied sport.

The records book reflects the languishing state of this event in Scotland, and indeed in Britain as a whole.

The Scottish record, established in 1932 by the late P. B. B. (Pat) Ogilvie, who lost his life in the R.A.F., stands at 12 feet, and the British record, put up by F. R. Webster in 1938, is 12 feet 9½ inches. These heights compare most unfavourably with the world record of 17 feet 7½ inches, held by C. Warmerdam, U.S.A. There are scores of Americans who regularly top 13 and 14 feet.

It is important, also to remember that Ogilvie and Webster were far ahead of their contemporaries in this country.

The pole vault, performed by top-flight contestants, is a superb spectacle of athleticism and a certain crowd-pleaser. Yet, apart from Championship and University contests, the event seldom, if ever, appears in an ordinary sports meeting.

Why do our promoters, always on the look-out for crowd-pleasing spectacles, continue to omit this thrilling item from their programmes?

The main reason is that under present circumstances they would receive a meagre response from competitors.

On the other side of the picture, the athlete is reluctant to embark on the lengthy preparation demanded by this sport when the opportunities for competition are so limited. A vicious cycle of frustration, surely. Yet one, I suggest, which can be broken by the efforts of the athletic clubs themselves.

Apart altogether from its crowd-pleasing value, the pole-vault is an ideal event from the athletes' point of view.

It is almost the only event which develops all parts of the body and demands pace, spring, agility and body power.

It is not necessary, however, to have all, or indeed, any, of these attributes in a superlative degree. The important factor is the co-ordination of all

the athlete's available resources. This can be achieved by assiduous attention to training and practice.

In fact, for anyone who has not outstanding natural aptitude for any of the more conventional events but who has a burning enthusiasm for athletic endeavour, the pole vault is the ideal event.

A moderate sprint, a 4ft. 9in. high jump, and an average general physique are the basic requisites. These, allied to conscientious training and practice, will put any young athlete into the 11ft. category.

The first move in popularising the pole vault must come from the athletic clubs themselves by providing members with facilities to train for the event. The cost of jumping stands and vaulting poles should not be outwith the exchequer of most clubs although the provision of a proper take-off box might present some difficulty to those clubs who only have a "let" of a football ground, etc., for track and field training. A proper take-off box is, of course, a necessity, as it is dangerous and fatal to one's confidence to attempt the take-off from bare ground.

By encouraging wider participation in the event, the harrier clubs can demonstrate that the sports promoter can be assured of an adequate entry and he will be only too pleased to feature this fascinating item in his programme, to everyone's mutual satisfaction.

And from these wider fields of competitors we can confidently expect to emerge a few exceptional performers who will at last put Scotland in the international class in this important event.

SPORTS DIARY

July

- 13—Glasgow Police Hampden.
- A.A.A. Junior Championship...Birmingham.
- 15—Maryhill Harriers Sports Dunoon.
- 19-20—A.A.A. Championships London.
- 20—Dumbarton Town Council.
- Larkhall Committee ... Gasworks Park.
- 27—Motherwell Y.M.C.A.
- Edinburgh Corporation, Holidays at Home.
- British Police Championship Taunton.

August

- 3—Rangers F.C. Ibrox
- 5—Great Britain v. France.
- 10—Cumbernauld A.A.C.
- Carlisle Sports.
- 14—Shettleston H. and G.E. Cycling Clubs
- Helensvale.
- 17—Milngavie Games.
- 23-25—European Championships Oslo.
- 24—St. Machan's A.A.C. Lennoxtown.
- 30-31—Cowal Gathering.

S.A.A.A. JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Reviewed by A. D. McDONALD

Three "Best Championship Performances"—eleven spirited contests, six track and five field events in which the West just pipped the East, by taking six titles against five—and a view of what must be one of the finest Municipal Athletic Grounds in Britain; certainly Scotland's best and an example for other cities to follow. That was the reward to the large number of enthusiasts who attended the Junior Championships held at New Meadowbank, Abbeyhill, Edinburgh, on 8th June, 1946.

