

RACE FIXTURES

Dec.	14—Victoria Park A.A.C. 6 miles H'cap	Mingavie
	14—Eastern League Race	...
	14—Edinburgh Northern 5 miles H'cap	Musselburgh
	14—Garscube H. 6 miles Handicap..	Westerton
	14—Glasgow Un. H.H. v. Trinity College, Dublin	Garscadden
	14—Inter-Y.M. Relay	Jordanhill
	14—Dumbarton A.A.C. 5 miles Handicap	Brock Baths
	21—Clydesdale Xmas Handicap	Clydebank
	21—Dundee Hawkhill Xmas ballot Race	Lochee Baths
	21—Garscube H. Xmas Road Race	Westerton
	21—Motherwell Y.M. 6 miles	Y. M. L.
	21—Maryhill H. Xmas Handicap	Maryhill
	21—Xmas Race and Youths' 3 miles	Alexandria
	21—Auchmountain H. 6 Miles' Handicap	Carwood Street
	21—Glasgow Y.M.C.A. H. Christmas Handicap	Jordanhill
	21—Greenock Glenpark, 5 miles Handicap	Orangefield
	28—Victoria Park A.A.C. Xmas H'cap	Whiteinch
	28—Edinburgh Northern H. Open Ballot Team Race	Glenogle Baths
	28—Dundee Hawkhill H. New Year Handicap	Fairfield Street
	28—Motherwell Y.M. Xmas H'cap	Y.M.L.
	28—Dumbarton A.A.C. President's Team v. Vice-President's Team	Brock Baths
	28—Auchmountain H. Novelty Race	Carwood Street

1947

Jan.	1—Morpeth to Newcastle Open 14 miles Road Race	Morpeth
	1—Garscube H. Youths' New Year's Day Race	Westerton
	4—Vale of Leven A.C. 5 miles H'cap	Alexandria
	4—Nigel Barge Trophy: Open 5 miles Road Race	Maryhill
	11—Clydesdale H. Club Championship	Clydebank
	11—Garscube H. 7 miles Handicap..	Westerton
	11—Eastern League Race	Arbroath
	11—Motherwell Y.M. 7 miles	Y. M. L.
	11—Auchmountain H. 2 1/2 miles Handicap and Youths' Championship	Carwood Street
	11—Glasgow Y.M.C.A. H. Club Championship	Speirsbridge
	18—Edinburgh Northern H. Club Championship (7 miles H'cap)..	Musselburgh
	18—Victoria Park A.A.C. 7 miles H'cap	Mingavie
	18—Vale of Leven A.C. Club Championship (7 miles)	Alexandria
	18—Auchmountain H. 8 miles Handicap	Carwood Street

Published by Walter J. Ross, 69 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, C.2.
Printed by Kirkwood (Printers) Ltd., 152 Clyde Street, Glasgow, C.1.

THE SCOTS ATHLETE

PRICE
6d



MASSED START.—The start of the 1946 Scottish Novice Cross-Country Championships, with 280 runners, makes a grand spectacle.

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		OUR POST.
		CROSSWORD PUZZLE.

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.

DECEMBER 1946

No. 9.

Annual Subscription 6/6

NATIONAL NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The National Novice Cross-Country Championships were held at Pollok Estate, on November 23rd, over a five-mile course.

The worst possible weather prevailed, but even the heavy rain and sodden greasy conditions could not damp the ardour of runners and spectators who were rewarded by a most engrossing race over a two-lap course.

There was a magnificent entry of 35 clubs, comprising 280 runners, and they made a grand array lined up for the start.

Though it was a Novice race, the runners were not all entirely inexperienced. Many of them were well-known and had won honours in the past, in track races and youths' events.

Prior to the start J. Stuart (Shettleston Harriers) and J. Fleming (Motherwell Y.M.C.A.) were joint favourites, but while the runners were stripping a meeting was held and it was announced that James Fleming would not be allowed to compete. The announcement came as a great surprise to everyone, but to none more so than Fleming, who had been unaware of any irregularity in his entry. James Fleming, then, won honours for which he did not need to compete, for despite his great disappointment he displayed himself with character and forbearance in the tradition of a true sportsman. We admired his ability to be affable with all present, under the circumstances, for his heart had been set on putting up a great show in the race.

In the early stages of the race Mathieson (Maryhill H.) took the lead and at half-distance was about 20 yds. in front of a group of runners which included Stuart.

Mathieson really looked good but so did the bunch at his back. The leaders weathered the first lap well and it was obvious that the last lap would be a "killer."

Stuart, who seemed to be running to plan, and with judgement and confidence closed up on Mathieson, taking J. Smart (Edinburgh Southern H.), P. Donnachie (Dundee Thistle H.), J. Adams (Victoria Park) and R. Smith (Garscube) with him.

Stuart and Smart eventually got out in front. With half-a-mile to go Smart forced a two-yard lead and it was "anybody's" race. Stuart, approaching the uphill finish and still running in confident style despite his struggle with Smart, then started a real romping finish in classic style and was warmly greeted by the spectators as he broke the tape.

Smart, tired out after a very game race, was runner-up. Those "Siamese Twins," Adams and Smith finished third and fourth, respectively, having passed Phil Donnachie in the run-in. Mathieson was sixth though, if he had taken an easier first lap, it is possible he would have been farther up.

The race must have been one of the closest ever—a mere 17 secs. covering



NATIONAL NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIPS AT POLLOK ESTATE

(1)—The Start.

(2)—R. MATHIESON (Maryhill H.) running strongly, has a nice lead at half distance.

(3)—The winner, J. STUART (Shettleston H.), after taking the lead, puts in a great sprint finish despite heavy going and wintry conditions.

Stuart, the winner, from Mathieson in sixth place.

In the team race, Vale of Leven A.A.C., very wisely had their counting four running as a unit, and they well deserved victory with the low count of 51 points, beating the Eastern challenge of Edinburgh Southern Harriers by 17 points. Always a force in team races, Shettleston were third with 78 points.

A special mention of R. G. Strachan (Edinburgh Rover Scouts) who running as an individual finished eighth.

