

SPORTS REPORTS & TALKS

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The Week's **MOST COMPLETE**
SURVEY OF ALL SPORTS

EASTERN DISTRICT RELAY.—Continued.

A slow second lap enabled Southern Harriers to take the lead through long-striding G. C. Mitchell. A feature of this lap was the running of R. J. Sherwin, of University, who took his team from 7th to 2nd place, Thistle dropping back to 3rd place.

The third lap produced no change in the leading positions, T. J. Logan, Southern, and R. R. Rowles, University, increasing their respective leads by a slight margin. At this stage it appeared odds-on Charlie Robertson's first lap time of 17 mins. 1 sec. being the fastest for the day, but when the last lap men loomed up in the semi-darkness, it was apparent that there would be a close contest for the honour.

W. Brown, who was 3rd in this year's National Novice, ran out the winner, giving Southern Harriers their first win for 23 years. T. H. Braid, University, put in a terrific finish to clock fastest time of 16 mins. 59 secs. Kirkcaldy Y.M.C.A. finished 3rd, thanks to a splendid lap by diminutive J. Preston.

Southern's second team ran very well to finish in fourth place.

Details:—

- 1.—EDINBURGH SOUTHERN H.—J. Smart. 17.21; G. C. Mitchell. 17.59; T. J. Logan. 17.35; W. Brown. 17.06.—70 mins. 01 secs.
 - 2.—EDINBURGH UNIV. H. & H.—G. Young. 18.00; R. J. Sherwin. 17.37; R. R. Rowles. 17.41; T. H. Braid. 16.59.—70 mins. 17 secs.
 - 3.—KIRKCALDY Y.M.C.A. H.—W. Grieve. 17.45; A. Dow. 18.34; J. Ritchie. 18.10; J. Preston. 17.23.—71 mins. 52 secs.
 - 4.—EDINBURGH SOUTHERN H.—J. Pearson. 17.44; J. R. Weddell. 18.18; L. G. Kapelle. 18.09; R. Wellwood. 17.55.—72 mins. 06 secs.
 - 5.—DUNDEE THISTLE H.—C. D. Robertson. 17.01; G. Simkin. 18.42; D. Gowans. 18.06; N. Ewen. 18.27.—72 mins. 16 secs.
 - 6.—DUNDEE HAWKHILL H.—72 mins. 24 secs.
 - 7.—GALA H.—73 mins. 24 secs.
 - 8.—H.M.S. CALEDONIA.—74 mins. 05 secs.
 - 9.—EDINBURGH EAST. H.—75 mins. 03 secs.
 - 10.—ROVER SCOUTS A.C.—75 mins. 08 secs.
 - 11.—EDINBURGH H.—76 mins. 53 secs.
 - 12.—H.M.S. CALEDONIA.—78 mins. 0 secs.
- FASTEST TIMES.**—1.—T. H. Braid (E.U. H. & H.). 16.59; 2.—C. D. Robertson (D.T.H.). 17.01; 3.—W. Brown (E.S.H.). 17.06; 4.—J. Smart (E.S.H.). 17.21; 5.—J. Preston (K.Y.M.C.A.). 17.23; 6.—J. Sanderson (Gala H.). 17.24; 7.—C. Smith (D.H.H.). 17.26; 8.—T. J. Logan (E.S.H.). 17.35; 9.—R. J. Sherwin (E.U. H. & H.). 17.37; 10.—R. R. Rowles (E.U. H. & H.). 17.41; 11.—D. Lucas (H.M.S. Caledonia). 17.44; 12.—J. Pearson (E.S.H. "A"). 17.44.

JANUARY, 1948

Vol. 2 No. 10

THE SCOTS ATHLETE

PRICE
6^D



LINING UP for the start of Maryhill Harriers 5 miles "Nigel Barge" Trophy Race. A. FORBES (Victoria Park A.A.C.) was the winner.

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| LADIES IN RETIREMENT by James L. Logan. | THE DISTRICT RELAYS.—Eastern, Midland and South-Western. |
| OUR POST. | ACTION PHOTOGRAPHS. |

ROUND THE CLUBHOUSES

Beith Harriers.—5 miles "Crawford Cup" Road Race on 27th December was won by F. Thomson (3 mins.), 30 mins. 14 secs. Fastest time, G. Lightbody, 31 mins. 45 secs.

Clydesdale Harriers had a popular Xmas Handicap winner in enthusiastic Findlay Allen. Bobby Boyd, off scratch, broke the 13 years' old course record standing to T. Arthur by 34 secs. when returning 16 mins. 41 secs.

Edinburgh Harriers Open Xmas Handicap Road Race over a course of five miles was held once again from Dr. Guthrie's School, Liberton, on Saturday, 20th December. Forty-seven entrants faced the starter Councillor Robt. Bell an old member of the promoting club.

At half-way distance W. Brown (E. Scott.) led club mates J. Smart and G. Mitchell by 30 yards and 50 yards respectively with several others following closely. When the runners came into view along the long finishing straight W. Brown had increased his lead from J. Smart to well nigh 130 yards and he went on to win easily by that distance, J. Smart finishing 60 yards ahead of G. Mitchell. The winners' time, 26 mins. 52 secs. was 1 min. 46 secs. faster than C. J. Hall's winning return last year.