St. C. S. Taylor (G. Watson's) was outstanding in winning the "Short Sprint" title. This boy had impressed at Westerlands on the previous Saturday when after "dropping out" of his holes he had come on to win his 100 yards heat in 10.4 seconds. His starting showed no improvement at Meadowbank and our Edinburgh friends can impart a whole lot in the way of technique at the starter's end, to this boy. Then, his title winning time of 10.7 seconds will only be a training gallop.

J. S. Hamilton, Victoria Park A.A.C., upheld his reputation by taking the 880 yards in 2 mins. 2.2 secs. I offer the suggestion to any enterprising sports promoter to arrange a "Special Youths' Half" with Hamilton and Burfiat (the English Boy Champion) on the scratch mark. A mere comparison of times is a dangerous method of comparing track running ability, but I fancy that Jimmie Hamilton would "be in with a big shout" at the tape.

With G. V. Chester, Stewarts College, an easy heat winner in 54.4 seconds, we obviously had a "good un" on view in the Quarter. And so it proved. He took his title with a spanking 52.1 secs. circuit, clipping 2.3 secs. off the previous best time. Another boy to lower the existing best time was J. G. M. Hart, Edinburgh "Varsity," in winning the 120 yards Hurdles, returning 16.2 secs. as against 16.4 secs. His Runner-up, G. W. McNab, was also "class."

J. Adam, Victoria Park A.A.C. and J. Alkman, Shettleston Harriers Club were two more fancied candidates, who did all that was asked of them in the One Mile and 220 yards events, respectively.

Alan Paterson, Victoria Park A.A.C., had a "jump over" in his event, but when we have another boy who can

beat his 6 ft. 2 ins., then we know Scotland is going places "over the stick."

Wonder if J. S. G. Milhinch, Edinburgh, "Varsity" is superstitious? He was only 13 ins. behind his record in his 168 ft. 4 ins. effort when annexing the Javelin title.

St. C. S. Taylor, completed a double when he won the Broad Jump with 20 feet 5 inches, and in the other field event Putting the Shot. C. F. Riach, Jordanhill Training College, was well ahead with 32 ft. 3 ins.

Thanks boys for a very pleasant afternoon.

Full results:—

100 Yards—1. C. S. Taylor (George Watson's A.C.); 2. R. Anderson (Victoria Park); 10.7 secs. Shot Putt (12 lb.)—1. C. F. Riach; 2. W. G. Smith (Edinburgh Southern). 37 ft. 3 in. 880 Yards—1. A. S. Hamilton (Victoria Park); 2. J. G. M. Hart (Edinburgh University); 2 min. 2.2 secs. High Jump—Winner, A. Paterson (Victoria Park); 6 ft. 2 in. Throwing the Javelin—1. J. S. G. Milhinch (Edinburgh University); 2. W. Bilsland (Paisley Grammar School). 168 ft. 4 in. 440 Yards—1. G. V. Chester (Stewart's College); 2. M. T. Roberts (Victoria Park). 52.1 secs. 220 Yards—1. J. Alkman (Shettleston); 2. A. Y. Monahan (Renfrew Y.M.C.A.). 24.3 secs. Broad Jump—1. C. S. Taylor (George Watson's); 2. J. S. G. Milhinch (Edinburgh University). 20 ft. 5 in. Mile—1. J. Adam (Victoria Park); 2. R. Smith (Garscube). 4 min. 43.3 secs. 120 Yards Hurdles—1. J. G. M. Hart (Edinburgh University); 2. G. W. McNab (Jordanhill College). 16.2 secs. Medley Relay—1. Victoria Park; 2. George Watson's College. 2 mins. 46.2 secs.