It was grand to witness such enthusiasm for the race. The sport is certainly flourishing when one considers the entry of clubs that travelled far distances, such as Aberdeen University Hares and Hounds, Doon Harriers, Dundee Thistle Harriers, the Edinburgh clubs, and new and revived clubs as Johnstone Y.M.C.A. Harriers, West Kilbride A.A.C., and Kirkcaldy Y.M.C.A. Harriers.

The intense exuberance of the 280 runners was matched by the lusty enthusiasm of a large number of supporters and it was most pleasing to see the reappearance of many well-known faces in cross-country circles.

Detailed results:—

Individual placings—1, J. Stuart Shettleston H. 25min., 53 sec.; 2, J. Smart (Edinburgh Southern H.); 3, J. Adams (Victoria Park); 4, R. Smith (Garscube H.); 5, P. Donnachie (Dundee This); 6, R. Mathieson (Maryhill H.).

First 15 team placings—1, Vale of Leven (Getty 11, Cole 12, Campbell 13, Gallacher 15) 51 pts.; 2, Edinburgh Southern H. (Smart 2, Smith 18, Mitchell 22, Pearson 26) 68 pts.; Shettleston H. (Stuart 1, Agnew 17, Burns 24, McLaren 36) 78 pts.; 4th and 5th equal, Greenock Wellpark (10, 32, 38, 75) 155 pts.; St. Modan's H.S.F.P. (14, 18, 60, 63) 155 pts.; 6, Victoria Park A.A.C. (3, 23, 52, 78) 156 pts.; 7, Garscube Harriers (4, 20, 54, 86) 164 pts.; 8, Maryhill H. (6, 19, 51, 89) 165 pts.; 9, Bellahouston H. (8, 16, 70, 84) 178 pts.; 10, West Kilbride A.A.C. (34, 41, 43, 72) 190 pts.; 11, Glasgow University H. & H. (28, 53, 56, 57) 194 pts.; 12, Clydesdale H. (9, 49, 59, 79) 196 pts.; 13, Kirkcaldy Y.M.C.A. H. (25, 35, 37, 113) 210 pts.; 14, Edinburgh University H. & H. (29, 48, 81, 100) 258 pts.; 15, Doon H. (46, 82, 85, 106).

CLUB FORMED 1945—TEAM CHAMPIONS 1946

Yes—the Vale of Leven A.A.C. winners of the National Novice Team Championship at Pollok Estate on November 23rd, 1946—was only formed in 1945.

And Bellahouston Harriers can make another claim of service to the sport, for their well-known member from the "Vale," Jimmy Gardner was the prime mover of the formation of Vale of Leven A.A.C., which was officially started on 5th September, 1945, at a meeting held in the pavilion at Millburn Park, ground of the Vale of Leven F.C.

The remarkable jump to the forefront in just over one year was accomplished with enthusiastic perseverance of the team, with the encouragement of their hard-working secretary, Willie Stevenson, and the experience, and sound training methods of their coach and Maryhill Harrier, Archie Peters.

Archie took the boys out from Leven-vale School, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and the pack covered distances varying from three to five miles. Emphasis was laid on steady pacing and anything in the nature of racing each other was "taboo." Fast starts were indulged in at appropriate times with a gradual building up of pace over the rest of the distance.

The training trails can be claimed as the most beautiful in the world, for their road runs are along "The Bonnie Banks o' Loch Lomond" and on Saturday afternoons for their cross-country runs they traverse the hills that overlook the picturesque Rob Roy country around Drymen.

Their club novice championship was won by Alex. Campbell, but he was only ten yards in front of J. Getty, another ten yards in front of W. Gallacher, third. The last mentioned, by the way, is a brother of "Skeets" Gallacher of boxing fame.

The National Novice Championship was a great occasion for the "Vale" boys. What an exhibition of team running they gave!

J. Getty managed to lead the team home, finishing 11th. H. Coll, who was

fourth in their club race, finished 12th and A. Campbell and W. Gallacher 13th and 15th, respectively, giving them the low total of 51 points.

There could have been no more popular success and the club-members were overwhelmed with hand-shakes. The reception by the other harrier clubs and the interest shown by the "Vale" public was, in the words of Willie Stevenson, "Sportsmanship at its very best."

Prominent people of Vale of Leven district have a keen interest in the club's activities and it will be recalled that Sir Ian Colquhoun, Bart., D.S.O., of Luss, formally opened their sports meeting at Millburn Park last July.

Mr. Hugh Craig, J.P., is Honorary President of the club, and amongst other benefactors are Miss Millar-Weir, who presented a silver cup for the club cross-country championship, and Mr. E. Hofstetter, a Swiss Consul and resident of Balloch, who has given a trophy for the club novice championship.

The Vale of Leven A.A.C. officials are expecting a big increase in club membership. Their club have done much to foster athletics in the "Vale." Their winning team is an inspiration to local youth.

Recruits could not join better company for the great novice team victory was brought about by enthusiastic and likeable lads with the true team spirit.

Cross-Country International.—W. R. McNeillie, of Bellahouston Harriers, is sponsoring a party to travel to the International in Paris on Saturday, 29th March next, and anyone interested should contact him at 9 Kent Drive, Burnside; or T. L. Davies & Co., 21 Queen Street, who are making the arrangements, for fuller details. The party will travel by bus all the way, probably leaving Glasgow on Thursday evening, 27th March, and returning Monday, 31st, and the full cost, all in, would not exceed £15 15/-.

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Photo Flash No. 1

JAMES STUART

(Shettleston Harriers)



TAISTO MAEKI



J. STUART

"Finnish middle-distance style, with its powerful leg thrust and even pace."

National Novice winner, James Stuart has set a fine example to the many young men who have come back from the Services with a desire to catch up with their interrupted careers on track and field.

As the most improved runner of the year his methods are worthy of the closest study.

Demobilised in May, Stuart, who was a Flying Officer in the R.A.F., at once set about picking up the threads of a running career, which before the war had been full of promise. He was a leader of the Carntyne pack of 16-year-old youths who won the Cross-Country championship in 1937 and won second place in 1938. He also was runner-up to Reid of Doon, in the Youth Mile championship of 1937.