Edinburgh Eastern Harriers held their Annual Open New Year Handicap Race, round the Queen's Dr.—Holyrood Park on Saturday, 3rd January, 36 runners competed. A pleasing gesture, due to generous patronage of the clubs many friends, was that every competitor received a prize presented by Baillie Farrar. Winner—C. Jones (Ed. Rover Scouts) (2m. 50s.), 15 mins. 27 secs. 2nd—D. Grainger (Ed. Rover Scouts) (3m. 50s.), 15 mins. 29 secs. Fastest Time W. Brown (E.S.H.), 18 mins. 3 secs.

Garscube Harriers Xmas Road Race drew a fine turn-out of 43 members including some of their better known track men, showing festive and sporting spirit. Winner was E. Murray. Scratch

man Alec Kidd broke Internationalist Donald Urquhart's record of 16 mins. 25 secs. by 5 secs.

Glasgow Police A.A. have recently organised a cross-country section. The enthusiasm has been overwhelming, since over 120 runners turn out every Wednesday afternoon, the runners having to be divided into about 6 packs.

Kilmarnock Harriers and A.C. had a grand Xmas Handicap Road Race. Scratch man "Danny" Wylie, the club champion, returning 25 mins. 45 secs. just failed by 5 secs. to catch the winner I. Morton (4 mins) who was running off the limit. The winner must be congratulated in registering his first victory.

Lanarkshire A.A.A.—4 miles Youths' Race from Hamilton was won by the grand Shettleston boy E. Bannon. The Lanarkshire Youths' Championship was won by the up-and-coming J. Lockhart of Castlehill Y.C.

Renfrew Y.M.C.A. Harriers held their Annual Xmas Handicap on Saturday, 20th December, from King George V. Playing Fields over a course of three miles. The winner, J. Armour, off 2 mins. 45 secs., showed the rest of competitors a clean pair of heels. One of the competitors, John Myers, made his 24th successive appearance in this event. John, who is now over 40 years of age, never misses his Saturday cross-country run. Fastest time, P. Lyon, 16 mins. 43 secs.

Shettleston Harriers run off their Xmas Handicap on 27th December, over 3½ miles road with an entry of 50 of all grades, track, field events and cross-country men, each bringing a gift as prize. All at Gartocher Road now believe in Santa Claus. A "hauf boattle" of "White Horse" graced the table and with other splendid gifts made a grand display. Many "come-backs" were attempted but found the "coming back" too much. Results—1st: E. Bannon (2 20) 2nd J. Johnstone (5.10), 3rd W. Wales (5.10). Fastest time, G. Craig, 17 mins. 25 secs.

THE SCOTS ATHLETE

TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN
SCOTTISH AND WORLD ATHLETICS

EDITED BY - WALTER J. ROSS

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JANUARY, 1948.

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RUNNING COMMENTARY

By J. E. FARRELL

*"The New Year Reviving Old Desires,
The Thoughtful Soul to Solitude Retires."*

FITZGERALD—Omar Khayyam.

A PERIOD of retrospect, of resolutions, of stock-taking; such is the NEW YEAR and the activity of athletics is no exception to the rule. The studious athlete may well try to assess his progress and consider to what extent he still has to travel to attain peak condition for his specific event or events.

With the Olympic Games pending, 1948 promises to be one of the most colourful years for athletics ever known in these Islands.

To what extent will cross-country suffer this season? Many cross-country stars with their eyes set on Olympic selection may prefer not to be quite at their peak for the big cross-country events and some may not indulge in any serious racing at all.

It will be interesting to note the reaction of such Olympic possibilities as Olney, Chivers, Gosney, Monshall, Forbes and Holden for example.

Notable Marathon contenders Tom Richards and H. S. Oliver who is attempting to recapture the form which won him the "Poly" race and a place in the European Games in 1946 have both been well-up in recent cross-country races; Donald Robertson too was looking forward to the back-ground of a cross-country season before getting down to the serious business of full marathon training. But the marathon is different

from the shorter-distance events and 7 and 10 miles are merely canterers.

There is little prospect of Sydney Wooderson being coaxed back to big-time track racing. The little Blackheath wonder is however well-known for his club loyalty. In assisting his club in the big cross-country events will he be concerned in the titles as an individual? His presence in cross-country races would provide much of the colour lost by the defection of other notables.

Is Pujazon Stale?



Evidently Raphael Pujazon did not set the heather on fire by his fleeting appearances during the track season and it will be interesting to see whether he will recover form sufficiently to repel his challengers and gain yet a 3rd win in the cross-country International to be held this year at Reading and so equal the record of his compatriot Jean Bouin who won this event 3 times?



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Or will he nurse himself for the Olympic Steeplechase in the Summer, an event by the way in which he is the present European title-holder?

Should Pujazon falter in cross-country circles, there is a heaven-sent opportunity for an up-and-coming performer to win fame. Can veteran Chapelle supply once more the amazing challenges which have twice made him runner-up but not the victor? What of Olney, Gosney or Bobby Reid who has up to the present disappointed in his International appearances?

Reminders.

The cross-country enthusiast who hopes to be at his peak for the National should be nicely placed at this time of the year. He should be very fit physically, even running fit, but with something in hand and not too finely drawn. A pound or two in hand (of weight) is advantageous for apart from racing the exigencies of our climatic conditions are most exacting and the racing athlete is prone to chills.

Too forward in condition it is necessary to ease off to avoid staleness; too backward, a feverish rush for fitness defeats its own ends. But with some fairly hard work indulged in up to this point and stamina assured it is now possible to concentrate mainly on speed but not to the entire exclusion of the stamina-building run.