TO A GOOD CAUSE

The Scots Athlete has now a fairly firm foothold and we would like to thank some of the people who have made its continuance possible. Both the Eastern and Western District Hon. Secretaries have been co-operative. Alec D. McDonald our friend and clubmate, recently demobbed from the Army, has shown tremendous zeal and given very efficient help. Need we say anything about J. E. Farrell and his "Running Commentary"? Our sister Isobel and our companion Winifred Holmes have played their part in bringing Scottish athletics to the notice of the general public. We are also grateful to Shettleston Harriers, Auchmoun-tain Harriers and Renfrew Y.M.C.A. Harriers who donated £2, £1, and 11s., respectively. We most especially thank the anonymous person abroad who sent £1 with a four-worded message, "To a Good Cause."

RUNNING COMMENTARY

by J. E. FARRELL.

Congratulations are due to mercurial Tommy Lamb of Bellahouston Harriers on gaining his first Scottish championship after more than a decade of running. His win in the steeplechase came as a surprise to many, but was worthily won. A cross-country International in 1938, Lamb has shown that he has still plenty of running left.

It was a pity that the programmes were in such short supply at the Championships. However, it would impart a deal of interest and colour to such a meeting if individuals and clubs were announced as far as possible instead of merely numbers; or, if this would take up too much time, then a short running commentary of each event, giving the identity and club of the leading runners as the race progressed or in the case of field events, leading distances and heights would be greatly appreciated. In fact, in the field events this is actually a necessity, and if in addition a short comment was made on the particular technique of competitors in the high jump, pole vault, hammer and discus, the attention and interest of patrons would be held to a marked degree.

"Higher and Higher." This is not a reference to one of Frank Sinatra's recent films, but a reference to Alan Paterson's latest leap at Belfast of 6 ft. 5½ ins. to break all Irish records, the previous best jump being made 35 years ago.

This is the best jump done by a British athlete, beating H. Baker's best, and his own previous best by a half-inch. The Scottish all-comers record is 6 ft. 6½ in. by the American Harold Osborne, made at Ibrox in 1925.

It is interesting to note that although the world record for the high jump is held by the American Les Steers with a colossal leap of 6 ft. 11 in. (1941), yet the best jump cleared in America last year was Keith Weisner's 6 ft. 6½ in., only 1½ in. above Paterson's best.

Roll on, 1948. Speaking athletically, Scotland and Britain could say this more confidently if they had more of Alan's calibre for the next Olympiad.

At the recent "Poly" meet, there were two performances and maybe a third which showed promise of develop-

ment into Olympic class. First of all, McDonald Bailey's (Trinidad) win in the 100 yards in 9.8 seconds to equal Applegarth's 30-year-old ground record, and only one-tenth second behind our own Eric Liddell's British record. Secondly, the Jamaican giant, N. Wint's facile win in the 440 in 48.9 seconds. Observers go on record that he seemed to just stroll round. Ben Eastman's world record of 46.4 may get a fright when this dusky star really gets going one of these days.

In a lesser degree, H. S. Oliver's victory in the "Poly" Marathon was accomplished in such workmanlike fashion that good judges down South now rate him as perhaps Britain's number one hope for the Marathon in the Olympic Games, an event, by the way, that Britain has never won. Not only did he win in the good time of 2 hr. 38 min. 12 sec., nearly 4 minutes faster than the 2nd man, but he finished in beautiful shape. Running with good judgment he took the lead shortly after half distance. Considering the 12th man took 2 hr. 54 min. 23 sec., this represents a very high standard in this particular event.

It might be interesting at this stage to refer to and assess a sensational suggestion made by the famous marathon expert, "Dunky" Wright, in a recent broadcast, namely, his nomination of Bobby Reid of Dalmellington for the Olympic Marathon. I don't profess to know whether or not Bobby Reid has any aspirations for the marathon event. If I were to make a guess, I should say no.

