

RACE FIXTURES

Nov.

16—Motherwell Y.M. (3 miles) ... Y.M.L.

16—Eastern League Race ... Fairfield Street

23—National Novice Championship ... Peddie Estate

23—Dundee Hawkhill Har. 2½ miles ... Fairfield Street

30—Glasgow Univ. H.H. Club Handicap ... Garscadden

30—Edinburgh Northern 2½ miles ... Musselburgh

Dec.

7—Eastern District Relay (4 x 2½) ... Dundee

7—Midland District Relay (4 x 2½) ... Westerton

7—South-Western District Relay (4 x 2½) ... Johnstone

14—Victoria Park A.A.C. 6 miles H'cap ... Milngavie

14—Eastern League Race ... Musselburgh

14—Edinburgh Northern 5 miles H'cap ... Westerton

14—Garscube H. 6 miles Handicap ... Garscube

14—Glasgow Univ. H.H. v. Trinity Col- ... Garscube

14—Inter-Y.M. Relay ... Jordanhill

21—Clydesdale Xmas Handicap ... Clydebank

21—Dundee Hawkhill Xmas Handicap ... Keshoe Baths

21—Garscube H. Xmas Road Race ... Westerton

21—Motherwell Y.M. 6 miles ... Y.M.L.

21—Marjull H. Xmas Handicap ... Marjull

21—Xmas Race and Youtils' 3 miles ... Alexandria

28—Victoria Park A.A.C. Xmas H'cap ... Whitehatch

28—Edinburgh Northern H. Open Ballot ... Team Race

28—Dundee Hawkhill H. New Year ... Fairfield Street

28—Motherwell Y.M. Xmas H'cap ... Y.M.L.

1947

Jan.

1—Morpeith to Newcastle Open 14 miles ... Morpeith

1—Garscube H. Youtils' New Year's ... Westerton

1—Vale of Leven A.C. 5 miles H'cap ... Alexandria

4—Nigel Barge Trophy: Open 5 miles ... Marjull

11—Clydesdale H. Club Championship ... Clydebank

11—Garscube H. 7 miles Handicap ... Westerton

11—Eastern League Race ... Arborth

11—Motherwell Y.M. 7 miles ... Y.M.L.

18—Edinburgh Northern H. Club Cham- ... Musselburgh

18—Victoria Park A.A.C. 7 miles H'cap ... Milngavie

18—Vale of Leven A.C. Club Cham- ... Alexandria

ship (7 miles) ... Benwell

Published by Walter J. Ross, 69 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G.2.

Printed by Kirkwood (Printers) Ltd., 132 Clyde Street, Glasgow, G.1.

23—Edinburgh Northern H. Junior Cham-
pionship (Road) ... Cameron House25—Dundee Hawkhill H. Club Cham-
pionship ... Fairfield Street25—Midland District Junior Cham-
pionship (7 miles) ...

Feb.

1—Marjull H. Championships (Senior
and Youth) ... Marjull1—West of Scotland H. Junior Cham-
pionship ... Stannhall1—Eastern District Junior Champion-
ship ...

8—Clydesdale H. 7 miles H'cap ... Clydebank

8—Motherwell Y.M. 10 miles ... Y.M.L.

15—Victoria Park A.A.C. Championship
(Senior and Youth) ... Milngavie

15—West of Scotland Championship ... Stannhall

15—Eastern League Race ... Arborth

15—Edinburgh Northern H. 9 miles
Handicap ... Portobello Baths15—Garscube H. Championship:
(Seniors, 10 miles; Youth, 2½
miles) ... Westerton

15—Y.M.C.A. C.C. Championship ... Redfrow

22—Universities' International ...

22—Edinburgh Northern H. H'cap for
Members of 28 years and over ... Musselburgh

March

1—National C.C. Championship: Sen-
ior and Youth ...8—Edinburgh Northern H. Consolation
Handicap ... Portobello Baths

15—Motherwell Y.M. Point-to-Point ... Y.M.L.

15—Dundee Hawkhill H. H'cap Race ... Fairfield Street

29—Dundee Hawkhill Road Champion-
ship ... 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

April

3—"Around Dundee" Open Relay ... Dundee

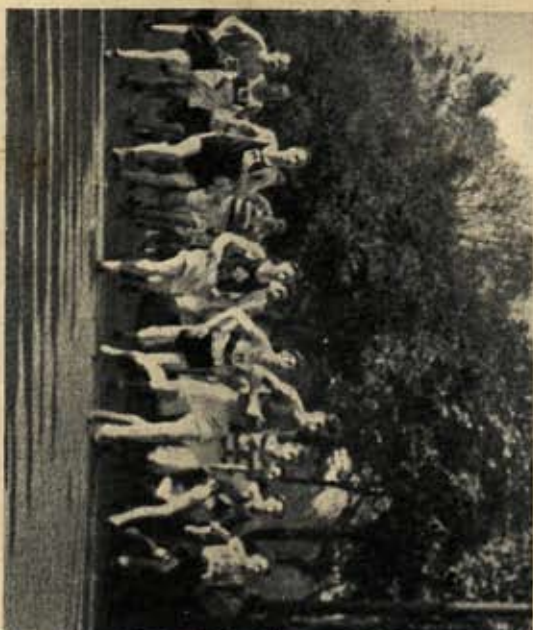
5—Clydesdale H. Road Race ... Clydebank

12—Dundee Hawkhill Consolation Race ... Fairfield Street

The Open Road Race, organised by Newcastle Harriers, the famous Morpeith to Newcastle (13 miles, 5 furlongs), takes place on Wednesday, 1st January, 1947, at 1.45 p.m. Entries positively close first post on 26th December, 1946, with Hon. Secy. W. J. Scott, 254 Sutton Dwellings, Benwell, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 4.

THE SCOTS ATHLETE

PRICE 6D



THEY'RE OFF!—39 runners start in the first leg of the Victoria Park A.A.C. Road Relay.

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IMPORTANCE OF MINOR CLUBS. U.S.A. ATHLETICS. RACE FIXTURES.

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.

NOVEMBER 1946

No. 8.

Annual Subscription 6/6

RUNNING COMMENTARY

by J. E. FARRELL.

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

Now that the two road relays are over, clubs can look forward to the cross-country season proper, with a fixture list of races that are, for the first time since 1939, of an official nature, i.e., having real championship status. For the tremendous enthusiasm and high standard at this early stage, the Scottish Cross-Country Association, the emergency body which kept the sport functioning during the difficult war years, is deserving of great credit.

These road relay races are intermediate in character in so far as they help to ease the transition from track work to the rougher conditions of cross-country running.

Both Victoria Park's annual 12-miles road relay race and Dundee's round the Kingsway boulevard were outstanding successes, both numerically and in providing interesting contests.

The Whiteinch Race

The race round Victoria Park took place on Saturday, 5th October, and attracted a record entry of 39 teams recruited from 21 clubs.

Jim Clark, Maryhill's new find, eventually got away from the bunched pack of 39 runners and finishing fast handed over to colleague A. Peters a 5-seconds lead from novice club-mate B. Mathieson, another coming Maryhill star and thus we had the unusual spectacle of Maryhill's two teams (A and B) in the lead.

The feature of the second lap was G. Lamont's performance in retrieving lost ground for his club, Victoria Park, reducing a deficit of nearly 200 yards to one of barely 20 yards and gaining many places.

It was now obvious that barring accidents the issue lay between these two teams.

Tenacious McFarlane

Now the vital third lap was in progress, and long-striding Johnny Hoskins moved off with D. McFarlane of Victoria Park in pursuit. It was felt that the former would materially add to his club's lead, but no—as the runners became visible down the long straight it was seen that McFarlane was tenaciously holding his opponent. Hoskins did gain a little ground but despite putting up the second fastest time up to this point, i.e., 16.31, he increased his side's lead by barely 6 seconds for which McFarlane deserves great credit.