Retrospect.

At this stage of the cross-country season Shettleston and Victoria Park hold the lion's share of the team honours although Bellahouston brought honour to Scotland in their recent great bid in the Manchester to Blackpool relay finishing grand runners-up to Birchfield.

Shettleston's successes include the McAndrew relay and the Midland district relay championship while Victoria were successful in the Kingsway relay and novice team championship.

Greenock Glenpark had sound victories in the Renfrewshire and South-Western

relay championships whilst Edinburgh Southern are scoring in the East.

In the individual sphere there have been many fine performances. Pride of place goes to J. Duffy of Garscube, winner of the Novice championship chiefly because his win was in a National event.

Challenge to Old School.

Eastern District.

Now is the time to discuss prospects in the various district Junior championships to be held at the beginning of next February as they rank second only in importance to the National championships a month later. The leading runners in these championships (especially those of the Midland District) may go forward to the National and challenge some of the old school for a place in the International team, a challenge that the latter may find

RACE FIXTURES.

1948

Jan.

17—Eastern District C.C. League 5-miles
Musselburgh

17—Glasgow Y.M. Junior Championship
Bishopbriggs

24—Renfrewshire Senior and Youths C.C.
Championships.

24—Garscube H. 7-miles Handicap Westerton

24—Glasgow Y.M. Championship Stanlane

24—Motherwell Y.M. 7-miles C.C. Y.M.I.

24—Vale of Leven Championship (7-miles)
Levenvale

24—Teviotdale H. Jubilee Trophy Race Hawick

24—Victoria Park 7-miles Handicap Milngavie

Feb.

7—Midland District Junior Championship
(7-miles) Pollokshaws

7—Eastern District Junior Championship.

7—South-Western Dist. Junior Championship.

14—Scottish Universities Cross-Country
Championship St. Andrews

21—Bellahouston H. 10-miles Handicap and
third Grandison Trophy Race Pollokshaws

21—Eastern District C.C. League 6-miles
Kirkcaldy

21—Garscube H. C.C. Championship:
Seniors, 9 miles; Youths, 2½ m. Westerton

21—National Y.M.C.A. Championship (7 m.)
Edinburgh

21—Olympic H. Race Springburn

21—Victoria Park Club Championship (Seniors
and Youths) Milngavie

28—Motherwell Y.M. 10-miles C.C. Y.M.I.

difficult to repel. Last year for example the three district winners were A. Forbes (Midland District), J. Reid (South-West) and C. Robertson (Eastern). Forbes went on to win both Senior and Junior National titles and gain International recognition. Reid also secured a place in the Scottish side, while C. Robertson, although failing to do likewise has since blossomed forth into a star over both road and country, with great potentialities as a marathon runner.

Eastern District.

In the East, Edinburgh Southern H. with Smart, Brown, Mitchell, Logan and Co. are likely winners of their section. I wouldn't be very surprised should J. Smart make it a double by winning the individual honour. Since finishing runner-up to J. Stuart of Shettleston Harriers in last year's Novice championship, Smart's form has shown an upward trend. One of his best performances was his brilliant lap in the recent Kingsway relay in which his time of 14 mins. 18 secs. was second only to the record-breaking lap of champion Andrew Forbes. Still, over 7 miles cross-country W. Brown, also of E.S.H. may be the stronger, and there are good reports to hand concerning the 1 and 3 miles Border champion, J. Sanderson of Gala Harriers.

South-Western District.

In the South-West district I fancy Greenock Glenpark have the all-round power to win the championship held by the other Greenock club Auchmountain Harriers who, of course, suffer the usual depletion of a winning team rising to senior status. West Kilbride, last year's runners-up should have a steady team but they will lack the leadership of last year's individual winner, Jimmy Reid, now of course a senior, whilst they may not take the risk of running young Adamson over a testing 7 miles' course in view of his youth.

For individual honours the issue appears open but W. McLean of Glenpark and J. Fisher of Ayr, 2nd and 3rd

last year, both appear to hold sound chances, as should W. Williamson also of Glenpark.

Midland District Championship.

For the team event in this section I'm afraid we can discount the chances of the holders, Victoria Park, whose brilliant counting six of last year gained such an overwhelming victory, and I fancy the issue may lie between Shettleston, Garscube and Maryhill. Shettleston have grand leaders in Craig, Jackson and Clark, and should Stuart and Cairns be fit to turn out they should appear almost certain winners. Stuart is not a certain starter, however, while Cairns has not yet fully recovered from the leg injury which has kept him out of the running game since last year's Midland race. This is a pity as the boy is of International class. Garscube should have a formidable team with A. Kidd, A. Warton, R. Mulgrew, D. Murray, J. Gunn and Novice champion, Duffy, whilst Maryhill, who for a club of their great traditions, have been somewhat under a cloud of late, though lacking individual stars have the potential all-round team strength to gain the championship in this their Diamond Jubilee year if such as R. Mathieson, J. Bissell, A. Stevenson, J. Wilkie, J. Nelson, J. Clark and H. Scoles, could reach the form of which they are capable.

The struggle for individual honours in this section should be one of the highlights of the season. In the recent Midland relay the three fastest times were put up by R. Boyd (Clydesdale), Geo. Craig (Shettleston), and Alex. Kidd (Garscube), and it is very probable that these three will fight out the issue for the Midland District June title.

Subsequently, Craig has continued to show outstanding form in club races, while Boyd and Kidd have both smashed course records over short distance stretches.