The significance of Wright's suggestion, however, lies in the fact that his (Wright's) definite opinion is that to win an Olympic Marathon requires tremendous speed allied to tremendous stamina. Old-fashioned ideas of regarding the Marathon contender as purely a "slogging" merchant are as dead as the dodo. Certainly Jules Zabala of the Argentine, who won the Marathon at Los Angeles in 1932, was just outside the fringe of the world's best at 10,000 metres. On the other hand, Wright himself and Ferris, who both put up such a magnificent display to finish on the heels of the Argentine star, were never in Zabala's class up to say 10 miles, although Wright himself

was no slouch, being Scottish champion at 4 and 10 miles.

Donald Robertson's forte, on the other hand, is his strength over the last six gruelling miles.

However, to develop this interesting theme would require an article in itself.

Suffice it is to say that Son of Japan won in Berlin in the Olympic record of 2 hr. 29 min. 19.2 sec., which works out at the amazing average of 5 min. 41 sec. per mile, or 56.40 for 10 miles completed, of course, for the full 26½ mile (approx.) course.

As to run at the rate of 6 min. to the mile is reckoned sound marathon running, Son's 5.41 average gives an indication of the speed required to win the Olympic title, and is at the same time a tribute to Ernest Harper's feat in running second, only 2 min. behind.

By the way, it has just come to my notice that the famous Tipton harrier and cross-country star, Jack Holden, is to compete in the Midlands Counties Marathon at Courtauld's meet on July 6th. Many good judges have suggested that Holden should try himself out over the full Marathon course. Veteran that he is, he has shown that he is one of those who have speed over shorter distances. He can still beat 31 min. for 6 miles. Can Jack get the full 26 miles at the required pace? So many speedsters have tried and failed in the past. It will be interesting to see how he fares.

* * * *

Sydney Wooderson recently won a 3-mile handicap by a good margin in 14.32, the best time done in Britain over this distance this year, and 14 sec. better than his own last time out. This represents nice going, but is far short of time that will trouble the world's best at the Olympic (say around 14 min.). However, for a man just feeling his way over a new distance, in a post-war era, and probably aiming to reach peak form later in the season, it may be satisfactory enough. All times are more or less slower at the present moment; this is especially so in British athletics.

The A.A.A. championships, when Wooderson may meet men of the class of Reiff of Belgium, may provide us with a better opportunity of answering the question, can Wooderson win for us the 5000 metres at the next Olympiad.

On June 22nd, the same day as the Scottish championships, the All-Ireland championships took place, and some of the results can provide an interesting comparison with Scottish times; e.g.,

Steve McCooke of East Antrim Harriers, who ran a disappointing race in the recent International cross-country test at Ayr, showed a welcome return to form in winning the 3-miles title in the useful but not brilliant time of 14 min. 57.7 sec. (Intermediate times 4 min. 46 sec., 9 min. 51 sec.) McCooke can beat this time, however, and is expected to run in the A.A.A. 3 miles on July 20th.

The 440 yards was won in 51.6 sec. The 880 yards in the slow time of 2 min. 6 sec. The miles in 4 min. 26 sec. Strangely enough, the youths' 880 championship was won by B. Jeppings of Donore in faster time than the senior event, namely, 2 min. 5.2 sec. The marathon field was lacking in class, the winner returning the slow time of 3 hr. 13 min. 48 sec.

On the other hand, the high jump was an exceptionally classy affair. A. F. Adedojun, whom Paterson recently beat with his record jump, leapt 6 ft. 2 in. O'Rafferty followed with 6 ft.; with the third man 5 ft. 10 in.—a much higher all-round standard than its Scottish counterpart.

Adedojun was apparently in sparkling form, and made 3 attempts to clear the bar at 6 ft. 4 in., and just failed narrowly at the third attempt.

