

SCOTTISH AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

TRIANGULAR ATHLETIC
MATCH

▼

ENGLAND
IRELAND
SCOTLAND

at New Meadowbank Park,
Edinburgh,

on Saturday, 5th July, 1947

at 2.30 p.m.

AN "ALL-STAR" MEETING

J. GILBERT,
Hon. General Secretary,
17 PEARCE AVENUE,
EDINBURGH, 12

TEL. 65683

JUNE 1947

Vol. 2 No. 3

THE SCOTS ATHLETE

PRICE
6^d



GETTING OFF in one of the 100 yds. heats at Larkhall Y.M.C.A. Sports. W. S. Donnelly (St. Ignatius A.A.C.) is the back-marker.

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HAMILTON HARRIERS, 1896-1947, By JOHN McCALLUM.

S.A.A.A. NOTES :: OUR POST.
CROSS-WORD PUZZLE : SPORTS
DIARY : ACTION PHOTOGRAPHS

CITY OF EDINBURGH HIGHLAND : GAMES :

MURRAYFIELD RUGBY GROUND

(by kind permission of S.R.U.)

Saturday, 19th July, 1947, at 2.30 p.m.

ATHLETICS

100 Yards : 880 Yards : 1 Mile : 880 Yards and 1 Mile

Cycle Races : De'il tak' the hindmost.

OPEN EVENTS

Wrestling (Cumberland Style) (Catch-Weights) and
(Catch-as-Catch-Can) : Caber : 56lbs. Over Bar : High
and Long Jumps : Hop, Step and Jump : Pole Vaulting
Tug-of-War.

INTER-CITY RELAY RACES

4 x half laps 4 x two laps 3 mile team

INTER-SCHOOL RELAY RACES

4 x quarter laps 4 x half laps (lap = 352 yards)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Massed Military Bands Massed Police Pipe Bands

MILITARY GYMNASTIC DISPLAY

HIGHLAND DANCING COMPETITION

SOLO PIPING COMPETITION

Entry Forms and Details from W. CARMICHAEL, 38 ROYAL PARK
TERRACE, EDINBURGH, Hon. Organiser and Hon. Secy., S.A.A.A.
(Edinburgh District).

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.

JUNE, 1947.

Vol. 2. No. 3.

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RUNNING COMMENTARY

by J. E. FARRELL.

As the recent 10 miles Scottish championship has been fully and adequately dealt with in the last issue I do not propose to do other than touch on it in these notes.

Hearty congratulations to my friend and old rival, Alex. MacLean, of Bellahouston Harriers, on his brilliant win. If it were possible to nominate a successor in athletic championships instead of having them won in open competition, I could not think of a more worthy or deserving champion for this particular championship.

MacLean's example should be an inspiration to all. His long apprenticeship, his position of runner-up on so many occasions, and his final success, are worthy of study. Finally, the winning time, though apparently moderate, was well up to standard in view of the exceptionally gusty conditions. That the time is value a full minute better in fair conditions is, perhaps, a conservative estimate.

Bellahouston's Great Relay Bid

Bellahouston brought lustre to Scottish running by their gallant attempt to win the Blackpool to Manchester relay promoted by "News Chronicle," losing an almost unassailable lead through an unfortunate accident to stylish Jack Gifford, who strained a tendon going over the rough cobbles and was reduced to a painful walk. Despite a gallant attempt Gifford had to allow the Alre-dale man to pass him and win by a margin of 50 yards. Such was Gifford's condition that he took 25 sec. to cover the last 50 yards.

Magnificent Running by Alex. McGregor

Without the assistance of steeple-chase champion T. Lamb, and William McKinlay, Bellahouston, through splendid team running, aided by a spectacular lap from International A. McGregor who had fastest time in his particular sector of 3½ miles, gained and held the lead till Gifford's unfortunate breakdown. While individual lap times are not to hand, the following data might help to give a picture of the race. Lap 1, G. Anderson, 3rd; lap 2, G. Bell, 2nd; lap 3, A. McGregor, 1st; lap 4, R. Clime, 1st; lap 5, H. O'Neill, 1st; lap 6, T. Gibson, 1st; lap 7, J. Christie, 1st; lap 8, A. McLean, 1st; lap 9, J. Lindsay, 1st; lap 10, J. Gifford, 2nd.

In the last lap, Jack Gifford, running strongly, had actually increased his lead at 3 miles to such an extent that reporters had prematurely phoned news of a runaway win for Bellahouston Harriers.

One more example of the "luck of the game."

All sportsmen will wish Jack Gifford a speedy recovery, and trust that Bellahouston will have better luck in September when they hope to take part in the "News of the World" relay race over the same course—this time, however, from Manchester to Blackpool.

Running in the same lap as McGregor was a 16-year-old Salford lad, Dave Wilcox; he brought his club from 8th to 4th place, and was only 30 sec. slower than McGregor.