By virtue of his past record Geo. Craig is likely to start favourite but he may

be pushed to the limit of his capacity by both Kidd and Boyd. I feel that a month later in the National at Ayr these three will be red-hot candidates for places in Scotland's International team for Reading.

Must Veterans Bow to Youth.

Even at this early stage Craig is a popular fancy for the National title in some quarters. Whilst I cannot discount his chances I feel that a lot depends on whether or not Forbes defends his title. Despite winning the 6 miles track championship this year, Craig who had a brilliant career just prior to the war, winning the youths' championship twice and then the National Novice championship, has not yet quite justified the ambition of his sponsors. The war interrupted a promising career but he is now feeling the urge to run to a greater extent than for some time, and as this is usually an indication of approaching form, he seems set once more, to make a determined bid for the highest honours. I will be more than surprised should he fail at least to earn selection in Scotland's cross-country team.

Among those who forecast great things from his club-mate is that brilliant veteran, J. C. Flockhart, who has in the past forecast that Craig would subsequently outshine his own performances. This is indeed great praise coming from one of Scotland's best ever cross-country runners and one who moreover still has the ability to make Scotland's team if he has a mind to and can shake off the effects of re-curring tendon trouble.

Speaking of veterans, some of Bellahouston's near-veteran Internationals have not exactly set the heather on fire up till now, yet it would be unwise to envisage a land-slide for the team that won last year's National event in such brilliant fashion. For in the longer stretches factors of experience and judgment come into full play. Perhaps the Bellahouston men are shrewdly holding a trifle in reserve for the big occasion. However we shall see in due course whether the

new deal of aspiring youth can master the experience of maturity.

Speaking in an International connection there is no doubt that confidence (as apart from over-confidence) can be a vital factor. Once an athlete has received International selection he feels that what he can do once he can do again. As Jimmy Flockhart has jokingly remarked "Once an International, always an International." It was expressly this factor of confidence which Jimmy was emphasising, yet in actual fact he himself has been a fixture in the Scottish team for some time past—since 1933 to be exact.

Cross-Country International at 40.

While on the subject of International selection it may be of interest to know that Archie Craig, Sen., father of Geo. Craig, represented Scotland seven times and was once Scottish champion.

On the last occasion of his selection, "Baldy" as he was dubbed, had passed his 40th birthday. Moreover with a meritorious 16th place he finished first man home for Scotland, demonstrating that he was by no means a passenger in the team. I cannot say whether any other athlete of this age has ever duplicated this feat in cross-country circles (Holden would have done it for England had he arrived at Apsley in time), but it was certainly a most outstanding performance especially when it is realised that he was making a come-back after the intervention of the first world war.

Like Father Like Son.

Another interesting cross-country feature is that of the son following in the father's footsteps. Not only have Archie Craig, Sen. and Jun. been cross-country Internationals, but Willie Sommerville and his father can also claim this distinction. But with Geo. Craig likely to accomplish the feat of his father and brother in the near future this three-fold distinction would surely be unique.

Scottish University Championship.

A week after the district championships the University championship takes place at St. Andrews and a grand race should result. Recently Edinburgh put a stop to Glasgow's all-conquering run and on current form they look strong enough to beat the rest of the varsity teams in the official championship. For individual honours the name of Dick Kendall



DICK KENDALL

(Aberdeen) T. Braid (Edinburgh) and J. McGhee (Glasgow) come readily to mind. Braid beat McGhee in a recent race, but I fancy that Kendall, with his outstanding speed and stamina, should win the day. It should be a splendid contest for these varsity runners are team proud and will fight like tigers for their side.

Coming Races will Clarify Form.

The various county championships coming off such as the Dumbartonshire, Renfrewshire, Ayrshire, along with the various club championships and the National Y.M.C.A. championship will all help to clarify form for the bigger event just ahead—the National at Ayr.

Frank Sinclair of Greenock Wellpark, now resident in Newcastle and training with Blaydon Harriers, should be just too classy for his field if he elects to defend his Y.M.C.A. title, but he will find keen rivals in Duncan McFarlane of Glasgow and ex-holder A. Dow of Kirkcaldy. Runner-up last year, Willie Sommerville of Motherwell Y.M.C.A. is expecting to leave for Australia within the next few weeks and thus is not likely to run. Not only Motherwell will miss this fine athlete and sportsman and all harriers will wish him well in his new abode. He will carry with him many happy memories of good times with his harrier friends.

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PHOTOFLASH No. 11.**D. McNAB ROBERTSON**

(MARYHILL HARRIERS)



(Photo by N. Dudley, S. London H.)

Nearing the end of the 1947 A.A.A. Championship Race at Loughborough.

It is only necessary to recite off some of Maryhill Harrier, Donald McNab Robertson's major accomplishments to understand why he holds a niche for himself in the history of Scottish Athletics.

He has the magnificent distinction of having won the A.A.A. Marathon Championships on no fewer than six occasions (1932-33-34-36-37 and 1939) and in 1946 in the first post-war championship, though not fully tuned up, he just failed to get the verdict in practically a dead-heat finish—after the 26 miles 355 yards race, and, had Dame Fortune not frowned on him that day, would have certainly established an unsurmountable record and capped a wonderful career.

He won the first Scottish Marathon in 1946, and retaining his title in 1947 set up Scottish record time of 2 hrs. 37 mins. 49 secs. In the 22 miles Perth—Dundee, Sept. 1947 race he recaptured the course record with a brilliant 2 hrs. 3 mins. 25 secs. showing he had the speed for the very fast course.