On restarting his running, after his demob., Stuart decided the Finnish middle distance style as advocated by Paavo Nurmi, with its powerful leg thrust and even pace, came closest to his needs, and with Taisto Maeki as his model he set to work to improve his own style.

Working on a seven-day-week training schedule he made constant use of a stop-watch, but did no actual all-out

running except when in competitive racing.

The success of this training was shown by his handicap figures which tumbled from 135 yards to 30 yards. This represented seven firsts and two seconds in open races.

With his win in the National Novice proving he has stamina and staying power over the longer distance. Stuart intends to rest until the New Year when he will restart training to eradicate the remaining faults in his style in preparation for next year's track season.

I like the power and determination with which he runs and I am looking forward to seeing him develop into one of our 5,000 metres representatives for the Olympic Games.

Stuart is by profession an actor, and is at present appearing in the Citizens' Theatre with the "Bertha Waddell's Children's Theatre."



A STAR FROM THE EAST



J. SMART

James Smart of Edinburgh Southern Harriers proved himself to be a very game runner and one of Scotland's brightest prospects at the National Novice Championships when he finished runner-up to J. Stuart.

He has had a quick rise to note, starting running in 1944 at the age of nineteen. This is his first cross-country season, though he took Southern's novice championship in convincing style, for all his previous running has been on the track.

His first win came in the Edinburgh Union of Boys' Clubs' mile championship in 1944, and in the same season

won the Scottish Association of Boys' Clubs' half-mile.

During this track season he won the Crabble Cup at the Edinburgh Inter-Works Sports, for the second year in succession, as well as winning Edinburgh Southern Harriers' track championship.

Competing in ten open handicaps, he won three, had four seconds and one third, and brought his handicap down to the low mark of 60 yards.

He is a leader in Edinburgh Y.M.C.A. South Side Boys' Clubs and finds great pleasure in encouraging athletics among the boys.

This star from the east is still on the ascendant. The fullest light has not been shown. He will reach greater heights in time.

Bellahouston Harriers Jubilee Dinner will be held in Cranston's Restaurant, Royal Exchange, on Friday, 20th December, 1946, at 7 p.m. Dinner, 7.15 p.m. prompt. Tickets, 12/6 each, from Hon. Secretary, J. Todd, 48 Eastwood Avenue, S.1. All applications for tickets should be accompanied by remittance and stamped addressed envelope.

A NEW FEATURE

Thanks to the co-operation of Roy Robinson, the well-known Shettleston half-miler and 1939 Scottish Championship finalist, our paper will carry the new feature "Photo Flash" each month.

Roy is a very keen photographer and all photos in this issue, except those of R. Reid and J. Smart, are by his courtesy.

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LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD SOLUTION.

Across:—(2) Stamina; (7) A Tie; (9) Aida; (11) Art; (13) Dose; (14) Ear; (15) Patters; (17) Cel; (18) N.S.A.M. (20) Rod; (21) Pain; (22) Shin; (23) And so on.

Down:—(1) Handicaps; (3) Tips; (4) Marathons; (5) Niceer; (6) San Romani; (8) Eastern; (9) Attends; (10) Hopes; (12) Nasal; (16) All in; (19) Scho.

CLYDESDALE HARRIERS 1885-1946

This history, written by A. D. McDonald, was taken mainly from notes of the chairman's speech at Clydesdale Harriers' Jubilee Dinner held last year.

This is more than a club history, for the early record of events of Clydesdale Harriers belongs also to the history of cross-country running in Scotland.—Editor.

The Clydesdale Harriers club officials were gratified by the response to their Youths' Ballot Team Race, when 57 under-18's toed the line on 4th November, 1946, at Clydebank. So much so, they will endeavour to make this an annual event, taking the place of an Open Cross-Country Handicap which the same club formerly sponsored and which was decided over a seven-miles course, from Scotstoun Showground, always on the first Saturday of November.

But flicking over the pages of the history book, their breezy confidence and flair for doing the right thing is easily understood.

The Clydesdale Club has been in "the business" over a long period and for sixty years have made a habit of serving up the right dish for athletes and their supporters.

The 4th May, 1885, was an auspicious day for Scottish Amateur Athletics. On that day a conference was held which resulted in the following notice appearing in the "Scottish Empire," a sporting journal of that period.—

"At a meeting held on Monday evening, of a number of gentlemen interested in athletic matters, it was agreed to form a harriers club for Glasgow and surrounding district, the name of the club to be known as 'The Clydesdale Harriers.'"

"The following gentlemen were elected as office-bearers:—President, Allant Kirkwood; Treasurer, A. M. Campbell; Secretary, Alexander McNab, 99 Eglinton Street, from whom all information may be had."

That this early band of enthusiasts were not inclined to let the grass grow under their feet is borne out by the announcement in the same newspaper, dated 20th May:—

"Clydesdale Harriers Club. 300 yards handicap under rules of the Scottish Amateur Athletic Association will

take place on Wednesday evening, 3rd June, 1885. Open to all amateurs."

A World Champion

Schools and like organisations had, of course, taken part in the good old-fashioned type of paper chase but in September, 1885, the good people of Mulguy were privileged by being the first ever, in Scotland, to witness a cross-country run as we know it to-day. And it was not half-hearted measure at that, as the hares covered a distance of thirteen miles, taking around two hours to do the journey. A touch of colour was lent to the proceedings in these days by the whip carrying a hunting horn and we never heard of anyone not having sufficient breath left to execute his duty when necessary.

The object of the club as always embodied in the constitution was the promotion of amateur athletics in general and cross country running in particular, but in the early excitement of a new adventure, the committee was not hidebound by convention in their interpretation of this rule.

Thus it occasions no surprise to find, in an early copy of the annual report, that the 20 miles cycling championship of the club was won by the famous R. A. Vogt. Shortly after this, boxing was embraced in the list of club activities and not only had Clydesdale Harriers the honour of introducing open-air boxing to the Glasgow public but had under their wing the late Ralph Erskine, a world amateur champion of his day.