Running last for Maryhill with a lead of 9 secs. from stylish speedster A. Forbes, of Victoria Park, was rather an invidious position to find oneself in. I decided to set a cracker of a pace to offset my opponent's track speed but after less than half a mile had been covered, on turning a corner I saw that my rival was gaining a little—so I had to revise my ideas and attempt an even faster gait. Leading up to Southbrae Drive there is a slight incline where there is a tendency to slacken off. Instead I used the unorthodox tactic of piling on pace and I am told that I gained some ground on this sector. Down Southbrae Drive, despite a strong wind, Victoria Drive and along Dunes Drive past Scotstoun Showground a strong pace was sustained and I had the satisfaction of learning that I was maintaining my lead.

Then swinging round into the long straight at Westland Drive it was with some satisfaction that the finishing line was seen, although in the distance.

Eventually Maryhill won by approximately 80 yards the trophy they relinquished last year to Shettleston.

Victoria Park deserve great credit for a game display. Better known for their brilliant sprinters and middle-distance runners, their distance men are beginning to steal a little of the limelight. A Forbes' display is particularly worthy of mention and if he can show similar form over the longer stretches he will be a menace to the best. Frank Sinclair of Greenock Wellpark, although his club was too far behind to trouble the leaders, showed the form we know he is capable of and with more at stake might have done even better.

Noticeable, on the other hand, was the rather backward form of Shettleston and Garscube. However it might be worthy of mention that among those present looking on at the race, a Shettleston team could have been formed equal to, if not superior to, the actual team fielded, namely J. Stuart, Jim Flockhart, Willie Connor and Harry Howard. So it would be unwise to forecast Shettleston's future prospects on this particular race. No doubt when the big events take place they will prove the usual doughty opponents.

Garscube, with F. Jewell off through injury and A. Warton obviously not tuned up, were only a shadow of their former selves and as they have not the latent strength of Shettleston their racing prospects are uncertain but they remain the usual exuberant bunch of sportsmen. They have lost Albert Hay, now in Canada, but in R. Smith, D. Murray and J. Small they have promising runners who with R. Mulgrew, who may find some form, and Alex. Kidd, an international potential, likely to be demobbed soon, can maintain Garscube standard.

Maryhill "B" in finishing 5th and Vale of Leven A.C. in finishing 6th both gave excellent performances—always remember 39 teams competed. The former's display shows the reserve strength of the club, an asset which particularly manifests itself in such a test as the National Cross-Country team championships with conditions of 12 to run and 6 to count in team

placings: while the latter's display is more than promising for such a "way-side" club.

The Kingsway Relay

On Saturday, 19th October, at Dundee, the annual relay race round the Kingsway carriageway took place—conditions being teams of four, each covering approximately 2½ miles.

This race, started during the war, is now accepted as an established fixture. The course is flat and conducive to fast times, yet when Baille Adamson sent the first lap men off they had to face a blustery wind, which practically precluded any chance of record times.

The course is elliptical in shape and when the leaders re-appeared at the crossing, with only ¼-mile to go, an enthusiastic crowd of spectators and supporters yelled their encouragement.

Jim Clark Establishes Himself

In the van at this stage, and closely bunched, were Jim Clark, of Maryhill, slightly leading; Gavin Bell, of Bellahouston; Charlie Robertson, of Dundee Thistle; and Andrew Coogan, of Maryhill "B" who incidentally is rapidly regaining his old form. G. Lamont, of Victoria Park was perhaps 20 yards behind the leaders and was obviously not up to his best form although running gamely.

Then there was a distinct gap with runners well strung out mostly in single file.

The leading pack seemed closely knit approaching the last bend but as they turned into the last straight a lone figure was in front—three furlongs to go and the leaders were bracing themselves to pull out their reserves. Approaching the finishing line Jim Clark giving all he had handed over to team-mate A. Peters a 20 yards lead over Gavin Bell of Bellahouston with Charlie Robertson of Dundee Thistle close up 3rd. A little way behind was Lamont of Victoria Park.

Alex. McLean set off in pursuit of the Maryhill man and quickly overtook him. With three quarters of the distance covered the former was striding out confidently well in front and Peters was, I thought, looking a little unhappy. Nevertheless over the remaining sector the latter stuck manfully to his task and at the end of the second lap McLean handed over to his club-mate the handy but not overwhelming lead of perhaps 80 yards—a grand race by

McLean and a gallant fight by the Maryhill man. The third sector saw Johnny Hoskins of Maryhill striding out after his man and it was now obviously a Bellahouston-Maryhill duel, the former stepping into the breach where Victoria Park had failed. Shettleston, Dundee Thistle and Maryhill "B" were also well placed and some distance behind the men of the H.M.S. Condor (First Service team) in their flaming yellow jerseys, were putting up an excellent performance.

At the three-quarter stage, where the runners re-pass the crowd, Anderson of Bellahouston was still in the lead having lost very little to his Maryhill opponent, but over the last sector Hoskins' speedy finish cut the distance in half and Tommy Lamb of Bellahouston was sent on the final lap with a 40-yard lead from myself.

To chase an opponent with a narrow lead is often preferable to being in the lead one's self. It is possible to tie handy until one settles down.

Quickly into my running I managed to pass Lamb before half a mile had been covered and, opening up a gap gradually increased my lead to the finish.

Tommy Lamb, of Bellahouston, though not yet tuned up to racing fitness was sufficiently far in front to give his side second place from A. Forbes of Victoria Park, who finished very fast and incidentally set up the fastest time of the day.

Maryhill's winning aggregate time of 58 mins. 18 secs. was only 10 seconds outside the record time set up by themselves in 1944 and is a comparatively better performance considering ideal conditions prevailed on that occasion. The record lap of 14 mins. 9 secs. set up in the same year was in little danger due to weather conditions.

Under fair conditions men of the type of Forbes, Victoria Park; F. Sinclair of Wellpark; and J. Fleming of Motherwell would have every chance of breaking this time as the course is exceptionally smooth and the above-mentioned are speedsters who can also stay.

It is interesting to note that among the enthusiasts present were Suttie Smith, ex-cross-country champion and 10 miles' record-holder, looking fit enough to step on to the International arena; enthusiastic Jimmy Brannen and "Davie" Cockburn, noted member of Dundee Thistle's pre-war teams.



A fine action study of J. STUART (Shettleston Harriers).

He has track speed, he has experience, he runs well on grass. . .

The Novice Championship

The two road relays just mentioned are established fixtures and arouse great enthusiasm but they are not championship events. The first cross-country championship to be held since 1939—all championships having been in abeyance during the war years—is the National Novice Championships—due at Pollok Estate on Saturday, 23rd November, over a distance of approximately 5 miles.

This event has always been one of the most attractive on the calendar. As the name suggests, the field is in the main composed of inexperienced runners. Thus there is very often a spontaneity of effort, and an orthodoxy in tactics which more experienced runners seldom reveal. What they may lack in judgment of pace, they compensate for in exuberance.

Prospects

It is often difficult to forecast the result of this race due to the fact that there is so little to go on in the way of form and to the fact that there may be "dark-horses" from obscure or outlying districts, nursed specially for

such a race. Moreover, most clubs have, up to the time of writing, not yet decided their own novice championships, from which contenders are selected to go forward to the national event.

Yet I feel confident that the individual winner may be found from among the following candidates, namely: J. Stuart (Shettleston), P. Donnachie (Dundee Thistle), R. Smith and D. Murray (Garscube), J. Adams (Victoria Park), D. White (Clydesdale) and R. Mathieson (Maryhill).