Donald is one of Britain's Olympic possibles for 1948 which is remarkable considering he was selected for the Olympic Games held at Los Angeles in 1932. He was unable to make that trip but represented Britain in the Berlin Olympics in 1936, finishing 7th in that historic record race. Twice representing Scotland in the British Empire Games he competed at London, 1932 (2nd) and in 1938 at Sydney, Australia (unplaced).

At 42 years of age Donald aims to run his fastest-ever marathon for Olympic selection in the A.A.A. test from Windsor—Chiswick in June. His previous best, by the way, 2 hrs. 34 mins. 32 2/5ths secs. was made in 1932. With his stamina for the distance assured, he will train with the emphasis on speed.

Those who know Donald, with his modest, yet determined make-up and the assiduous methods of his training have the confidence that he will once more be one of Britain's stalwarts in the Olympic Games of 1948.

ROY ROBINSON.



LADIES IN RETIREMENT

By
JAMES L. LOGAN

THE list of over sixty women athletes who have been invited to regard themselves as candidates for a place in the British Olympic team includes two Scots girls, Miss Q. Shivas and Miss S. Burns. The fact that these two athletes run in the colours of Aberdeen University and Edinburgh University respectively can hardly surprise anyone for outside of University athletes there is virtually no method of measuring the athletic ability of Scotswomen.

Here and there, especially among the ladies who do such excellent work on the social side of Scottish athletics, one hears occasional regrets about this state of affairs. Undoubtedly, we have more than a few enthusiasts in our midst who have a strong urge to engage actively in the sport; who would, in fact, welcome a revival of women's athletics in Scotland.

Although there are few who actually condemn it, a surprising number of people within the athletic movement are inclined to look down their noses at women's athletics.

Women's sport in general is, of course, an accepted part of the national scene to-day and has the support of those interested in the physical welfare of the nation. Some sports, of the type that involve much physical wear and tear, are obviously for women.

The inference is that athletics comes into this category and to support the allegation many people recall that in pre-war days, when women's events were a regular feature and there was an annual Championship meeting, far too many competitors retired in a distressed condition.

Now, if we consider other sports, we must agree that some are at least as equally strenuous as athletics. The sustained effort required in a quarter-mile swimming race and the mental and physical effort of a 50 miles or 100 miles cycling time trial, for instance, demand more of the competitor than most events in the athletics programme. In the two examples, the best women competitors achieve performances equal to those of above-average male contestants. In Scotland, where the great deeds of our girl swimmers have directed much attention in this sport, we know that distress among competitors is rare. In England, where ladies' cycling events are solidly established, the incidence of distress among competitors, even in the searching physical test of the 12 hours' time-trial, is similarly rare.

The reason, of course, is that these women's sports are solidly established and are therefore backed by a generous fund of experience. The pioneer lady cyclists had to fight strong prejudice and it is only in recent years that their fine performances and well-conducted organisations have at last forced the critics to eat their words. But a dozen years ago, the inevitable "lady in distress" in every race provided these critics with a continual supply of ammunition for their attacks. As the ladies gained in experience, however, the incidence of distressed competitors declined.

Now, coming back to athletics, we find that there is one section where competitors frequently hoist the distress signal: schools' athletics. Obviously the reason here is simply inexperience; and no one

will suggest that strenuous sport is unsuitable for healthy boys (and girls).

On this reasoning, I suggest that the ladies who occasionally drooped inelegantly in pre-war events did so merely from lack of experience.

The splendid performances of women in other fields of sport and the excellence of their organisations leads me to the suggestion that Scotswomen, in time, can emulate their feats in the athletics world.

A modest beginning can be made by clubs who promote meetings by including a ladies' event in their programme. If they could be assured of fairly frequent opportunities of competition I am sure that a nucleus of keen performers would be quickly formed. Starting from scratch, too, might not prove the handicap it

appears to be at first sight. Coaches would be able to exploit all the modern developments, untrammelled by any deep-seated prejudices or the sometimes discouraging traditions. Given encouragement and adequate coaching, our girls might soon overhaul their foreign rivals and put their male counterparts to shame in the international field. Our wonderful girl swimmers have already accomplished this, bringing renown to Scotland and, more important perhaps, firing the imagination of thousands of their youthful compatriots, encouraging them to engage in a fitness-promoting sport.

To reach these heights, however, our girls must be given the chance to earn their wings. As ever, the initial impetus must come from the clubs, themselves.

PAPER CHASE

For the first time for 36 years the International Cross-Country Race in which teams from the home countries France and Belgium compete, will be held in the South.

This season's race will take place from the Leighton Park School, Reading, on 3rd April. The course consists of two wide and two smaller laps.

A Belgian representative has already looked over it and been well pleased; but the French Athletics Federation is concerned about the course. The French objection is that the race should be a foot race and not an obstacle race. "According to plans we have seen," the French Federation says "there is a water-jump four feet wide preceded by a six-foot obstacle only 450 metres from the start."

THE STAR, LONDON, 21st December, 1947.

PITY THE WRESTLER, TOO!

The British Olympic Committee has to date adopted an independent attitude regarding extra food for our athletes competing at Wembley, but a section of our competitors-to-be have different ideas on the subject. Fred Oberlander, 33-year-

old heavy-weight wrestler who is undefeated in Britain and is a serious contender for Olympic honours, thinks it essential that our strong men have their rations supplemented.