Field Events Encouraged

Not so much because of outstanding results, but because of the way Field Events were sponsored and encouraged, that comment should be made on the confined Glasgow Police meeting, on 12th May. The policemen as well as the whole sport must get inspiration from Tommy Mackie, the organiser of the meet. He has a great record of association with the sport. Most energetic and enthusiastic, he has been a noted high-jump competitor for years.

Excellent Running at Motspur Park

The Universities' Athletic Championships, at Motspur Park, on 17th May, fairly bristled with good things. An exceptionally high standard prevailed in practically all events and, if we high light specific performances, it is chiefly because of the tremendous promise displayed for the future. For example, 20-year-old J. C. M. Wilkinson (Oxford Centipedes), in winning the 100 yds. in 10.2 sec., favourably impressed the critics, and the strength and balance of his stride suggested that, with more experience, he will improve vastly on 10.2 sec.

If anything, D. W. M. Haw, of Leeds, was even more impressive. His easy style and brilliant finish was too much for his most persistent challenger, T. P. Curry, of Oxford, and won for him the loudest applause of the meeting. His time for the three miles was the smart one of 14 min. 52.4 sec.

Another Wooderson?

Among the surprise wins in this series was that of 19-year-old A. B. Parker, of Liverpool, who defeated the well-known Oxford miler, R. T. S. McPherson by 8 yds. in the fast time of 4 min. 22.6 sec.

A notable double was achieved by versatile D. R. Ede, the A.A.A. 440 yds. hurdles champion, who, not content with winning the 440 hurdles event for London, did likewise in the half-mile event, incidentally, showing 1 min. 58.1 sec., or only $1\frac{1}{2}$ sec. slower than J. C. Stothard's record of 1935. The 440 yds. flat was won by F. D. Wallis (Oxford) in 50.1 sec.; the 220 yds., by the well-known South African sprinter, D. J.

Joubert, running for London University, in 22.9. Incidentally, Joubert was disqualified in the shorter sprint because of too many false starts.

Prince Adedoyin (Belfast) just failed to equal his own record of 6 ft. 1 in., by clearing 6 ft.

Edinburgh University Beat Glasgow

On Saturday, 17th May, Edinburgh University had a handsome victory over Glasgow University by 67 points to 29 points.

The Edinburgh sprinters monopolised the sprints, West African E. Q. Coffie winning the 100 yds. and D. McKenzie, the Rugby internationalist, the 220 yds. Favourable mention should be accorded the performances of the young Edinburgh star, C. J. Hall, who won the half-mile in 2 min. 3.2 sec.; and J. Caskie, also of Edinburgh, in winning the 440 yds. The latter is, I believe, the same runner who back in 1941 was hovering about the 50 sec. mark. Should he get back to that form he will be a strong contender for the 440 yds. championship.

G. A. Carrick, of Glasgow, who won the high jump with 5 ft. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ in., is a consistent performer overshadowed only by the brilliance of Alan Paterson.

The main feature of a keen series of ladies' events, was the new Scottish Universities quarter-mile record of 64.2 sec., set up by Miss P. Walker (Edinburgh).

Aberdeen University beat St. Andrews

In this fixture recent sprint discovery Cliff Pinks, from Honduras, won both sprints for Aberdeen, while J. Buchan's mile win in 4 min. 35.4 sec., augurs well for a good performance in the Scottish mile championship should he care to compete. D. W. C. Smith, Aberdeen Rugby Internationalist, materially helped in his side's victory by a meritorious double in shot and discus.

The ladies had a grand set-to, St. Andrews turning the tables on their opponents by a narrow margin of 24 points to 21 points.

Forbes Stars at Larkhall

Also on Saturday, 17th May, a splendid day's sport was enjoyed at Gas-Works Park, Larkhall. Cross-country champion, Andrew Forbes, had a nice double victory in the half-mile and the mile open events. It is good news to find that he has apparently shaken off the effects of his recent leg trouble. I feel that the handicapper was just a



J. STUART (Shettleston Harriers).

little bit too generous to him, and I am fully prepared to find the Victoria Park man running better than ever this season. Backmarker, J. Stuart, of Shettleston, off 25 yds., is also running in great style and just failed to hold Forbes, to whom he conceded 35 yds. Victoria Park continued their winning vein in the relay; on this occasion M. Roberts and W. Curtis assisting champions Geo. McDonald and Ian Panton.

How Good is Alex. Hill?

With two good wins in recent road races, Alex. Hill, of Shettleston Harriers, formerly a sound cross-country runner, looms as a threat to established long-distance stars.

At Larkhall, in the 12 miles road race, he counted among his victims club-mate Harry Howard, who retired at 10 miles. His progress will be keenly watched in future events. Perhaps Alan Scally is grooming him for marathon stardom? He appears to be a good prospect at the moment.

Features of a successful Bellahouston Harriers meeting at Ibrox on Saturday, 24th May, were Andrew Forbes' brilliant 2 miles, and A. Kilpatrick's splendid sprint double. In conditions which were not ideal and making his own pace, Forbes romped home in 9 min. 27 sec.—the best time done in Scotland at this distance for some time. Kilpatrick, though receiving fairly generous starts, won in such ready fashion that it looks as though the strong-going Bellahouston man will soon be down among the back-markers.