Stuart of Shettleston will be the general favourite and I am inclined to favour his chances too. Although a young runner I believe he will be the most experienced taking part as he ran as a youth for Carntyne Harriers pre-war. In the season just past however, he has made enormous strides in form and won many open handicaps in convincing style. He has track speed, he has experience, he runs well on grass; the man who beats him (if any) should win. My best outsider for the individual title is R. Mathieson (Maryhill). He also ran a little prior to the war but is now a mature and seasoned runner. Not particularly fast on the track; he is essentially a stayer and should do well over road and country. He runs with a deceptive easy action, eminently suitable for cross-country work and his performance in running second for Maryhill's "B" team in the first lap of Victoria Park's relay race against club-mate Jim Clark speaks for itself. Of the other candidates mentioned, P. Donnachie (Dundee) is well-fancied from the East. Similarly D. Murray is highly thought of by Garscube supporters while D. White who readily won Clydesdale's novice title from road runners Paton and Gillespie must also be considered a dangerous contender as he showed during the summer season that he has track speed.

J. Adams of Victoria Park and R. Smith of Garscube, who were respectively first and second in the Scottish Youths' mile championship held at Meadowbank during the summer, should both figure prominently; the only thing against their chances is their youth.

As a "dark-horse" to finish in the van I would mention George Houston of the newly formed West Kilbride A.C.

Team Championship

For the team championship little is known but I am fairly sure of one

thing—that Vale of Leven Harriers will not be far away when the team places are reckoned up. They are a very enthusiastic bunch out at the "Vale" and they have had the benefits of the coaching of Maryhill's Archie Peters, himself resident in the "Vale." The irrepressible "Archie" has certainly done a good job of work up there by instilling enthusiasm and pacing his proteges. Clydesdale and St. Modan's teams should also give a good account of themselves and it would be very unwise to preclude Shettleston Harriers who have such a good record in team events.

Holden Does It

As was generally anticipated, National Cross-Country champion, Jack Holden succeeded in his task of reducing the world's best figures (amateur and professional) for the track 30 miles. Neither Squires' amateur best of 3 hrs. 17 min. 36.5 sec., set up in 1885; nor Mason's professional time of 3 hrs. 15 mins. 9 secs., in 1881, were exceptionally brilliant performances, although they have stood the test of time.

But the real merit of Holden's effort lies in the extent to which he reduced these figures and in his triumph over adverse weather conditions. To quote Holden—"The only thing that hurt was the mud caking and pulling at the back of my legs." His time of 3 hrs. 0 mins. 16.4 secs. is brilliant under any circumstances, but when we consider that there was heavy rain at the start with the consequent churning up of the track causing Holden to run wide at the bends, the performance is something to marvel at.

The ten-mile stage was covered in 58 mins. 45 secs.; twenty miles in 1 hr. 58 mins. 36.5 secs.

Covering twenty-five miles in 2 hrs. 28 mins. 53.6 secs., he broke the British and English Native record set up by S. J. Harmer in 1939 by 10.8 secs.; and of course it is apparent that but for the prevailing conditions he would have covered the 30 miles in under 3 hrs.

* * *

It was with regret that we learned the news that John Archer, European 100-metres champion had fractured a leg during the course of an inter-counties rugby match on Saturday, 10th October. Apparently it is an oblique fracture of the lower left leg and two bones were broken. However, the leg

has set and an operation will not be necessary.

A strongly-built sprinter, Archer was a possible Olympic hope for Britain in the 1948 Games in London and this injury is indeed a severe blow. The exceptional ability of the coloured star, McDonald Bailey, robbed Archer of much of the limelight but there is no doubt that the latter was also an exceptional athlete. It is believed that Archer may run again but apart from the healing of the injury a lot depends on the extent to which confidence is regained.

Some critics aver that the A.A.A. should debar Olympic candidates from taking part in other vigorous sports which might cause injury or retard the form of the athlete but apart from the question of "powers" I believe the consensus of opinion is against any such interference by a governing body. Suggestions or advice maybe—but compulsions never. Other countries adopt, I believe, a different attitude and regard Olympic candidates as something to be wrapped in "cotton wool."

Bonuses for Athletes

The question of payment of broken time has been discussed recently but Russia has gone further with her payment of cash bonuses for victors at the recent Oslo European Games—and not covertly but openly.

Nina Nunbadze, the discus thrower, received 5,000 roubles (£238) and 25,000 roubles (£1,190) for setting up a world's record. E. Sechenova, women's 100 metres and 200 metres champion, received 15,000 roubles (£714). Others received bonuses of 5,000 roubles.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation's meeting has been postponed till June 1948 and its close proximity to the Olympics gives rise to anxiety. Sweden will put forward the view that all countries inside the Federation should have the right to make their own rules regarding professional and amateur.

Hero of Berlin Olympics Still Active

A report from America concerning the result of a challenge race between George Case of Cleveland Indians, reputed to be the fastest baseball player in the States and Jesse Owens, coloured Olympic champion of 1936,

makes interesting reading. Both wore complete baseball kit and Case covered the distance in 10 seconds flat—an amazing performance. But wait for it—this was not good enough—for Owens was timed at 9.9 seconds.

At the Olympic Games held at Berlin in 1936 Jesse Owens proved himself the star of stars, winning four first Gold Medals. Owens won the 100 metres, 200 metres, broad jump and was anchor man in the winning sprint relay (4 at 100 metres). The U.S.A. throws up phenomenal sprinters like mushrooms, but I firmly believe that the "ebon antelope" was, perhaps, the greatest sprinter of all time. In addition he had a style of amazing smoothness.

Interesting is the news that the A.A.A.'s made a splendid profit of approximately £2,000 from the recent A.A.A. Championships.

Also news of the decision to appoint a professional coach. His duties being, not to coach possible Olympic hopes, but to travel through Britain instructing local coaches and acting generally in an advisory capacity.

Apart from the Novice Championship on November 23rd, there are no races in the immediate offing except club events—usually handicap races over approximately five miles of open country. The next big events are not due till December 7th, namely, the Cross-Country District Relays. The Districts being Eastern, Midlands, and South-Western.

Cross-country conditions are very different to even road-work, so it is quite possible to find fluctuations in form.

Cross-Country Training

Most cross-country runners aim to be at their best for the Scottish Championship at the beginning of March, as next to the International event it ranks as the most important event on the calendar. Some runners believe that little strenuous work should be attempted until after the New Year; others again reach their peak early and attempt to hold on to their fitness. I dislike both extremes and believe a balance should be struck.

If too much is left till after the New Year a hasty attempt may be made to get fit for March, while if

racing fitness is achieved early, the problem then is to avoid staleness, especially if much racing is indulged in.

However, it is quite possible to put in some good hard work prior to the turn of the year and still keep something in reserve.

A judicious mixture of easy and brisk running should be helpful while at the same a certain variety in trails may help to stimulate interest. While the emphasis should be on distance work I believe it is a good thing to have a good fast canter over a shorter course for snappiness of action once a week or as often as can be fitted into a training programme. Also a brisk start to training gallops gets one used to fast starts.

When runners are fairly fit I have no objection to them "having a go" occasionally in training runs, without of course racing. A little healthy "needle" creates interest and it must not be forgotten that a runner may become mentally as well as physically stale.

This is entirely different from indulging in too much real racing, where a call may be made on reserves of nervous energy.

It may not be possible to fit in an extra training night outside of routine club nights but if it could be found possible a nice easy run of a few miles for building-up purposes would be most helpful.

When Alan Scally was training for his Powderhall 10-miles' winning sequences he declared that Scally Senior, insisted on him running once a week, for an hour, striding out easily and comfortably. He found it beneficial for building up strength and affording relaxation of muscles.

While the above suggestions may prove helpful there is no attempt to lay down hard and fast rules. It is not so much a case of religiously following a blue-print as acquiring personal experience and the latter is a thing of steady growth.

However, youths and novices especially require supervision and it is often beneficial to curb their enthusiasm in so far as there is a tendency to race on all occasions.

Arthur Newton's programme of easy running is good, in so far as it may correct the other extreme though I believe that he rather over-simplifies the problem of training.