GLASGOW EVENING CITIZEN.

3rd January, 1948.

OUR POST.

Sir,—I note you mention in S.A.A.A. notes (Oct.-November issue) that a team of Scottish Universities Students travelled to World Students' Games without the S.A.A.A. permission; that is not correct as the S.A.A.A. could make clear. The World Students' Games were outwith the scope of Universities Athletic Unions as we only cater for Universities students and the Games catered for all students from Technical, P.T., Veterinary, Dental and even Military Colleges, etc. Universities men who travelled did so as individuals invited by the Scottish Union of Students' Sports Dept. We would like this made known.

Good Wishes,

J. A. QUSKLAY.

Hon. Secy. & Treas., Scottish Universities Athletic Union.

Dundee, 28th Nov., 1947.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT— BUT NOT FOR ATHLETES

By G. S. BARBER

As the title implies this contribution is meant to be a challenge to the "Food for Athletes" article by Allan Watt which we published last month. We have also received several letters on the subject which will be published next month with others received. Actually we are personally opposed to any campaigning of "Food for Athletes," but in the interest of the sport we are in favour of free discussion.—EDITOR.

WHEN are we going to grow up and stop making excuses for our athletic failings? When I read how simple it is for us to produce Olympic champions just by stuffing them with food then I throw my mind back to the past when we had lashings of the best home grown food, but still no Olympic champions. I am old enough to remember the days when a man training, was told first to cut down all foods, live spartan, yet to-day the trend is to glorify the value of all foods and feed on "steaks and slabs of butter" as Allan Watt states.

I have lived in and visited France, Belgium and Holland and have a shrewd idea how they live. In 1946 and last Summer I spent my Summer holidays touring on a cycle, staying not only in big town hotels, but in villages and hamlets. Allan Watt notes the abundance of food "in the shops," sure! but does he also note how many of the people who can afford that food. Does he realise that in Belgium an omelette costs 30 francs (3/4), a cup of tea 10 francs (1/1), a plate of soup 8 francs (10d.), a small cake 10 francs (1/1).

When he was in Brussels with the British team he was a guest of the Belgian authorities, if I had a Belgian visiting me I would ransack the cupboard and give him the best I had which would certainly produce a very wrong impression of "Starving Britain."

Alan Paterson is a soldier, and should get more food than a civilian, says "if I were living in America and feeding and training there, I feel sure I could add at least four inches to my high jump."

Why? Allan Watt has a friend from America after three months gained "a stone in weight and felt as strong as a horse." If Alan Paterson had that stone he'd never jump again,—except on a horse.

If it is only a question of food, why did Ted Vogel, Tufts College student, not put up a new world's record, when in October last, he won the America National A.A.U. Marathon race in Yonkers N.Y. in 2 hrs. 40 mins. 11 secs.? We have a number of runners in this country who could easily beat that time and they are on that "starvation diet," yet Vogel is America's best and they are "the best fed race in the world at the moment."

S. Kyriakides, Greece, one of the starvation countries in Europe went over to America in 1946 and beat all the well fed Americans in the famous Boston Marathon race.

Speaking of marathon running, are Jack Holden, T. Richards, Donald McN. Robertson, and J. E. Farrell getting extra rations? I read that they are running better than they have ever run.

We have convinced ourselves from a psychological point of view that we are starving—Nonsense! The trouble with us is that we do not concentrate on our training. We know now that we have only a few who have any possible chance of even competing in the Olympic Games—let alone winning an event. Right! let us concentrate on them, forget all the others. Why waste time on athletes who have no earthly chance, give every training facility to the precious few, let them train when they want to. Do not limit them to a certain day or evening, surely it is in the grounds of possibility that some athletic ground could be available, with warm stripping accommodation and plenty of opportunity for hot baths. Too

much time is devoted to discussing styles, we are too late now for that. The ones who have been selected have reached that position with the style they alone have adopted, no one would dare tell Donald Robertson to change his style, yet we know it is terrible. Was the late Eric Liddell a stylist? Not on your life, but he got there all the same.

Let the athletes concerned forget all club events from now until the Games. How many of our people have a Plan in their mind? Hardly any. They turn up at their local club headquarters for a run, strip, then comes the usual argument as to how far they want to go, and vaguely someone starts off and the run depends on how someone else feels. Anyone who has followed a harrier club,

knows fully well, this is how "training" goes on.

This for the few should be changed, let them have a Plan, forget the question that we are not fed enough, it doesn't mean all that much, its only an excuse. Dr. Paul Dudley White, foremost U.S. heart specialist and Professor of Medicine at Harvard says "20 per cent. of adult Americans over-eat, some to the point of gluttony,—it is the skinny people of the earth who retain their vigour." Of course I am not a champion, I am not a specialist, I am only one of the men in the street but I have followed athletics and athletes (in other ways) and am getting tired of hearing excuses. If we are going to get a beating, very well, lets get beat but please don't let us cry after—or before.

THE MORPETH RACE.

Bert Hemsley, (Gosforth), local favourite made a great come-back to win the Morpeth-Newcastle 13½ miles road race which he last won in 1937. In so doing he foiled a bid by Charlie Robertson of Dundee Thistle whose 2nd place, in this his first attempt represents a magnificent debut.