1081 Fully-Paid Members

The whole of the West of Scotland was combed in an effort to enlist recruits under the amateur athletic banner and amongst others in the early days we find well-known performers in Clydesdale colours, such as James Henderson of Chryston; Jimmie Campbell, Helensburgh; James Logan, Vale of Leven; William Thomson and John Clelland of Larkhall; A. P. Findlay and R. Dickie, Ayr, and Andrew Hannah and Charlie Pennycook, of Glasgow.

Of course, the path of progress was not exactly strewn with roses at the outset, and, in 1886, a break-away from the club resulted in the formation of

the West of Scotland Harriers Club. Just before this time, Edinburgh Harriers Club had been founded by the late David S. Duncan, and these were the "Big Three" in Scottish Amateur Athletics of this era.

In 1888, Clydesdale gained a slight edge on their rivals when they took the decision to form sections in Ayrshire, Dunbartonshire, Lanarkshire, and Stirlingshire. Each section possessed the advantage of a district club whilst enjoying the support and assistance of the parent body. Enterprise had its own reward and in 1893 the membership of the club had risen to its peak with the astonishing total of 1081 fully paid members—a remarkable achievement.

Clydesdale Sports Day Meant a Rainy Day

The club, in its early ventures as Open Sports Meeting promoters, introduced many notable performers to Glasgow, but for a long period Clydesdale Harriers Sports Meeting and bad weather were synonymous terms. So much so, that in one season we hear of a guarantee fund being called up and members paying £2 per head to defray expenses.

Clydebank Becomes Headquarters

In 1910, the National Cross Country Union ordained that sections were not admissible and in consequence club activities were confined to Glasgow, but thanks to an energetic committee, from that date until 1914, the club entered one of its most prosperous periods.

The opening run at Clydebank in season 1912 drew over 100 runners, whilst in 1911, 1912, 1913, sixty competitors was an average field in the Club Novice C.C. Championship. During the track season the fortnightly confined competition attracted more competitors than the average open sports meeting.

Then August, 1914—operations were suspended sine die and the club funds distributed among war charities.

With a nucleus of members in Clydebank, it was decided after cessation on hostilities in 1918, to re-start in this centre, and as a result the shipbuilding town became the headquarters of the Clydesdale Club as we know it to-day. From that date the glory of "C" uniform was dimmer than in days of yore, but the Clydebank pioneers never gave up trying. The name of the late Matthew Dickson will be

familiar to an older generation. Matthew Dickson was S.A.A.A. treasurer for 19 years. Alex. McGregor, Willie Gardner, John Kirkland, Charlie Middleder and Tom Miller all have "Clydesdale" for their middle name.

Over the last quarter of a century there have been only five occupants of the Club President's Chair. In 1932 Mr. J. C. Gray, C.A., became treasurer, and still executes this duty most efficiently.

Two old members, now settled overseas, John D. Semple, successful marathon runner in the United States and ex-Treasurer Archie Gourlay, in South Africa, are never backward in sending subscriptions, monetary and in kind.

Come On, Jean!

Season 1930 saw a big increase in club membership and that year it was decided to form a Ladies' Section. There was no lack of volunteers and in time no lack of talent in this latter force, as evinced by their record.

In 1935 Jean Tait brought fresh honours to the old club when she was chosen to represent Scotland in a cross country international, and, during the following three seasons, 1936/7/8, the club annexed the Ladies' Scottish C.C. Championship title. On the track, also, they had their successes, and Allison Ritchie was a good winner of the Scottish 880 yards event in 1937.

National Champions Fourteen Times

It happened in the good old days, but Clydesdale are still proud of their letter-heading, which reads, "National Champions Fourteen Times." And well they might be. In addition, on 18 occasions, they supplied the individual winner of this cross country event.

Track championships from 880 yards to 10 miles were also won in Clydesdale colours by "old timers," such as, D. McPhee, S. Stevenson, D. W. Mill, W. Robertson and Andrew Hannah.

Nevertheless, season 1938-39 gave promise of better things to come. Third place was taken in the National Junior Team Championship, while the "big uns" earned the most improved team medals in the Edinburgh to Glasgow road race.

Clydesdale Harriers Club is steeped in tradition—previous achievements stand out as a guide and an inspiration to present-day members. Patience and enthusiasm on the part of current officials is doing much to restore the old club to its former place of glory.

YOUTH TAKES A BOW

CLYDESDALE'S BALLOT TEAM RACE

There was a grand turn-out of youth in the Ballot Team Race organised by Clydesdale Harriers on Saturday, November 5th, 1946, at Clydebank.

The fifty-seven boys lined up for the start of the two-and-a-half miles race would have been impressed by the occasion as runners had come from all parts of Glasgow and surrounding districts and it was to many, their first entry in open competition.

A first big race is always a great experience.

The route was all fairly level road, starting at Clydebank, towards and through the new housing scheme at Garscadden, circling back to Clydebank, finishing via the road parallel to the Forth and Clyde Canal.

After the initial burst at the start, a bunch of six jointly took the lead and ran together for the biggest part of the distance.

As they approached the finish the pace "pepped" up and W. Young (Victoria Park A.A.C.) who had been running with ease all the way, sprinted ahead and won comfortably in 15 min. 26 sec. T. Millar (Kilbarchan A.A.C.) and W. Williamson (Greenock Glenpark) had a real "dust-up" and the Kilbarchan boy just reached home one second in front.

Here are the individual placings of the first 28 runners:—

1. W. Young — Victoria Park A.A.C. 15 min. 26 sec.
2. T. Millar — Kilbarchan A.A.C. 15 min. 32 sec.
3. W. Williamson — Greenock Glenpark 15 min. 33 sec.
4. J. J. Duffy — Garscube H. 15 min. 39 sec.
5. S. Lawson — Maryhill H.
6. D. Campbell — Shettleston H.
7. F. Cassells — Plebeian H.
8. J. Jordan — Maryhill H.
9. T. Pye — Auchmountain H.
10. D. Barclay — Plebeian H.
11. A. Macdougall V. of Leven A.A.C.
12. A. Smith — Plebeian H.
13. G. Haddow — Clydesdale H.
14. A. Foster — Airdrie H.