However, the key to all training pro-

grammes is consistency and gradualness. Never forget also to get as much fun as possible out of training. Enjoy yourself and remember that a little bit of humour—good at all times—is especially beneficial to ease down the highly strung condition from which an athlete trained to peak condition is apt to suffer.

F. J. GLEGG

A new challenge trophy will be competed for at the S.A.A.A. championships next June.

The S.A.A.A. Committee have decided that the new award will be confined to youths.

The donor of the new trophy was the late Mr. F. J. Glegg, president of the Association and Aberdeenshire Harriers' Club.

Mr. Glegg died on 5th October, 1946, and the first intimation of the new award came in the form of an intimation from his executor of a legacy of £50.

The trophy will perpetuate the name of a great servant of the sport.

Hamilton Harriers held their Jubilee Dinner in the Clydesdale Restaurant, Hamilton, on Saturday, 12th October, 1946. Provost D. C. Orr was in the chair, and there were over 100 guests present, including some of the original members and the first club champion, Mr. J. Simpson, whose son was club champion of Motherwell Y.M.C.A. Harriers a few years ago.

Mr. Robert Taylor, S.A.A.A.; Mr. A. M. Donnet and Mr. G. Dallas, of N.C.C.U., spoke on behalf of their Associations.

Beith Harriers held their A.G.M. on Sunday, 13th October. A. F. Neilson is President and Secretary, with M. Barr, Assistant Secretary. Committee are at present compiling a fixture list, and any club desirous of a run at Beith, please contact M. Barr, at 13 Reform Street, Beith. Arrangements are in hand to resuscitate the Club's open New Year Race.

Preparations are being made for the A.G.M. of the S.A.A.A. Every affiliated Club Secretary should send his address to the Hon. Secretary of the S.A.A.A., Mr. J. Gilbert, 17 Pearce Avenue, Edinburgh, 12.

WESTERN LEAGUE—Final Placings

Circumstances prevent a completely accurate presentation of a 1946 Season League, but in the main, positions as printed are a true representation of club accomplishments.

With a wider recruiting field, it was to be expected that Glasgow clubs would fill the premier six positions and Victoria Park A.A.C. are to be congratulated on such a commanding lead. Claiming one British and five Scottish champions in their ranks they proved to be a power in the field of athletics but their closer rivals, represented by boys, who if their reputations are less bright, have "bags of try complex," and who must be encouraged by their first post-war season's efforts.

Glasgow Police A.A.C. in occupying Runners-up position prove the value of field events success in open competition. Scotland and Britain lag behind in this branch of the sport but a united effort by all Harriers clubs and the offer of a helping hand from proven Police Club experts would make a wonderful difference.

The part played by the Y.M.C.A. in our local athletics cannot be too highly praised and a glance through the "point takers" will show that practically every Scottish branch was represented.

So there it is. If our little effort has

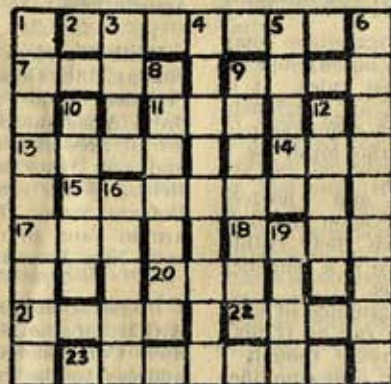
proved useful and interesting we have had our reward. With a season's experience behind us we can have a smoothly running organisation for the future.

Incidentally, how many people would believe there were 49 clubs in the League, though only the top 30 are given here? Bright prospects indeed for Scottish Athletics!

Club	Pts.	Entries	Average
Victoria Park	109	550	1.09
Police	86	56	1.53
Garscube	84	252	.33
Shettleston	67	331	.202
Maryhill	61	210	.289
Bellahouston	44	257	.171
St. Machans	22	70	.314
Glasgow Y.M.C.A.	19	50	.38
Renfrew Y.M.C.A.	18	64	.281
Uddingston W.	13	21	.619
Motherwell Y.M.C.A.	13	111	.117
Glasgow University	11	19	.578
West of Scotland	11	25	.44
Hamilton	8	34	.235
Monkland	8	70	.114
Greenock Wellpark	7	50	.14
Springburn	7	54	.129
Clydesdale	6	33	.181
St. Modans	5	17	.263
Weirs' A.S.C.	5	36	.138
Glasgow Transport	4	9	.46
Denny A.A.C.	4	9	.44
Plebeian	4	23	.173
Beith	4	35	.144
Dumbarton	4	46	.114
Stonehouse	3	24	.172
Castlehill	3	11	.272
Paisley	3	2	1.5
Shotts	3	8	.374
Larkhall Y.M.C.A.	3	25	.12
St. Ignatius	3	45	.066
Kilbarchan	2	11	.181
Airdrie	2	24	.083

ACROSS

- 2—You need this for 4 down (7).
- 7—Two teams with equal points (1, 3).
- 9—An opera (4).
- 11—Running was this with Paavo Nurmi (3).
- 13—Sleep in slang (4).
- 14—A new era (3).
- 15—How the marathon man gets along (7).
- 17—Celebrated (abb.) (3).
- 18—National Society of Art Masters (4).
- 20—High jumpers will get over this all right (3).
- 21—Time to take it easy if you are in this condition (4).
- 22—To trot (4).
- 23—Etc., etc. (3, 2, 2).



(The correct solution will appear next month.)

DOWN

- 1—Popular races for the not so good (9).
- 3—Novices appreciate them (4).
- 4—Definitely not sprints (9).
- 5—More delightful with ice in centre (5).
- 6—Was a famous American miller (3, 6).
- 8—Mr Crosbie is Chairman of this N.C.C.U. District Com. (7).
- 9—The trainer does this (7).
- 10—Alan Paterson should be one of ours at the 1948 Olympics (5).
- 12—Runners should make full use of this kind of organ.
- 16—After a hard race many competitors look this way (5-9).
- 17—Shoo in London.

IMPORTANCE OF THE MINOR CLUBS

By JAMES L. LOGAN

It is often said that there are more potential Olympic champions outwith the athletic world than there are in the ranks of the practising athletes.

That there is a great deal of truth in this is obvious when we consider the fortuitous circumstances in which many athletes enter the sport.

More than one champion has made his first essay at the game, in response to a jocular challenge or friendly chaff from a harrier acquaintance. If such men had not numbered an athletics enthusiast among their friends, the odds are that they would never have entered the sport at all. In fact, it is probably true to say that the majority of harriers have been encouraged to join their clubs by other members or ex-members.

There must, however, be hundreds of prospective athletes who do not know anyone connected with the sport, or who do not live near the training quarters of a club. These men, perhaps, have a vague yearning to express themselves in athletic endeavour, but, initially, the feeling might not be strong enough to encourage them to join a club where they do not know anyone. Running is: definitely, a sport which grips one *after* the initiation. The problem, then, is to reach these men and turn vague yearning into positive action.

Let us, for instance, consider a youth who lives in a small town, say, near Glasgow. Occasionally, when his imagination has been stirred by press reports of athletics, or a visit to a local sports' meeting, he feels he would like to have a try himself. He has, of course, heard of Maryhill, Garscube, and other city harrier clubs, but he knows no one connected with them. He does not know their headquarters, nor the addresses of their secretaries. He could, of course, find out all these particulars if he was sufficiently keen. But is he? Usually not. His luke-warm interest "cools off"; and another prospective recruit is lost. The unfortunate

feature is that, if he was to be introduced to club life just once, he would, in nine cases out of ten, become an ardent enthusiast.

Let us, on the other hand, consider the same youth, if his small town boasted a minor club. On spring and summer evenings he would see the lads of the town lapping the local football field, sprinting, or jumping. Small towns being what they are, he would be on speaking terms with all the enthusiasts. An invitation, or a challenge to "have a go," would be inevitable. And another recruit would undoubtedly be gained.