Conditions were fair when the 80 starters out of an entry of 101 set out. Off to a brisk start the field soon settled with Charlie Robertson out in front making every post a winning post. Close behind the order was Harding (Heaton, Tyrer (Sutton), Farrell, Smith of Blaydon, Hemsley. At Stannington first check-point (Approx. 4½ miles) rain began to fall heavily. Robertson now 40 yards in front of next group including Harding, Tyrer, McMinnis (Sutton) Farrell, Hemsley. Time of 23 mins. 41 secs.—1 min. outside record and 11 secs. outside last year's time at this sector.

At the top of Blagdon Hill, Robertson had consolidated lead to over 100 yards, and looked a likely winner. Hemsley was now running strongly however and went into 2nd place taking McMinnis with him.

At seaton Burn, about 6 miles to go, Robertson still held his lead from Hemsley and McMinnis.

Hemsley Opens Out.

Within the next 2 miles Hemsley kept going strongly and cut down Robertson's

lead considerably. At Gosforth Park Gates he was close up to Robertson with McMinnis, Farrell and Harding well strung out.

3 miles to go Hemsley and Robertson were running neck and neck but the former was stronger. About a mile to go Hemsley had a slight lead which he steadily increased to finish the winner by approximately 130 yards.

RESULTS —

1. B. L. Hemsley (Gosforth), 1 hr. 13 mins. 15 3/5 secs.
2. C. D. Robertson (Dundee Thistle), 1 hr. 13 mins. 38 secs.
3. W. McMinnis (Sutton Harriers), 1 hr. 14 mins. 3 secs.
4. J. E. Farrell (Maryhill Harriers), 1 hr. 14 mins. 45 secs.
5. W. Harding (Heaton Harriers), 1 hr. 14 mins. 46 secs.
6. A. E. Tyrer (Sutton). — — —

Sutton Harriers with splendid packing took custody of the handsome new 75 guineas trophy.

Charlie Robertson again demonstrated his great potentialities as a distance and his courage in setting his own pace was noteworthy. I can't help feeling that he had the winning of this race but Hemsley deserves great credit for his never-say-die spirit. Even allowing for the furlong shorter course his winning time of 1 min. 13 secs. 15 3/5 secs. compares more than favourably with his corresponding 1937 time of 1 min. 15 secs. 48 3/5 secs.

J. E. FARRELL.

DISTRICT RELAYS

SOUTH-WESTERN RELAY

By GEORGE PICKERING,

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

THE S.W. 10 miles Relay was held from Beith Harriers' headquarters on 6th December, 1947.

15 teams representing 10 clubs faced the starter. The trail was very heavy, taking in two ploughs. At the



end of the first lap, G. Adamson (West Kilbride A.A.C.) was leading veteran D. Turner, Glenpark, by 16s, followed by D. Wark, Kilmarnock 4 secs. behind. The positions at the end of the second lap showed that J. Armstrong (Glenpark) had taken the lead

over T. Reid (W. Kilbride). J. Fisher (Ayr) ran very well in this lap bringing his club from 12th place to 4th, his time showing only 2 secs. slower than the leader of the first lap.

The third lap positions showed little change, with Glenpark leading West Kilbride by 70 yards. This was giving Internationalist J. Reid something to do to catch young Williamson (Glenpark) over the last lap and so it proved. The Glenparker hung grimly on to his lead, Reid reducing it to 10 yards. Reid, by his running, put up the fastest time. Third position was hotly contested between Kilmarnock and Kilbarchan, the verdict being in favour of Kilbarchan after a neck-and-neck finish.

The following are the results:—

- 1.—GREENOCK GLENPARK H.—D. Turner, 14.53; J. W. Armstrong, 15.02; W. McLean, 14.39; W. Williamson, 14.31.—59 mins. 05 secs.
- 2.—WEST KILBRIDE A.A.C.—G. Adamson, 14.37; T. Reid, 15.20; G. Houston, 15.20; J. Reid, 14.22.—59 mins. 39 secs.
- 3.—KILBARCHAN A.A.C.—W. Kennedy, 15.05; K. McKinnon, 15.15; P. Docherty, 15.13; T. Miller, 14.56.—60 mins. 29 secs.
- 4.—KILMARNOCK H.—D. C. Wark, 14.57; T. Tod, 15.45; J. Wylie, 14.47; W. Morton, 15.00.—61 mins. 29 secs.
- 5.—AUCHMOUNTAIN H.—61 mins. 2 secs.
- 6.—BEITH H.—61 mins. 7 secs.
- 7.—DOON H.—61 mins. 45 secs.
- 8.—GREENOCK GLENPARK "B."—62 mins. 03 secs.
- 9.—AYR A.A.C.—62 mins. 05 secs.

- 10.—AUCHMOUNTAIN "B."—63 mins. 08 secs.
 - 11.—GREENOCK WELLPARK.—63 mins. 32 secs.
 - 12.—WEST KILBRIDE "B."—64 mins. 42 secs.
 - 13.—PAISLEY H.—65 mins. 43 secs.
 - 14.—DOON "B."—65 mins. 64 secs.
 - 15.—KILBARCHAN "B."—66 mins. 36 secs.
- PASTEST TIMES.—J. Reid (West Kilbride), 14.22; W. Williamson, 14.31; G. Adamson, 14.37.

THE MIDLAND RELAY

By EDWIN TAYLOR

(Hon. Secy., Midland District, N.C.C.U.)

THE Midland District 10 Miles Cross-Country Relay Championship was held at Dalzell Estate, Motherwell, on 6th December, 1947.