15. D. Kennedy — Greenock Glen. H.
16. D. Allen — Kilbarchan A.A.C.
17. S. Pollock — Shettleston H.
18. J. Wright — Maryhill H.
19. T. Millar — Maryhill H.
20. J. Mellon — Victoria Park A.A.C.
21. W. Andrew — Clydesdale H.
22. J. McBain — Garscube H.
23. W. O'Kane — Garscube H.
24. R. McCallum — Kilbarchan A.A.C.
25. A. Michie — Clydesdale H.
26. A. Hylan — Clydesdale H.
27. L. Howatt — Plebeian H.
28. E. Cullen — Hamilton H.

The Ballot Team result was:—

1st—T. Pye, 9; D. Barclay, 10; D. Kennedy, 15—34 pts. 2nd—W. Young, 1; S. Lawson, 5; 36—42 pts.

Clydesdale Harriers were naturally pleased at the response to the race and felt indebted to Mr. George Dallas, Hon. Secretary N.C.C.U., and Mr. Neilson, Clydebank Baths Superintendent.

We give a few of our reflections on the race

Following the leaders closely all the way, the race inexperience of the runners was very obvious. For instance, though they were running into a strong wind, they preferred to run six abreast rather than take protection from one another. One long-legged boy, because he was getting tired near the finish, thought it best to increase the length of his stride on the only stiff hill. This was fatal.

Racing is not purely physical effort. Every boy should learn that there is a science in running and that the mental approach is very important.

The boys finishing in the last half of the field need not be downhearted. Running is a strange sport and a definite study. All champions are not marked from their youth; some take many years to develop class. The race should be looked on as serving an apprenticeship, where experience and knowledge was gained.

It would be learned by all participants that running is a great, friendly and warm sport, with very cultured dignity.



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RUNNING COMMENTARY

by J. E. FARRELL.

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

Dennis Shore, of South Africa, recently ran 300 yards in the phenomenal time of 29.9 secs.

The official world record for this distance stands to the credit of J. Kovacs (Hungary) with 30 secs. dead, although the famous professional runner, Harry Hutchins, did this time, away back in 1884; another famous professional sprinter, J. Donaldson, is credited with a fraction inside even time, 29 61/64 secs. to be exact. In amateur circles this time would have been given as 30 secs. as amateur records are only given to tenths of a second.

Better than all these "records," however, is the 29.8 secs. put up by the Jamaican sensation Herk. McKenley, who within recent months has been knocking over records like nine-pins, in U.S.A. McKenley is a compatriot of A. Wint, A.A.A. quarter-mile and half-mile champion and, apparently, of the same type, tall and loose-limbed. However, until McKenley's time is ratified by the Federation it will not rank as an official world record. The same applies to Shore's time, in the event of McKenley's time not being accepted.

Outstanding Veterans—Some Examples

The merit of Shore's performance, however, lies not only in his amazing speed, but in the fact that he is 31

years of age, definitely a veteran in the sprints. When it is recalled that he represented South Africa at the Olympic Games in Berlin, in 1936, some 10 years ago, Shore's performance is extraordinary. Not only that, but he claims to be running faster than ever. Surely the sunny South African climate is not the only factor in his long-term retention of form?

Long-distance runners are occasionally noted for splendid achievements in the veteran stage, for example, Arthur Newton, and in the shorter long-distance events, "Dunky" Wright, but even in the middle distances cases are rare and in the sprints they are conspicuous by their absence.

In the middle distances we have the case of versatile Albert Hill, who won races from half-mile to four-miles and was also a dual-winner for Great Britain at the Olympic Games at Antwerp, 1920, when 33 years of age. The next year at 34 years of age he not only regained the A.A.A. one-mile championship, but set up the then English Native record of 4 mins. 13.8 secs.

What an amazing performance when it is realised that away back in 1910 he won the longer 4 miles A.A.A. championship in the fast time of 20 mins. 3.5 secs. Nowadays Albert Hill is equally well-known as mentor to the inimitable Sydney Wooderson.

Amazing Sprint Come-Back

In the sprints we have the classic example of "Johnnie" Riach of Ratho, who in 1923 came back to win the Powderhall Sprint after having won the same event in 1910 — 13 years earlier. Then 35 years of age, 5ft. 6ins. in height and 9 stone in weight—not by any means of muscular build—and after 16 years of running he was reckoned to be running faster than ever.

Then our own George Dallas was on the 30 year mark when winning his S.A.A.A. 1/4-mile title, and of course, "Bill" Robert's epic running for Britain in the 4 by 400 metres relay at the recent Oslo European Games, at 34 years of age, is still fresh in memory.



"DUNKY" WRIGHT,
11 times
Scottish
Cross-Country
International.

Veteran Elswick Star Still Winning

On Saturday, 9th November, Heaton Harriers ran off their annual memorial road race over a course of approximately 5 1/2 miles, which resulted as follows:—

1, A. Burns (Elswick); 2, R. Rankin (Benwell); 3, R. S. Walker (Saltwell). Perhaps nothing remarkable in that until we recognise this is the same Alec. Burns who was such a tower of strength in the unbeatable English cross-country International teams pre-war, consisting of Holden, Potts, Beavers, Evenson, Bailey, etc.

This tall loose-limbed pacer has the distinction of being the last winner of the A.A.A. four-miles championship as far back as 1931. Thereafter this event was dropped (as in Scotland) in favour of the three and six miles which approximate more closely to the 5,000 and 10,000 metres Olympic events.

Perhaps Burns' best performance was in an event in which he finished only second. In the A.A.A. championships of 1936, the famous J. Nojl. of Poland, won the six-miles title in the best championship time of 29 mins. 43.2 secs., beating Burns only by reason of his stronger finish. The latter's time of 29 mins. 45 secs. is phenomenal and stands as an English Native Record. The merit of this performance is brought out when we realise that his time beats that of the great Alfred Shrubbs, and is a mere 8 secs. outside Nurmi's British record of 29 mins. 36.4 secs.

It was rumoured some time ago that Burns might attempt the marathon event. Perhaps now that he has returned to winning vein we might see him at Morpeth? Burns, in common with the famous Ernest Harper, had one peculiar characteristic, namely, the lack of a sprint finish; but then these relentless pacers seldom had need of one—the "killing" pace they invariably set deprived their opponents of their customary finishing powers.