Or, our lukewarm youth might be employed in a factory, or works, which had an athletics section in its welfare organisation. Lunch-time gossip would soon tempt him to visit the welfare sports ground.

Enough recruits to the game have already been gained in this way to assure us of the value of these smaller clubs.

Milngavie and Lennoxton are two near-Glasgow small towns which are showing the way, and, at least, one Scottish champion was introduced to the sport through a works club.

The "big" clubs, however, can do more in "missionary" work in this field, and, perhaps, help themselves, too. For no one could possibly object if a "star" produced by a "wee" club eventually graduated to one of the bigger clubs, where he would receive the coaching and facilities required by those approaching international standing.

Here, once again, from within the sport itself, is an opportunity to widen interest, to everyone's mutual satisfaction. "Big-club" members who live in small towns or work in factories which do not have harrier clubs, can do invaluable service to the sport by stimulating interest, and in lending practical support in founding more "wee" clubs.

THE VICTORIA PARK A.A.C. ROAD RELAY

By WILLIAM C. ARMOUR

[The social service work of Wm. C. Armour is well-known. He has given 25 years' assistance to Y.M.C.A. clubs and is now a popular Hon. Secretary of V.P.A.A.C.]

It is not so well-known that his father as a Clydesdale harrier was captain of a Scottish team in one of the first cross-country internationals.—[Editor].

I have been asked to contribute a brief resume of the Road Relay Race for the "McAndrew Trophy" which event is an annual promotion of the Victoria Park A.A.C.

On Saturday, 5th October, 1946, 156 runners covered an approximate 3-mile course, which number, comprising 39 teams, and representing 21 clubs, was a record for this event.

The ultimate winners were Maryhill Harriers, represented by J. Clark, A. P. Peters, J. Hoskins, and J. E. Farrell, whose time of 65 min. 56 sec. was 1-1 secs. better than Victoria Park A.A.C., whose showing in this race augurs well for the future.

Bellahouston Harriers finished third with G. Bell, D. McKinlay, G. Anderson, and A. McLean, in 67 mins. 01 secs.

Shettleston Harriers (B. Cairns, A. Hill, C. McLennan, and G. Craig) were fourth in 68 mins. 09 secs. Maryhill "B," fifth, (68 mins. 24 secs.) and Vale of Leven, sixth (68 min. 55 sec.).

In congratulating these clubs in getting inside the first half-a-dozen, it would not be out of place, I think, to give an extra pat on the back to the "Vale" whose boys in finishing sixth, performed grandly.

Individually, our Scottish champion, J. E. Farrell, clocked the fastest lap time with 16 mins. followed closely by Frank Sinclair (Greenock Wellpark) 16 mins. 02 secs. and, Andy Forbes (Victoria Park) 16 mins. 05 secs.

As to the race itself, we saw at the end of the first lap that J. Clark (Maryhill) 16 mins. 34 secs., led R. Mathieson (Maryhill "B") by 5 secs. with next in running order, D. Macfarlane (Glasgow Y.M.C.A.) 16 mins. 40 secs., G. Bell (Bellahouston) 16 mins. 41 secs., D. M. McLean (Greenock Glen-

park) 16 mins 43 secs., and, J. M. Lindsay (Bellahouston "B") 16 mins. 46 secs.

Victoria Park, with D. N. Ritchie (17 mins. 04 secs) were thirteenth, 30 secs. behind the leaders.

Second time round, Maryhill were still leading, A. P. Peters having clocked 16 mins. 51 secs., with G. Lamont (Victoria Park) 16.24, second, having gained 27 sec. and 11 places; D. McKinlay (Bellahouston) 17.02, third; G. Porteous (Maryhill "B") 17.21, fourth; R. Wilson (Vale) 17.22, fifth; and J. Weatherston (Glasgow Y.M.C.A.) 17.38, sixth.

Lap three—J. Hoskins (Maryhill) 16.31 maintained his club's lead with D. Macfarlane (Victoria Park) 16.37, holding on to the leader. G. Anderson (Bellahouston) 16.48, speeding up. C. McLennan (Shettleston) 16.44, now brought last year's winners into the running, T. Glendinning (Maryhill "B") 17.44, and, J. Getty (Vale) 17.31, kept the leaders in view.

Now, the grand finale, and everyone expectantly, and excitedly clustered round the finishing post.

As most of us had predicted, into sight came J. E. Farrell (16 mins.) who finished strongly to give Maryhill the Trophy, and himself the "Young" Cup for the fastest-lap time, both honours being worthily earned.

Andy Forbes 16.05, gave Victoria Park a well-fought-for second place and Alex. McLean (Bellahouston) 16.30 finished a strong third. G. Craig (Shettleston) 16.47, W. Nelson (Maryhill "B") 16.40, and, A. Campbell (Vale) 17.08, finished in that order.

So ended yet another grand sporting event, competed for by 156 real enthusiasts who traditionally upheld the prestige of this great game, a game which deserves more publicity and public support.

Congratulations to Maryhill Harriers, to all who competed, to those others who in any way contributed towards the success of the race, and an individual handshake to evergreen J. E. Farrell, to whom go the best wishes

(Continued in opposite column)

N. C. C. U. Notes

These notes were in type for last month's issue but were held over because of inadequate space. We feel that it is worthwhile and essential that the notes be still recorded.

The A.G.M. of the National Cross Country Union was held in the Religious Institute Rooms on Saturday, 21st September. There were 69 delegates present, each club being allowed two representatives. Lack of space prohibits a full report of this meeting on these pages, but we propose to relate some of our impressions.

Except for an enthusiastic representation, these proceedings were very disappointing, and, indeed, unsatisfactory.

For such an important meeting, the business was dealt with in an almost intolerably slow manner, but for which the Executive were not entirely responsible.

After the chairman Mr. John Follon, had welcomed the delegates, the customary reports were given by the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. G. Dallas, and, with very little discussion, these were adopted.

Proposed alterations to the Constitution were then considered, causing very interesting discussion. It is not practical to put points raised before our readers at the present time, but it is our intention to do so in the near future.

The striking feature at this part of the proceedings was the ability, in argument, of Mr. D. McSwain, S.A.A.A. Hon. Treasurer, and to be, later that day, elected to the same position in the N.C.C.U.

of us all in his future efforts for Scotland, and Scottish Athletics.

Here are the positions of the first twelve teams and their times.

	Min.	Sec.
1 Maryhill	65	56
2 Victoria Park	66	10
3 Bellahouston	67	01
4 Shettleston	68	09
5 Maryhill "B"	68	24
6 Vale of Leven	68	55
7 Greenock Glenpark	69	05
8 Bellahouston "B"	69	22
9 St. Modan's	69	32
10 Glasgow Y.M.C.A.	69	40
11 Victoria Park "B"	69	44
12 Shettleston "B"	69	54



G. DALLAS,
re-elected Hon. Secretary, N.C.C.U.

Probably the most versatile runner Scotland ever produced, George Dallas was an excellent track man, being Scottish quarter mile champion in 1920, and, by comparison, was four times winner of Maryhill Harriers Cross-Country Championship.

He was the outstanding speaker of the day and, no doubt, will be a very capable committee member for Scotland.

If we might make a criticism of his style, we would say that, because of his sincerity he stressed his facts with an over-seriousness that tended to destroy his powers of eloquence.

The next business, the Election of Office-Bearers, was carried out with an unfortunate lack of dignity. We are drawing club members' attention to this fact so that they will take a greater interest in national administration, but make no further comment.

The slowness of Ballot Voting must have been galling to representatives who had travelled good distances to the meeting, for instance, from Dundee, Gala, Greenock, and Edinburgh.

We question the need for ballot voting. Why not a straight show of hands? Are we not sportsmen? Why not meet in a free and forthright manner?

(Continued on Page 14)

STORY OF THE "KINGSWAY" RELAY

1946 RESULTS

By D. M. THOMSON

Firmly established in the West of Scotland as the official "curtain raiser" to the cross-country season, Victoria Park's popular "McAndrew Relay," is an event with which cross-country enthusiasts have long been familiar.