If Adedojun travels to London for the A.A.A. championships, Paterson will require to be at his best to beat him, apart from any others. Of the other Scottish candidates at the A.A.A. championships, perhaps the best chances are held by the Belfast policeman, Clark, in the hammer throw, and the "old firm" in the marathon, namely, the Maryhill stars W. McNab Robertson, present Scottish champion and British holder (1939), and close runner-up in the Scottish Marathon, Dunky Wright. Both men are busy tuning up, and both expect to better their Meadowbank performances. Panton of Victoria Park should do well in the 440, though I can't see him winning against Wint of Jamaica and other stars. The experience of the big occasion is an asset for the future, and applies also to our sprinters who should keep on improving.

From the Scottish point of view, the prospects in the Youth's A.A.A. championships, a week previous, are even more hopeful. Paterson, still a junior, is practically a certainty to win the high jump, while Chester and Roberts will make their opponents travel in the 440. Then we have Taylor for the 100 yards and broad jump, and Scottish

champion Hart for the 120 hurdles unless he prefers to assist the Scottish Universities in their match v. English Universities. Last, but not least, we have the V.P. boys, Adam and Hamilton. The latter is a boy with a beautiful action who may even represent Great Britain at the next Olympics in the 800 metres.

Winner of the Scottish Youths' 880 Championship, and runner-up in the Senior event, Hamilton is the boy wonder of Scotland at the middle distances as Derek Burfitt of Belgrave is claimed to be for England. What a race should these two meet!

The former's handlers can be trusted to give their boy experience of big-time competition without over-taxing his strength.

On the same day at London University's ground, the Scottish Universities meet the representatives of the strong English Universities. However, with Scottish Champions Taylor (880 yards), Moksimezyk (pole vault), Hart (hurdles), if available, along with

Connacher (sprints), Boyd (440), and Smith of Aberdeen in the heavy events, we have a team that will not disgrace its sponsors.

With such promising raw material available as potential candidates for the various events in the next Olympiad, every encouragement should be accorded them. For example, when at all possible, they should get the benefit of International competition and the big occasion, irrespective of the result.

Then if it were possible for the Association to have the benefit of a panel of experienced mentors and coaches pooling their ideas on a communal instead of purely a clubs basis, then not only probable Olympic candidates but the whole sport in general would take an upward trend.

Tentatively I have in mind such names as Duncan Wright, A. Munro (V. Park), Alan Scally (Shettleston), J. C. Anderson (Broadley's mentor), and Tom Anderson, whose technical knowledge and cine-camera would be invaluable in the lecture room.

assuredness at the A.A.A. Championships at London on July 20th.

Competing in a 17-mile road race, the previous week, was not a good tactic for some runners. J. Lindsay of Bellahouston H. and W. Connor of Shettleston, first and second respectively in that race, did not come up to expectations over the longer grind, whilst J. Park, Maryhill H., who had finished third in the Stewarton Road Race, had to drop out at 5 miles. Other unplaced runners who finished the course are worthy of mention as the fact of covering the full distance was a feat in itself—W. Kennedy, Kilbarhan A.A.C.; H. Duffie, Dumbarton A.A.C.; R. M. Syme, Edinburgh Sou.; J. E. Farrell and A. Gold, Garscube H.; P. Pandolphi, Maryhill H.; and R. Devon, Motherwell Y.M.C.A. It is a remarkable fact that over such a grueling course first and second were the two oldest of those who finished, D. McN. Robertson being 40 and D. McL. Wright almost 50. However, there was a competitor much older than both—"Jimmy" McNamara, the 61-year-old Maryhill Harrier. For the third occasion in a life-time of competition, he dropped out of a race.