Another Coloured Star

The West African, E. A. Cofie, who has recently been re-instated, is reckoned by some to be the fastest professional sprinter in Britain and is keen to match his speed against McDonald Bailey, Britain's dual sprint champion. Twenty-six years of age, and 6ft. in height, this dental student

from the Gold Coast is reckoned an even-timer in the sprints and value under 50 secs. for the 440. It seems that Edinburgh Southern is the lucky club likely to have his services. He has run with distinction at Powderhall and in the North of England and apparently was unaware of any precise distinction between professional and amateur.

Cozens—Kept on Walking

Bert Cozens, described as a professional walker, (47 years of age) started walking round Romford stadium on September 30th in an attempt to surpass Captain Barclay's feat of walking 1000 miles in 1000 hours. Stopping only for brief rests he covered 2,652 miles in 1000 hours and went on to cover 3,000 miles in 1,136 hours, 12 minutes, i.e., 3000 miles in approximately 48 days.

Stated to be a chronic sufferer from insomnia, it is claimed that he rested for only 26 hours during the course of his walk, which surely puts him into the freakish category, in as much as he was able to preserve his stamina with the bare minimum of sleep. Cozens wore out six pairs of shoes and consumed 100 gallons of tea in his test which is claimed to be one of the greatest endurance feats of all time. But of course it is very difficult to grade feats of this nature where the emphasis is primarily on endurance. What is to be our yard-stick of measurement?

For example, Percy Reading, of Polytechnic Harriers, recently walked non-stop for 24 hours and set up a new world record of 129 miles 749 yards, at White City, London, the previous record made in 1908 by Tommy Payne, being 127 miles, 544 yards. In this case the race against the clock was the more pressing element.

Another Type of Test

In 1926, George Hessler Johnston, a noted physical culturist and hiker, claimed a world endurance record by hiking from New York to Pittsburg, a distance of 577.8 miles, in 20 days, without partaking of a single portion of food, only water passing his lips. His original intention was to walk from New York to Chicago, a distance of 1,000 miles but the condition of his

feet apart from other factors caused him to stop at Pittsburg—which itself was a prodigious feat of endurance. The hike, a highly-powered form of advertising, was sponsored by the well-known American physical culturist, Bernarr Macfadden, to demonstrate the possibilities of bodily vitality and endurance.

... And Nature's Compensation

Examined by medical men each day, "Pinkie" Johnson, as he was dubbed, weighed 11 stone 3½ lbs. at the outset and slightly under 9 stone at the termination of his "hike." As his legs did most of the work it would be surmised that they would be severely "thinned down" with the loss of over two stone in weight, but a comparison of "before and after" photographs shows quite the contrary. In number (1) we see the well-developed torso and in (2) a deflated torso with ribs prominently displayed—demonstrating that Nature had taken weight from the upper part of the body to protect the legs which underwent the greatest strain.

Photo Finish

Dead-heats are not so common in athletics as to be unworthy of mention. On Saturday, 9th November, H. J. Churcher and J. E. Rutland (Belgrave Harriers) tied for first place in a seven miles road walk, in 53 mins. 34 secs., with T. Lloyd Johnston, third, in 54 mins. 46 secs. Perhaps the first pair, being team-mates were not desperately trying to beat the other—but if they were really trying—what a temptation to break into a run!

Stuart Wins Novice "Crown"

J. Stuart of Shettleston, won the National Novice at Pollok Estate, on November 23rd, by reason of his extra touch of class and experience. Nevertheless he was given a harder race than many imagined and had many anxious moments before reaching the finishing line. Still credit must not be withheld from him. He carried the onus of being favourite under adverse underfoot conditions in which anything might have happened, and when the crisis of the race was reached he came through as a champion should. Smart of Edinburgh Southern was the "find" of the race, especially when it

is learned that he has little cross-country experience. When he acquires this most important commodity this lad might prove a sensation.

The youthful Adam and Smith were expected to be well up but surprised everybody by their powerful finishing efforts against more mature runners. Both are strong lads and as Smith of Garscube is still a youth he is bound to be a hot favourite for the Scottish Youths championship next March.

A curious feature of the race was the fact that the first four runners are all good milers. Has this any significance?

Disappointment for James Fleming

Due to having won a minor award in a cross-country race during the war years, James Fleming was barred from competing just prior to the start. Although the officials had no option but to comply with the rules it was doubly unfortunate that such a technical infringement should come to the notice of officials at such a late hour, as the lad was unaware of having infringed his status and was fit and eager to run.

During the war years scores of Service runners, of good class, must have competed in Service races. Who is to say whether or not they infringed their status?

It would have been most interesting to see Fleming match his speed against Stuart.

The Motherwell star may not be at his happiest over heavy cross-country trails, but there is little doubt that he is Scotland's best miler. Among other splendid performances to his credit was his second to Sydney Wooderson in the British Army Mile Championship. Let's hope this splendidly built runner gets an opportunity to win the Scottish mile championship next year.

Beautiful Packing by the Vale

Vale of Leven justified the confidence displayed in them by an almost perfect exhibition of team packing. They certainly had the right idea as to how to win the team race and they accomplished their task thoroughly.

Talking of team-packing, Glasgow University seem to have the secret too, as, led by capable Iain Laing, they

have successfully beaten Edinburgh, St. Andrew's, Liverpool and Sheffield Universities. Can they retain their unbeaten record in 'varsity contests?

Wooderson A Cross-Country International?

It seems that Wooderson will not be entirely lost to running although he states he will definitely not try any more top-class track racing, but will assist his club, Blackheath, America and Australia were keen to see the little marvel but invitations from these sources have been regretfully turned down. Interesting is the possibility that he may, next year, try the cross-country championships if fit and well. Would he be equally successful over field and fen?

Controlled Speed

Wooderson had gifts of great advantage to a middle and distance runner—a loose but compact style and the ability to change gear at a given moment. Many distance runners get so settled to the rhythm of their pace that they are unable to respond to an opponent or disconcert him by a sudden spurt, but Wooderson could change into top gear at a given moment and the story of his successful races brings out this factor to advantage.