The "Kingsway" can make no claim to such mellow vintage, and to members of clubs now resuming operations after years of enforced inactivity, and, to others whose only knowledge of it is what appears in the Press, the mention of the Kingsway Relay must bring to the mind quite a crop of why's and wherefore's. True, it did not exist pre-1939, yet, since its inception in 1941 it has enjoyed the ever increasing support of the leading Glasgow clubs, whose entries, this year, were augmented by those of the revived Edinburgh Northern and Southern Clubs, and Kirkcaldy Y.M.C.A., though, unfortunately, the Northern were unable to travel.

Undoubtedly inadequate competition during the war years had much to do with the success this event has achieved, and, so far as I am concerned, I am content to leave it at that.

As one who had what might be termed a fatherly interest in the birth of this war-time babe, your Editor, in what must be one of his rare moments of indiscriminate, has asked me to relate how the Kingsway Relay originated, and to give a resumé of its subsequent history.

To do so, I shall have to draw upon

the strings of my memory to some time and, I trust, any resultant discords in the form of inaccuracies will be pardoned on the grounds that, at the time and place of writing I have but the scantiest of records on which to work.

At the outset, let me inform you that, when the race was first mooted by Jim Brannen, Alec Mudie, Peter Henderson and myself, the thought that it would become one of the leading open races in the country never occurred to us. Such a possibility was never even considered. All that we were concerned with then was arranging what, we hoped, would be an attractive opening fixture for the 1941-2 cross-country season.

Seasons 1939-40 and 1940-41, you will doubtless recollect, were pretty drab and uninspiring events everywhere, but nowhere, do I think, could they have been so dismal as in Dundee. Of the score or so clubs affiliated to the Eastern District Committee, N.C.C.U., in 1937-38, all but Thistle and Hawkhill were, through force of circumstances, obliged to close down for the duration. Rapidly depleting memberships, owing to the call-up, scarcity of recruits, and lack of competition, resulted in a not unnatural waning of interest in the ranks.

Hawks and Thistle United

During this period of athletic depression Hitler & Co. decided to "eliminate" Thistle's headquarters. The obvious solution was followed. Hawks

and Thistle amalgamated for the duration, and proceeded to operate from the former club's premises under the name of "Dundee Harriers."

About the same time, there came into being the Dundee Central Council for the Entertainment and Welfare of the Forces. Jim Brannen, who was in the process of making a "come-back" after 10 years' retirement, became athletics convener, in which capacity he, more or less, had a free hand, and was successful in obtaining the ready and willing co-operation of the Sports Officers of the various units in the district. Towards the end of season 1940-41 things were moving nicely, so much so, that plans were already made for the formation of an Eastern Cross-Country League for season 1941-42. The league was to comprise teams from Service units in the district, St. Andrews University, where cross-country running had found a number of enthusiastic adherents, and Dundee Harriers.

The programme was to consist of a series of team races, but, as a sort of get-together, it was decided to hold a six-per-team relay race, in Dundee, early in October, 1941. In close proximity to Hawkhill's clubrooms stretches the Kingsway by-pass road which skirts Dundee from west to east. Used regularly as training territory by Hawkhill since first they established themselves at Fairfield Street, the Kingsway was accepted by the club members as nothing more than that. But to Alec Mudie, the Club Secretary, this highway, with its trim carriageways, had long suggested great possibilities as a relay course. Its beauty lay in its simplicity. It was straight, flat, and required the minimum of stewarding. His suggestion that the league relay race should be held on the Kingsway was unanimously agreed to, and, accordingly, the constituent clubs were duly notified. The course

mapped out was over a mile stretch of the highway, the runners starting at the midway mark, running for half-a-mile along the west-bound roadway before turning on to the east-bound, of which they had to cover a mile before turning back on to the west-bound carriage for the final half-mile to complete the circuit. That was all there was to it. Nothing to it at all, or so we thought in September, 1941.

However, the preliminary canters with the Service units at the end of the past season had whetted the competitive appetite of our fellows, and, as the new season approached they were impatient to get into action once more. So new ground was trodden, and a team entered for the 1941 "McAndrew."

Jim Brannen, Culprit-in-Chief

As it transpired, it was at Scotstoun that day that our quiet little league relay took the k.o., and, in its stead, emerged the colossal, gigantic, stupendous Dundee Harriers' "Kingsway Relay," open to all the world. I was not present when this bombshell burst, but knowing Jim Brannen, culprit-in-chief, as I do, I have no doubt the attractions of the "Kingsway" would be painted in glorious technicolour.

At any rate, the first my colleague and I heard about it was on the Monday following the "McAndrew." To say that we were surprised would be expressing our feelings but mildly. Garscube and Maryhill were definitely coming, and possibly others. Mr. Brannen informed us. Garscube, we did not mind so much, for, after all, we regarded them as the Glasgow branch of Thistle Harriers at that time. But Maryhill! We were filled with awe. Just as we were recovering, we were informed that we would have to find a cup. "What cup?" we asked. It appeared that the cup in question was to be awarded to the winning team, and would be known as

the "Kingsway Cup." We also learned that first and second teams were to get prizes, and that there was to be an additional prize for the fastest lap.

Finding the Cup

The race was formally constituted there and then, and ways and means of acquiring the necessary awards discussed at length, for we had only a week in which to do the needful. However, the cup problem was soon solved. The Hawks had a cup which had become redundant on the demise of their one-time ladies' section, and it was decided to re-name this trophy the "Kingsway Cup." Some hurried lobbying of a few friends of the sport culminated in substantial and tangible gifts being made to the prize fund. The stage was now set for the first Kingsway Relay. Our initial misgivings had long since evaporated, and we looked forward with keen anticipation to welcoming our Glasgow guests on their first visit to Tayside.

Came the great day. If I remember aright, we had an entry of about a dozen teams, most of which were from the Services. It was a great race. Garscube, right on the crest that season, finished worthy winners, with Maryhill a good second. The winners' time for the six two-mile laps was 56 min. 29 sec. Emmet Farrell had the distinction of returning the fastest lap, his time being 10 min. 26 sec.

The Glasgow runners were complimentary almost to the point of embarrassment. The course, in particular, impressed, and, somehow or other, it became a generally accepted fact that the event would be an annual one.

That, then, is how the Kingsway Relay came into being.

Alec Donnet's Spade-work

So far as the subsequent races are concerned, tribute must be paid to the efforts of Alec Donnet, our new

N.C.C.U. vice-president, whose spade-work did much to maintain and spur further interest in the event.

For the 1943 race, the team composition was reduced to the more orthodox four runners, and the lap was increased to, approximately, three miles. By this time, Hawks headquarters had been requisitioned by the N.F.S., but the fact that we had no home to call our own did not deter us. Thanks to old friend Jack Qusklay, the pavilion at the near-by U.C.D. grounds was put at our disposal for the day. The entry had increased to about 20 teams this year, and, I think, it was on this occasion that Shettleston made their debut. It was Maryhill's turn this time, their winning quartette aggregating 58 min. 28 sec. We locals were more than satisfied with Jim Brannen winning the fastest lap award with a fine 14.14.

In the 1944 race, Maryhill again came out on top, and Farrell again gained the individual award to make it a Maryhill double. It has to be admitted that we blotted our copy-book that day. Bad stewarding turned the first lap leaders on to the home stretch considerably before the appointed spot, while the rest of the field, following the lead and advice of one of the local runners went on to complete the circuit. To rectify the position second lap men were to run a long or short lap, as the case happened to be. At the end of this lap things had pretty well been ironed out, but, as a spectacle, the race had been spoiled.