At different stages on the road refreshments and wet sponges were available to the competitors. A motor coach with the runners' clothes and an ambulance with a doctor and nurse on board followed the race. Traffic was held up in favour of the runners. Every consideration was given to the athletes on the route, thanks to the organisers and stewards. Considering this, it is a pity that room is left for criticism of after-race arrangements. The meeting was held under the auspices of Edinburgh Corporation, and the President of the meeting was Councillor T. Stevenson, C.B.E., surely arrangements could have been made to provide a nice meal for the runners after the race. It would have been a fine gesture. Most of them had travelled long distances and probably just had a very light meal beforehand. A mug of canteen tea and a bag of buns was not quite the thing. Catering facilities may have been difficult that day, but we peeped through a door in the Pavilion and saw fine tables set. Were the people invited to the spread more worthy of it than the runners? The pertinent question is not asked in any disparaging manner but in

the spirit of fair play and with a thought for future races.

The first S.A.A.A. Marathon Championship will be remembered. It was a great occasion.

EASTERN ACTIVITY

Except for the combined efforts and struggle of the two Dundee clubs, Thistle and Hawkhill, athletic activity in the East was practically at a standstill during the war years. To get on a par with the West they have much ground to recover. This summer there has been a great revival and clubs have been conscientiously building after a lapse of nearly seven years. By the way things have been going this very first season it seems that the East may catch up and even outstride the West in a very short while.

On 8th June, Dundee Thistle organised a 12-mile "Right of Way" race at Brechin. The race is to become an "annual." First winner of the handsome "City Cup" was Frank Murray of the promoting club, who will be remembered as a member of Thistle's famous Edinburgh to Glasgow road relay team. Runner-up was clubmate Peter Taylor, 1½ seconds behind the winner whose time was 1 hour 8 minutes.

In Edinburgh, the harrier clubs are fortunate for the support given them by the Corporation in the coaching line, being well served by B. Little, 880 yards representative in Canada's 1928 Olympic team at Amsterdam. Lieut. Commander Kerr Hunter another enthusiastic athlete, who is in charge, is an all-rounder and has rendered yeoman service, ably assisted by Hamish McKinnon. This coaching has done great work in reviving athletics in the East. It is to be hoped that this feature will be carried on in future years and to incorporate the schools as well as youth movements.

Recently a four-cornered contest was held at New Meadowbank with the following result:—Edinburgh Southern Harriers, 43 pts; Edinburgh Harriers, 37 pts; Edinburgh Eastern Harriers, 16 pts; Edinburgh Northern Harriers, 14 pts.

S.A.A.A. MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIP

For the first time in history the S.A.A.A. organised a race over the full marathon distance, 26 miles 385 yards. The race was run in conjunction with the Youths' Championships held at Meadowbank, Edinburgh, June 8th, 1946. The race was well organised and officials should be well pleased at the smooth running of their venture.

Largely responsible for the success was the Hon. Secretary, Eastern District S.A.A.A., Mr. W. Carmichael, and Mr. H. J. Scott, who was Clerk of Course. Prior to June 8th, the 20 entrants were sent full particulars of the race proceedings and a very clear map of the route. Competitors stripped in Falkirk Technical School and were conveyed by bus to Laureston, where the race was started by the Provost of Falkirk. Seventeen runners started against a fairly heavy breeze. It was a very slow start with no one prepared to take the pace. It was obvious that both favourites, D. McL. Wright and D. McNab Robertson, were none too confident, though on this score they can be forgiven, as it had been a good number of years since either had raced over the full distance. At about 5

miles, "Dunky" had the lead with five or six others just on his heels, and the pace had stepped up. As the race went on Wright and Robertson gradually drew away from the rest of the field, with "Dunky" still making the pace. This position was held till about a mile to go, with W. Kennedy of Kilbarhan lying third a good bit behind. As they approached a fairly stiff hill, Donald Robertson came out from behind Wright and burst away. He was not seriously challenged from that point to Meadowbank, and won by about 200 yards from his Maryhill clubmate, in 2 hr. 45 min. 39 sec. Another Maryhill man, A. Burnside, running very, very strongly, moved up about 10 places in the last 10 miles and finished third. The winner was cheered loudly by the Meadowbank spectators.