News of Bobby Reid

Little has been heard lately of Bobby Reid, the well-known Doon harrier and now one of Birchfield's stalwarts. Disappointed with his running at Ayr, in the last International, Bobby has been taking things easily and aiming to time himself for "when it is necessary." He expects to run in his club trial on December 21st—in which the first seven runners travel to Chartres to meet some French clubs in an inter-club contest on Sunday, January, 12th. He thinks the experience may be valuable but does not aim to be at peak form and cites the case of Jack Holden who, invited to a similar race one January, finished 18th yet won the International title two months hence.

After this French test his programme includes the Midland championships on February 22nd, and then the English



R. REID

(Birchfield and Doon Harriers).

National on March 8th, at Apsley, outside London, when he hopes to help Birchfield Harriers to regain the English cross-country team championship, and (I may add for the modest Bobby) make sure of his place in Scotland's team for Paris; for due to his commitments on February 22nd and March 8th he is a doubtful starter in the Scottish cross-country championships on March 1st. Reid is the holder of this title which was last competed for at Lanark in 1939, and it would be a pity should he be unable to defend it through the pressure of events.

Jack Holden Still Eager for the Fray

Apparently Jack Holden, doyen of cross-country runners, is feeling so fit and well that notwithstanding his successful excursion into long distances he contemplates making another appearance for the English cross-country International team; and despite Jack's alleged statement that he is not interested in the Olympic Marathon, many closely associated with the sport believe he may be quietly building himself up with that event in mind. In cross-country circles he was noted for his ability to arrive at peak fitness for a specific event. Can he carry this same gift into the Marathon distance?

Representing Their Country

Incidentally, Holden has represented his country (England) consecutively from 1929 onwards, giving a grand total of twelve International appearances. Had it not been for the suspension of championship events from 1940-45, a period of six years, there is little doubt that he would have been well ahead of all rivals. As it is I believe that Thomas, of Wales, has 13 selections to his credit, though on one occasion he was selected Wales did not actually start in the race. The versatile "Dunky" Wright is better known as a marathon runner yet with a grand total of 11 appearances, he holds the Scottish record for International cross-country selection, one more than Suttie Smith, another stalwart. Jim Flockhart with eight appearances is next and but for the war period must have had an excellent chance of topping Scotland's list—especially as he is still in "the running" for Scottish team selection.

Championship Monopoly

The late Andrew Hannah and Suttie Smith are joint record holders of the Scottish cross-country championships with five wins apiece. Next on the list come "Dunky" Wright and Jim Flockhart with four title wins. An interesting point is that from 1923 up to the war period, Wright, Smith and Flockhart have, with the exception of one or two interlopers monopolised this championship between them.

Morpeth to Newcastle

This popular pre-war road race is

again being resuscitated, and on New Year's Day there is sure to be a big invasion of Scottish runners for this event. Maryhill Harriers are sending a team down, and there may be runners from Clydesdale, Hamilton, and Bellahouston, as well as others.

Alec Dow, of Kirkcaldy Y.M.C.A., has also signified his desire to compete. Dow an ex-10-mile champion of Scotland, has given splendid service in the past to Scottish International teams and will perhaps be best remembered for his brilliant third in the 1936 International event at Blackpool, from a field of 54 of Europe's best cross-country experts. Dow may compete in the Scottish cross-country championships next March, but feels that he may not be quite so speedy as of yore. He would like to tackle the full distance marathon, and should do well in this type of event as he has a style of effortless ease and glides along with the minimum of back lift.

Nigel Barge Memorial Road Race

Maryhill Harriers are again going ahead with this popular fixture on the first Saturday of the New Year and hope to get their usual large turn-out. Secretary, Fred Graham asks me to point out that in the event of a tie the team with the first three runners past the post will be the winner.

Howard High-Lights

This very interesting trail of just under five miles of undulating road is ideal for affording cross-country runners a chance to test their speed before getting down to serious cross-country work.

The last two races run over this course have been chiefly notable for the grand running of Harry Howard of Shettleston, who has twice smashed the course record, the second occasion beating his own figures set up the previous year. His time of 24 min. 4 4/10ths secs. is a target that will take some beating as on that occasion he ran clear away from his field including myself. Afflicted by a stubborn spell of staleness, Howard is training steadily and gradually in an attempt to reach his old form.

Scottish Cross-Country Prospects

It is rather early to assess probabilities for Scotland's cross-country team but indications are that there will be intense competition for places in the

team for Paris. Not the least interesting feature will be the challenge of Youth versus Experience and although the National test is one in which experience is a vital factor, exceptional speed and virility are also needed. It is good news to learn that Jim Flock-

hart is giving himself a thorough preparation, for this brilliant winner of the Brussel's International in 1937 is of the type that can pull out the bit extra needed for the big occasion, and his inclusion in a Scottish team would be beneficial for its steadying effect alone.



FIRST-RATE READING

DEAR SIR,—You can be assured of our wholehearted co-operation in your splendid endeavour to foster and keep alive the sport of cross-country and track running throughout Scotland.

As you know our club is in its infancy, but through stimulus of *The Scots Athlete*, interest and enthusiasm for our sport is being maintained down here in Vale of Leven.

On behalf of the Committee, I have much pleasure in sending a donation of £1 to help the development of the paper.

We are all delighted with the set-up of the magazine and vote it first-rate reading.

Best wishes and more strength to your pen.

Yours sincerely,

W. Stevenson,

Hon. Sec., Vale of Leven A.A.C.

FUN AND FRIENDSHIP

DEAR MR. ROSS,—This morning I received my copy of *The Scots Athlete*.

I should just like to say how much I enjoy the reading and do not see how it can fall to be a strong impetus to athletics in our country. For close on two years I have been a Bevin Boy, working in Fife, and can only manage a run with my clubmates once in a while. I find your magazine very helpful regards keeping in touch with the sport and J. E. Farrell's Running Commentary is excellent.

My club is Bellahouston and the fun and friendship among our boys is, I feel sure, a feature of all harrier and

athletic clubs. Nowhere can you find better companions and sportsmanship than in the ranks of amateur athletics.

Bellahouston is coming on well both in track and cross-country events and I feel sure we will in time regain the position we held pre-war. Personally I prefer track running and last season gained a few points for "The Bella" in sprint events.