Records Broken

In 1944, the entry again showed an increase. Records went by the board that day, in which some of the fastest running ever seen in Dundee was served up. Emmet Farrell clipped 5 sec. off Jim Brannen's 1942 time, to make a new lap record of 14.9. With his clubmates, J. Hoskins, G. Porriens

and J. Wilkie having previously clocked 14.15, 14.55 and 14.49 respectively, the Maryhill quartette aggregated 58 min. 8 sec. to beat the previous best, established by themselves in 1942, by 20 sec., and so gained their third successive victory.

Shettleston Calls the Tune

The prospect of making it number four, in 1945, however, did not materialise, however, for this was definitely Shettleston's year. Always in at the death in the previous three races, they had the pleasure of calling the tune on this occasion, and their initial victory was a popular one. The winning time was 58.20, 12 sec. outside the record. Harry Howard made it a double for Shettleston, his 14.20 lap not being bettered.

This Year's Race

With Dundee Harriers now being disbanded and the constituent clubs reverted to their original status, this year's "Kingsway," held on the 19th October, was organised by Hawkhill Harriers, who will be responsible for this event in future. Now happily restored to their Fairfield Street premises, the Hawks were exceedingly gratified with the record entry of 27 teams, which, in addition to being the largest, also constituted the most representative field the event has yet seen. It was pleasing to see both Edinburgh Southern and Kirkcaldy Y.M.C.A. back to the fold.

As usual, the first lap was keenly contested and, at the change over, J. Clark, with a 14.28, gave the Maryhill first string a 4 sec. lead over Thistle, for whom newcomer C. Robertson would appear to be a definite find. Hard on the Thistle man's heels were Bell (Bellahouston) and Lamont (Victoria Park), with the rest of the field coming in every other second. McLean (Bellahouston) made the running in the second lap, to give his team a 12

sec. lead over Maryhill, with Thistle third, and Shettleston, who had been 11th at the end of the first lap, now 4th, thanks to a fine lap by Charlie McLennan, whose 14.28 was the fastest of this leg.

Running third leg for Maryhill, J. Hoskins reduced Bellahouston's lead to no more than 1 sec. Shettleston had now moved into third place, 50 sec. behind the leaders, while Victoria Park were only a yard behind.

A superb last lap by Emmet Farrell recaptured the trophy for Maryhill, whose aggregate, 58 min. 18 sec., was only 10 sec. outside their 1944 record. Bellahouston were second in 58.50, and Victoria Park third in 59.07.

The final lap produced the best individual efforts of the day. First home, Farrell clocked 14.23, but this performance was bettered less than a minute later by A. Forbes, Victoria Park, whose 14.22 gained him the fastest lap award.

Here are the times of the first 12 teams:—

	Min.	Sec.
1. Maryhill Harriers "A"	58	18
2. Bellahouston Harriers	58	50
3. Victoria Park A.A.C. "A"	59	07
4. Shettleston Harriers "A"	59	39
5. Thistle Harriers "A"	60	44
6. Maryhill Harriers "B"	61	00
7. Garscube Harriers	61	42
8. Shettleston Harriers "E"	61	48
9. H.M.S. Condon "A"	61	50
10. Hawkhill Harriers "A"	61	58
11. Edinburgh Southern Harriers ..	62	33
12. Kirkcaldy Y.M.C.A. Harriers ..	62	55

The fastest laps were as follows:—

	Min.	Sec.
1. A. Forbes, Victoria Park	14	22
2. J. E. Farrell, Maryhill Harriers ..	14	23
3. & 4.—Equal	14	28
J. Clark, Maryhill Har.		
C. McLennan, Shettleston Harriers.		
5. A. McLean, Bellahouston Harriers ..	14	31
6. C. Robertson, Thistle Harriers ..	14	32

The fastest lap recorded by a member of the Services teams was that of

A. Donaldson, H.M.S. Condor, whose time was 15.05.

Looking to the Future

That, then, is the story of the Kingsway Relay up to the present. From what was originally intended to be just another pleasant Saturday afternoon for Dundee Harriers and the neighbouring Services units, has blossomed an event which has now acquired the patronage of the leading clubs in the country. Hawkhill Harriers are hopeful that, with transport gradually becoming easier, more clubs re-starting, and the fact that Dundee is within similar travelling time of Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen,

future "Kingsway's" will be even more widely patronised, and that the event will take a permanent place in the National Cross-Country calendar.

I do not think my Hawkhill club-mates would like me to conclude without paying thanks to all the clubs and Service units who have supported the event with their entries; to numerous officials for services willingly given; to the civil and police authorities of the City of Dundee for their ready co-operation; and to numerous others who have assisted in many ways. To one and all, we say, thank you! Without such support it would not have been possible to write the "Story of the Kingsway Relay."

N. C. C. U. Notes

(Continued from Page 11)

We should be deliberate and unashamed, otherwise we are unworthy of holding office.

As distinct from Parliamentary procedure there can be no question of victimisation in sport.

Apart from principles, it is a practical suggestion which would help to speed up business at such a meeting.

There was no time for discussion on any other subjects. Fancy, at the first A.G.M. for seven years!

This made Mr. Joe Walker, the St. Modan's school teacher, make the most progressive proposal of the day "Make better arrangements in future . . ." and we leave it at that in the meantime.

No doubt the General Council will do their utmost in service to a healthy and happy sport.

Office-bearers were elected thus:—
President—J. Oliver Hepburn, Bellahouston Harriers.

Vice-President—A. M. Donnet, Dundee Thistle Harriers.

Hon. Secretary—George Dallas, 239 Cumbernauld Road, Glasgow, E.1.

Hon. Treasurer—D. McSwein.

* * *

The Eastern District Committee met in Edinburgh on Thursday, 26th Sept., 1946.

Office-Bearers elected:—
Chairman—A. N. Crosbie, Edinburgh Southern.

Vice-Chairman—P. Fraser, Edinburgh Harriers.

Hon. Secretary—M. Stewart, Edin-

burgh Northern Harriers, 94 Restalrig Avenue, Edinburgh.

These officials, with P. Henderson (Dundee Hawkhill H.) are representatives to General Committee of N.C.C.U.

Eastern District Relay to be held at Dundee on 7th December.

* * *

The Midland District Committee met in Central Halls, Glasgow, on Thursday, 26th September, 1946.

The new officials are:—

Chairman—D. Scott, Monkland H.

Vice-Chairman—G. Carmichael, Garscube H.

Hon. Secretary—E. Taylor, 118 Elderslie Street, Glasgow.

Representatives to General Committee—T. Fraser, Olympic H.; D. MacDonald, Clydesdale H.; A. Nangle, Motherwell Y.M.C.H.; and J. G. Scott, Hamilton H., and office-bearers.

The Midland 10 miles relay championship will be decided from Garscube headquarters at Westerton on December 7, and entries close on November 25.

* * *

The South-Western District Committee have elected their officials thus:

Chairman—T. McKay, Auchmountain Harriers.

Vice-Chairman—D. Canning, Greenock Glenpark H.

Hon. Secretary—G. Pickering, Renfrew Y.M.C.A.H., 2273 Dumbarton Rd., Glasgow, W.4.

These officials, with A. F. Neilson, Beith Harriers, are representatives to General Committee of N.C.C.U.

South-Western 10 miles relay to be held at Johnstone on 7th December.

OFF THE TRACK

*A little nonsense now and then
Is relished by the wisest men.*

—(Anonymous).

ference for Marathon Battlefield area?

In the meantime S/Sgt. J. R. Scott, R.A.S.C., Greece, sits and laughs his bloomin' 'ead off.

Best wishes for Scots Athlete.

Yours,

Motherwell RODDY DEVON.

[If you think Roddy Devon of Motherwell Y.M.C.A. is the rival in question, then you are quite right.—Ed.]

THE COUNTRY I LOVE

In pair of shorts and singlet thin,
I was inspired with will to win,
I started on, my "Five Miles" race,
With a good and steady pace.

I crossed a field, which slowed me down
My staring grin had changed to frown.
A barbed-wire fence I next did meet,
When, sad to say, I scratched my seat.