This can be deduced from the race, that both Wright and Robertson ran without confidence of their own ability and were wary of the long distance. Though both showed steady pace, Wright never tried to shake off Robertson, and likewise Robertson never challenged "Dunky" till the last mile. It is hoped that both will run with more

"DUNKY" AT THE ROTARY CLUB

In the May issue we published the story of an interview that a reporter of *The Glasgow Evening Times* had with "Dunky" Wright after he had spoken to the Rotary Club. Since the publication we have received word from a reader who felt it would have been more interesting to have reported the speech made. Our friend was present and took notes which he kindly sent to us.

"Dunky" chose to speak on "The Friendly Aspects of the Olympic Games." He introduced the subject from the Greek period and the profound influence, etc., the games had on the people at this time. He carried on to the restart brought about by Baron Pierre de Coubertin in 1894, and the more recent games, particularly the 1932 Olympics. In passing, he mentioned Halswell, Dorando, Lehtinen and Nurmi. He pointed out that "incidents" were comparatively rare and did not have any effect on the great feeling of "all round" friendship that arose. He concluded by saying:—

"In 1948 athletes from all corners of the world will come to these shores, Canada, Australia, South Africa, India, from U.S.A., Argentine, and even China will send her best manhood.

All superbly fit, trained to the last minute, ready to enter into friendly sports combat.

They will come from the pit, the plough, the college and the university. All colours and creeds and sport as their common denominator. They will vie with each other for supremacy but if beaten, will shake the hand of the victor.

Britain will not attempt to rival the pomp and ceremony of Berlin, nor the magnificent spectacle of Los Angeles. But with that quiet dignity so characteristic of the British sportsman will carry through these games and will demonstrate to the world that sport, in its simple setting, is better than all treaties and councils for promoting peace and goodwill, and cementing friendship between the nations of the world."

Western District League

The barometer of interest in Athletics is rising—at least in so far as the clubs are concerned!

Irrespective of League positions we are delighted to print an additional ten club names this month, making a total of 42 Western Clubs sending their members along to the Open Meetings. "Points for Positions" lend interest to the proceedings and we note, Clydesdale, Kilbarchan, Springburn, Stonehouse and Glasgow Varsity as newcomers to that part of the table.

It is pleasing to record the position of Glasgow Police and that Springburn and Varsity now enter the list. All were a power in the Athletic world before the war and their revival can only be beneficial to the sport in general.

There are still a few results to come to hand but we know what are missing and when we obtain same you will have them.

WESTERN DISTRICT POINTS LEAGUE

Club	Placings	Pts.	Ents.	Aver.
	1	2	3	
Victoria Park	14	11	6	70 282 .273
Garscube	6	10	5	42 175 .240
Maryhill	8	4	1	32 162 .202
Glasgow Police	5	6		27 25 1.08
Bellahouston	4	5	2	24 161 .142
Glasgow Y.M.C.A.	2	5	1	17 63 .269
Renfrew Y.M.C.A.	3	2	1	14 38 .383
Shettleston	2	4		14 162 .086
West of Scotland	3	1		11 6 1.822
Uddingston Welfare	2	2		10 24 .416
St. Machan's	1	2	2	9 24 .375
Motherwell Y.M.C.A.	2	1	1	9 52 .173
Hamilton	1	1	3	8 26 .307
Glasgow University	2	1	7	19 .267
Greenock Wellpark	1	3	6	28 .214
Monkland	1	1		5 51 .097
Beith	1	1	4	25 .114
Stonehouse	1		2	16 .187
Clydesdale	1		3	14 .068
Kilbarchan	1		2	6 .333
Weir's Rec.	1		2	9 .222
Larkhall Y.M.C.A.	1	1		33 .03
Springburn	1	1		24 .03
St. Ignatius				44
Auchmountain				35
Vale of Leven				24
Dumbarton				22
Plebeian				19
Airdrie				16
Hillington				10
Castlehill				9
Cumbernauld				9
Greenock Glenpark				4
Shawfield				4
South Glasgow				3
Lochwinnoch				2
Olympic				2
Babcock & Wilcox				1
Glasgow Transport				1
Irvine Y.M.C.A.				1
Motherwell & Wishaw				1
Police				1
St. Modans				1

Our Post

J. MCGOUGH'S FASTEST MILE?

Dear Mr. Ross,—Thanks for the June issue of the S.A. I delivered one dozen copies to the Scots Secretariat Bookshop.