Let me close by saying that this November edition is grand and I hope in time you will be able to increase its size and consequently its scope. It well merits the charge and will, I am sure, get the fullest support from every enthusiast. Yours in Sport,

James M. Cunningham,

Nitshill, Glasgow.

"GRADUATION" AND THE "WEE" CLUBS

DEAR SIR,—Reading in this month's issue of *The Scots Athlete*, I was very much interested in James L. Logan's article on page 9. I heartily agree with him on most of his points but I must take exception to his paragraph which states, "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 could receive the coaching and facilities required by those approaching international standing."

Personally I feel that this "graduation" comes to mean the poaching of good runners from weak clubs by the strong ones. I am very much opposed to this. If a "wee" club rears a "star" does it reasonably follow that he will become a "brighter star" when coached elsewhere? I doubt it. Sometimes a star runner is the backbone of a "wee" club and his departure may be a death-blow to his club and to the detriment of our sport.

Yours in Sport,

Airdrie.

R. J. B. Elliott.

TO PAY OR NOT TO PAY

By JAMES L. LOGAN

Payment of "broken time" is the outstanding question in amateur circles at the present time.

What do our readers think? We invite letters and short articles. This must be thrashed out in democratic fashion.

Here, James L. Logan gives a very stimulating introductory contribution.—Editor.

In two recent issues, contributor J. E. Farrell, has touched lightly on the subject of "broken-time" payment to athletes engaged in international contests. His position as a potential participant in future events of this nature (the 1948 Olympic Marathon, we hope) perhaps compels him to say rather less on the subject than he would like.

The subject, however, is one of profound importance and as it might affect the whole structure of athletics we should be giving it our urgent attention now. Other countries, we know, already have very definite views on it and if we do not have a clear policy when the subject is discussed internationally we might find ourselves acquiescing too readily in a system which would perhaps be repugnant to us when we found out its full implications.

The protagonists of "broken-time" payment use an argument which at first sight, is reasonable and democratic.

"Why," they say, "should any athlete be compelled to sacrifice the honour of representing his country abroad because he cannot afford the loss of wages for the period of his absence from work. It is surely unfair to the athlete and means that his country will be represented by second best or worse."

I cannot think of a reasonable argument against this. The principle of amateurism, remember, is that the athlete shall not benefit financially from his prowess. Compensation for the exact amount of wages lost does not, therefore, contravene the principle.

If we could be absolutely certain that the system would end here we could acquiesce in the knowledge that the amateur ideal was being interpreted in a reasonable and democratic manner.

But, right now, let us face the fact that the countries which are strongest

advocates of "broken-time" are invariably those who are immensely occupied by the "national prestige" angle on sport.

We already know of the extent to which some countries go to ensure that their athletic representatives will be one hundred per cent. fit for big international events. If Donald Robertson, for instance, was of almost any other nationality than British do you think that a vigilant authority would let him do a hard day's "graft" before putting in the all-important miles in the evening? I don't think so. For months before a big event he would probably work (not too hard, of course) in the morning and train in the afternoon.

It is a small step from "broken-time" for the period of participation to payment for special training.

The opponents of "broken-time" fear that any slackening in the amateur definition would lead to other abuses of any privileges granted. Over-generous assessments of wages involved, training "expenses" and other convenient methods of awarding cash inducements would be difficult to check and, anyhow, can you imagine the ugly situation if the ruling body of one nation reproached another on the subject—perhaps even solemnly breaking off relations!

The complete elimination of uneasy amateurism would not, as many people aver, put all countries on the same footing. We have to bear in mind that in some countries, for good or evil, sport is State-subsidised on a vast scale. Some of these countries, with their exaggerated notions of prestige, would go to ridiculous lengths to ensure that their top-ranking athletes would obtain every material advantage in obtaining "Olympic" fitness. This country simply could not, and I am happily confident, would not attempt to emulate them.

Remember, too, that the professional track and field athlete is not to be compared with, say, the professional footballer. The latter provides a weekly show for paying patrons, after the fashion of a stage performer. He earns his keep.

Athletics, obviously, does not come

into the category of a paying show in the same sense as football. The professional athlete, especially in the State-subsidised nations, would be merely a sort of gladiator, paid and kept by his country for the purpose of upholding the national prestige in sporting combat.

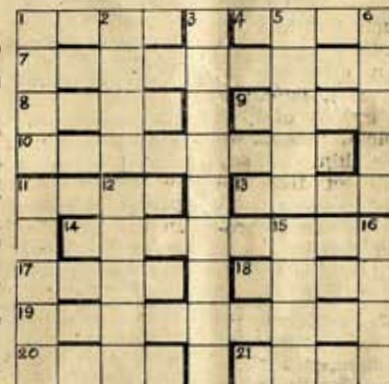
I cannot see this happening here, of course. But I can visualise a situation where excessive attention would be directed on a select few who give

promise of attaining "international" class.

Our free sporting institutions, which were in existence half-a-century before sport became organised elsewhere, exist primarily for the benefit of the many.

Whether new developments will be to the benefit or otherwise of athletics generally is the real problem we have to consider.

- ACROSS
- 1—The very best (4).
 - 4—It is essential to train for this (4).
 - 7—Every athlete should be one (9).
 - 9—Memorial Service (4).
 - 10—A Prince of High Jumpers (9).
 - 11—Big striders get along this way (4).
 - 13—Wooderson is a bright one! (4).
 - 14—If you run 100 yds. in 10 sec. you are in this class (3, 5).
 - 17—Important (4).
 - 18—"Run and" (4).
 - 19—Our quarter-mile champion (3, 6).
 - 20—A French head (4).
 - 21—Used in a field event (4).



- DOWN
- 1—A Continent (4).
 - 2—Small, dark-haired animal (4).
 - 3—Clubs sometimes keep him for the last leg (6, 3).
 - 5—Sphere of action (5).
 - 6—You do this before actually competing (5).
 - 11—In Scotland it is 160 yds. in the mile (5).
 - 12—Every one count in a Team race. (5).
 - 15—Higher than Tenor (4).
 - 16—Scots word for eye (4).

A Seasonable Suggestion

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