I passed some cows, and how they gazed,
I'm sure they thought that I was crazed.
A special plough was made to please:
I struggled through, upon my knees.

Then through a stream, up to my waist,
With muddy water made to taste,
To crown my woes, how sad my tale!
For now I'd lost the blooming trail.

I tottered round for miles and miles,
Walked up big hills—fell over stiles,
My foot was welcomed by a thorn:
I wondered then, why was I born?

I did reach home some time that night,
There never was more pleasing sight.
As I sat down, I felt so sore,
"Cross-country runs, I'll have no more!"

But soon I lost my aches and pain
And back I went to run again.
It's really hard to understand
Why runners say "It's simply grand."

Now, though a champ I'll never be
A real he-man it's made of me.
It "keeps me fit," gives healthy sleeps
And now I know I'm "fit for keeps."

—W. T. R.

AN ADVICE NOTE

Remember to "bank" your racing powers until you seriously require them and you will then find that the interest is there as well as the capital when you start to draw on the account; there is no safer, saner or surer method of training.—Arthur F. H. Newton, in "Running."

THE RIVALS

Dear Editor,

It is fine to hear and read of the enthusiasm of sportsmen in the Services who are constantly enquiring as to how their respective clubs are doing, how their neighbouring clubs are progressing and their joy at any special Scots achievement on field or track. A recent letter from Jimmy Scott, Glasgow Y.M.C.A., at present O.H.M.S. in Greece, sent to one of his old friendly rivals is typical of the spirit which exists among the "exiles longing for home"—a spirit which keeps them cheery under all circumstances.

It should be explained that Jimmy and his rival (?) had had many duels on field and track—no record was kept of how many victories one had over the other, each day's victory or defeat was all that mattered. Respective wives joined in. First question on the respective spouses arrival home was, not, "did you beat Farrell or Wright, or even Somerville, McFarlane, or Pickering?" but, "did you beat Jimmy Scott" or in the other case, "did you beat —?" Both tried road distance running, then the Glasgow man turned up with a certificate for running the full distance in the Poly Marathon, rival Number 2, after 2 years of wondering whether it was worth it, managed to finish in the Scots Title Race this year, over the Falkirk-Edinburgh course. Time taken was by no means a record one but Number 1 admitted that it compared better than the Poly effort. Oars were rested on till letter arrived, 19/8/46, to say that J. Scott now considered himself one up, because in the course of his military duties he had landed near the Marathon Battlefield—site of Phephides famous first marathon run—and telling how the writer had covered the most famous of all Marathon courses on a jeep mark you but still had covered the course!

What would your readers do?

Should the happy home be broken up by an enlistment and would the military authorities grant a recruit's pre-

U.S.A. ATHLETICS

National Collegiate Championships

Last month we published a letter from Mr. K. L. Wilson, Vice-President of the U.S. Olympic Committee.

Mr. Wilson is also secretary-treasurer of the National Collegiate Athletic Association and he has forwarded some interesting records of the U.S. Collegiate athletes.

Below is published names of the winners at the National Collegiate Track and Field Meet held on 21st and 22nd June, 1946, which is a major annual event in American athletic fixtures.

We make a few comments and comparisons as a matter of interest.

Bill Mathis, winner of the 100 yards in the excellent time of 9.6 secs, could only finish fourth in the 220 yards. Relatively, this gives emphasis to the standard of Lloyd LaBeach and Herbert McKenley who, according to Mr. Wilson, will be eligible to compete for Great Britain at the 1948 Olympics. Mathis is also the U.S. National 100 metres champion.

McKenley's time of 47.5 secs. for the quarter-mile is terrific (.1 sec. better than the British record of A. G. K. Brown) but is not his best race. He is reported to have shown 46.2 secs. which is .2 secs better than the existing world's record.

Robert Rehberg, winner of the mile, was fourth in the half-mile.

First-class performances were the general nature of the proceedings and the standard of their field-events men by far exceed the standard in Great Britain, in fact, some of the distances achieved superseded distances good enough to win titles at the recent

European Games at Oslo. For instance, Herb Douglas who only missed sharing honours in the long jump by $\frac{1}{4}$ inch with his 24 ft. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins, went through the air 6 inches farther than Laessker (Sweden) the winner at Oslo, whilst Bill Bangert, only fourth in the shot putt with 51 ft. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. was 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches better than the throw of Huseby (Iceland) which gave him the European Championship.

The full results of the high jump are given and the heights speak for themselves—a magnificent standard. This gives us an idea of what Alan Paterson, our Olympic hope, will be up against and of which Alan himself is aware. To our American friends and particularly to the high-jumpers, we can say, waiving aside any National prejudices that we may have—Alan Paterson is of this class!

Coming back to the track, the 2 miles time is not in keeping with the other performances. Frank Martin would have looked a novice at the European Games!

Taking the results all-round, the United States are definitely on the march. Performances will most probably improve before the London Olympic Games in 1948, which gives us here all the more pleasure. The better their athlete, the more we will look forward to their arrival and welcome!

SUMMARIES.

100 Yards

- 1—Bill Mathis, University of Illinois.
- 2—Lloyd LaBeach, University of Wisconsin.
- 3—Bill Martinson, Baylor University.

Time—9.6 sec.

220 Yards

- 1—Herbert McKenley, University of Illinois.
- 2—Lloyd LaBeach, University of Wisconsin.
- 3—Bill Martinson, Baylor University.

Time—21.3 sec.

440 Yards

- 1—Herbert McKenley, University of Illinois.
- 2—David Bolen, Southern University.

Time—47.5 sec.

880 Yards

- 1—Lewis Smith, Virginia Union University.
- 2—Malvin Whitfield, Ohio State University.

Time—1 min. 52.6 sec.

One Mile

- 1—Robert Rehberg, University of Illinois.
- 2—Don Wold, University of Washington.

Time—4 min. 15.2 sec.

Two Miles

- 1—Frank Martin, New York University.
- 2—Fred Feller, Drake University.

Time—9 min. 38.3 sec.

120 Yards (High) Hurdles

- 1—Harrison Dillard, Baldwin-Wallace.
- 2—Tom Mitchell, Indiana University.

Time—14.1 sec.

220 Yards (Low) Hurdles

- 1—Harrison Dillard, Baldwin-Wallace.
- 2—George Walker, University of Illinois.

Time—23 sec.

Shot Putt

- 1—Bernard Mayer, New York University (52 ft. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.).
- 2—Wilbur Thompson, University of Southern California (52 ft. 7 in.).
- 3—Irving Kintisch, New York University (51 ft. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

Pole Vault

- 1—Bill Moore, North-Western University (13 ft. 8 in.).

- 2 & 3—Equal: Robert Hart, University of Southern California; and Robert Richards, University of Illinois (13 ft. 4 in.).

Javelin Throw

- 1—Robert Likens, San Jose State (198 ft. 10 in.).
- 2—Bobby Lowther, Louisiana State University (195 ft. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

Discus

- 1—Fortune Gordien, University of Minnesota (153 ft. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.).
- 2—Irving Kintisch, New York University (144 ft. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

High Jump

- 1—Ken Weisner, Marquette University (6 ft. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.).
- 2 & 3—Equal: Tom Scofield, University of Kansas; Fred Shefield, University of Utah (6 ft. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.).
- 4—Dwight Eddleman, University of Illinois (6 ft. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.).
- 5 (Equal)—Dwayne Feeken, Iowa State College; Henry Coffman, Rice Institute; Charles Hanger, University of California; Harold McAferty, University of Colorado; and William Wakefield, University of Southern California (6 ft. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

Broad Jump

- 1—John Robertson, University of Texas (24 ft. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.).
- 2—Herb Douglas, University of Pittsburgh (24 ft. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.).
- 3—Al Lawrence, University of Southern California (24 ft. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.).
- 6—Lloyd LaBeach, University of Wisconsin (23 ft. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

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