I am pleased to see that you managed to increase the size of the paper. It will be good if it can be maintained.

I hope that soon we shall have articles by leading athletes and coaches on training methods. Your sketches of leading athletes is a pleasing feature and I hope that it be continued.

I noticed one or two inaccuracies in Mr. R. McNeillie's interesting article on Bellahouston Harriers. He states that J. McGough's fastest mile was possibly his 4 min. 24.2 sec. effort of 1905, yet McGough held the Scottish record for a number of years at 4 min. 21 sec. I have not been able to check this, but I do not think I am wrong. I believe the record was made in 1907.

A mistake I would like rectified refers to "J." McGrath formerly of Bellahouston Harriers, who was one of the founders of the Plebeian Harriers. "Hughie" is still a Plebeian stalwart, and did not leave the "Plebs" to found Shawfield Harriers.

He has been president of the club for a number of years and still strips with the boys. His son, H. McGrath, jun., is likely to make a name for himself in the sport.

I am more than satisfied with the progress made by the club since we restarted. By next season we should be making our presence felt.

Please accept my wishes for the continued success of the S.A. It has a mission.—Your sincerely,

P. J. CONNELLY,

Secretary and Treasurer,
Plebeian Harriers.

Glasgow, S.W.1.

ALAN PATERSON

Dear Mr. Editor,—Reading through the very interesting Running Commentary (June) of J. E. Farrell, I find repeated an error into which many sports writers and probably many athletic enthusiasts have fallen.

I refer to the statement that Alan Paterson has equalled the British record for the high jump. Such claims are still a trifle premature, for the

British record is still credited to the late C. C. Johnson (U.S.A.). The performance was at 6ft 7in. at the White City on August 15, 1936.

The 6ft. 5in. English Native Record of B. Howard Baker cannot be equalled by Alan who would probably resent probably being called an Englishman, and the English Native Record is a performance achieved by an Englishman in England. The mistake is easy to understand for there is no such thing as a British Native Record. J. E. Farrell will not think I am writing in any tendentious spirit.

I am glad to say Alan has now achieved a far greater record. His 6ft. 5in. at Belfast is, so far as I am aware, the best height ever achieved by a native of Great Britain. And I really do think Alan will, in the process of time, capture the British Record.—Yours sincerely,

JACK C. G. CRUMP.

Surrey.

ELECTRICAL TREATMENT

Dear Walter,—I am enclosing a P.O. for 12/- in payment for 48 copies of "The Scots Athlete."

In the June issue I have studied with interest the League Table, and I am sure it will make club members give their very best. I have no doubt clubs will accept your ruling on how points will be assessed.

Last week, Monkland created a record when the 100th member joined our club. This is our largest membership since the institution of our club in 1905, and is a fine testimonial to the fine work that Monkland Harriers are doing to create a healthy interest in Athletics in the Coatbridge district.

Last December, Monkland Harriers installed in their clubhouse a lamp for ultra-violet and infra-red treatment, also a radiant heat bath. You have no idea the benefits our members have since gained. I am not an expert in the technical benefits of this apparatus, but I am going to ask Mr. T. M. Anderson to write an article in our paper so that a better knowledge can be gained on this subject.

Just think of the benefits that our international team at Ayr could have gained if they had received a fortnight's treatment before the race. I think we would have seen a better and fitter Scottish team at Ayr.