Last year, Bellahouston put their name on the Trophy for the first time, but were unable to repeat the feat. Shettleston, through Ross, Craig, Jackson and McLennan, heading them, to win for the fifth time. Other past winners were Motherwell Y.M. once, Plebeian four, and Maryhill once, and it is to be hoped that these first two clubs can regain their former strength in the near future and bring their time-honoured names to the forefront again—thus will Scotland's strength be built up for the International field.

Garscube did well to finish third, and Victoria Park, who were unable to call on the services of G. Lamont, were fourth.

R. Boyd, Clydesdale, astounded most spectators by returning fastest time against a top-notch field but his club were not surprised and with a little stronger backing to G. White and Boyd, Clydesdale would be "shaking up" the usual leaders.

Shettleston "B" finished fifth giving an indication of growing "tail" strength, internationalists Flockhart and McAllister returning creditable performances after their short lie off. 26 teams from 16 clubs started, 23 finished, 3 losing the trail. This relay seems to be "haunted by phantoms"—last year Lamb (Bellahouston) chased one, this year Jackson (Shettleston) was chased by two. Unfortunately St. Modan's and Victoria Park "C" in the dusk left the trail and turned up near the finish, beside Jackson, much to his consternation, as he had had a substantial lead in hand.



Mr. R. BROWN, President Motherwell Y.M.C.A. Harriers, presenting the Midland Relay Trophy to the President of the winning team, Mr. A. STEVENSON of Shettleston Harriers. Standing alongside is last-leg runner, A. JACKSON.

Detailed results are as follows:—

- 1.—SHETTLESTON H.—J. C. Ross, 13.17; G. Craig, 12.54; D. Jackson, 13.29; C. McLennan, 13.18.—52 mins. 58 secs.
 - 2.—BELLAHOUSTON H.—A. McGregor, 13.20; T. Lamb, 13.29; G. Anderson, 13.39; A. McLean, 13.12.—53 mins. 43 secs.
 - 3.—GARSCLUBE H.—D. Murray, 13.38; A. Warton, 13.43; A. Kidd, 12.58; T. Daily, 13.27.—53 mins. 46 secs.
 - 4.—VICTORIA PARK A.A.C.—J. Adam, 13.44; C. Forbes, 13.39; G. Cunningham, 13.24; A. Forbes, 13.07.—53 mins. 54 secs.
 - 5.—SHETTLESTON "B."—D. Agnew, 13.56; A. Hill, 13.42; J. C. Flockhart, 13.21; E. McAllister, 13.24.—54 mins. 23 secs.
 - 6.—MARYHILL H.—54 mins. 28 secs.
 - 7.—CLYDESDALE H.—54 mins. 31 secs.
 - 8.—VALE OF LEVEN.—54 mins. 59 secs.
 - 9.—BELLAHOUSTON "B."—54 mins. 59 secs.
 - 10.—SPRINGBURN H.—56 mins. 04 secs.
 - 11.—GARSCLUBE "B."—56 mins. 04 secs.
 - 12.—MARYHILL "B."—56 mins. 17 secs.
 - 13.—BELLAHOUSTON "C."—56 mins. 54 secs.
 - 14.—SHETTLESTON "C."—56 mins. 58 secs.
 - 15.—GLASGOW UNIV.—56 mins. 59 secs.
 - 16.—PLEBEIAN H.—57 mins. 04 secs.
 - 17.—SPRINGBURN "B."—57 mins. 19 secs.
 - 18.—MONKLAND H.—57 mins. 45 secs.
 - 19.—HAMILTON H.—57 mins. 46 secs.
 - 20.—MOTHERWELL Y.M.—57 mins. 55 secs.
 - 21.—HILLINGTON H.—58 mins. 06 secs.
 - 22.—VALE OF LEVEN "B."—58 mins. 14 secs.
 - 23.—LARKHALL Y.M.—58 mins. 52 secs.
- S. Modan's A.A.C. and Victoria Park "B" and "C" teams went off the trail.
- PASTEST TIMES.—1.—R. Boyd (Clydesdale), 12.51; 2.—G. Craig (Shettleston), 12.54; 3.—A. Kidd (Garscube), 12.58; 4.—A. Forbes (Victoria Park), 13.07; 5. 6 and 7 equal—J. E. Farrell (Maryhill), A. McLean (Bellahouston), W. Sommerville (Motherwell Y.M.C.A.), 13.12; 8.—W. Lennie (Vale of Leven), 13.15.

EASTERN DISTRICT RELAY

By M. STEWART

(Hon. Secy. Eastern District N.C.C.U.)

THE Eastern District Relay Championship for the George McKenzie Trophy, was decided from Edinburgh University Hares and Hounds H.Q., King's Buildings, west Mains Road, on Saturday, 6th Dec., 1947.

An entry of 13 teams was received, but was reduced to 12 starters by the withdrawal, owing to injuries, of Edinburgh Northern, 11 times winners of the Trophy. Transport difficulties delayed the start, and when Mr. H. Y. Scott of Edinburgh Harriers, sent the runners off into the haze, it was apparent that the visibility would be none too good towards the finish.

The course, which included a stiff climb up to the Braid Hills, proved to be over the 2½ miles distance as nearly 17 minutes had elapsed before the first runner was sighted from the change-over point. The hopes of Southern Harriers received a set-back when it was seen that C. D. Robertson of Dundee Thistle was leading J. Smart of Southern by 100 yards. Close behind came J. Sanderson, Gala Harriers, the 1 mile and 3 miles Border Champion.