The Scottish Championships

The annual Scottish Championships

are due on Friday and Saturday, 20th and 21st June, at Hampden, and I am prepared to see many new champions, and vastly improved performances. The stimulus of the Olympic Games looming ahead gives an incentive.

I shall endeavour to touch on prospects in a general way, being conscious of the fact that many athletes who, up till now, have not disclosed form, may be quietly preparing to attain their peak at a given time. Nevertheless, I feel that, without pin-pointing the actual champion, it is possible, in most cases, to give the group from which he may emerge.

The Sprints

The sprints should be a colourful affair with the advent of coloured stars Coffie and Pinks, along with popular Alan Watt and Rugby Internationalist D. D. McKenzie to challenge the supremacy of champions Hugh Broadley and George McDonald, whose titles are obviously in danger.

Coffie is strongly fancied for the shorter sprint from the East, who believe he can get down to even time; I incline to the belief that Broadley could, on form, again win the 100 yards but, not so long out of hospital, will he be fit in time?

I would not be surprised if Alan Watt has the edge on all his rivals and emerge with the "hundred" and "twenty"—a championship double.

George McDonald, in many quarters, is less likely to retain his title than Broadley, but too much should not be taken for granted against the fast-starting, sweet little mover. At any rate, there should be a magnificent dust-up in both events. I should dearly love to see both finals.

Ian Panton Has Something to Do

If Scotland's star quarter-miler had an easy thing last year the prospects are that he will have something to do this year. What a final could the following provide:—Panton (Victoria Park), Connacher (Victoria Park), Sharp (Garscube), Caskie (Edinburgh University). Last season Sharp showed brilliant form in the relays for his club. From all accounts Panton has recaptured the old fire which seemed to desert him last year. It is well, for any of the above challengers could take advantage of the least lapse.

880 Yards is Puzzling Event

I fancy J. S. Taylor (Aberdeen Uni-

versity) to retain his title should he compete, but I learn that, like fellow-student Cliff Pinks, in the sprints, he may be a doubtful starter due to studies. Last year's youths star, J. S. Hamilton (Victoria Park), who was runner-up last year, has just joined the Forces and his movements are uncertain, while F. Jewel, of Garscube, is in England at present; and Smillie, of Victoria Park, also in the Forces. However, young Cyril Hall, of Edinburgh, will make all his opponents travel; as will J. Small, of Garscube.

Then there are W. Ritchie and M. Roberts, of Victoria Park; and A. Warton, Garscube, who are themselves no slouches at this distance when in the mood. Frank Sinclair, of Greenock Wellpark, would have an excellent chance of winning, but he may concentrate on the mile event. Sinclair, like Gifford of Bellahouston, suffers from exceptional versatility. Both men could star from the half-mile up to 10 miles. Gifford, although a past three miles champion, was many times runner-up in the mile championship, and returned times that were worthy of winning the half-mile championship.

An "Open" Mile

A new title-holder is certain in this event, Jack Corfield, the holder, being back in England. J. Stuart (Shettleston), Geo. Lamont (Victoria Park), and F. Sinclair (Greenock Wellpark), all have excellent chances, as has J. Buchanan (St. Andrews). There is no word at the moment of writing of James Fleming (Motherwell) at



G. LAMONT

present overseas, but, if able to compete I should be prepared to see him win. Stuart is going great guns at the moment, and, as this ambitious young man trains to schedule as far as business permits, he should be there at the "death." George Lamont, last year's runner-up, ran a good race in the A.A.A. mile championship last year, and cannot be left out of the reckoning. But, in what should be a very open and

exciting race, I am prepared to find Frank Sinclair hitting the tape first.

Forbes on His Own

I cannot see anyone capable of preventing Andrew Forbes, of Victoria Park, from adding the three miles track title to that of his cross-country title. Possessing a nice combination of speed and stamina I am prepared to see him go down to London and have a real "go" at the British 3 miles championship. If A. McLennan and J. Hoskins could find some of the form they are capable of they should run prominently. Hoskins, in particular, with his long, graceful stride, looks a good prospect if ever there was one, but, so far, has flattered to deceive. A. Hay, from Forres, is wont to make things interesting during the early stages of a race, but invariably peters out. What could he do if he restrained himself in the first half of the distance?

A Bellahouston Duel?

The six miles event may not attract so large an entry as some others, but, none the less, it may turn out to be the race of the meeting. I look for a great race between club-mates Alex. MacLean the new 10 miles champion, and Alex. McGregor, just fresh from his magnificent running in the recent relay. Curiously enough, both men are long-service athletes, who appear to have found a new lease of life and are returning better times than ever. MacLean, by virtue of his 10 miles win, may start slight favourite, but I feel the issue is very close; the man who strikes it on the day of the race should win. Gibby Anderson, one of our most consistent stayers, completes a strong Bellahouston trio in this race.

Bobby Reid for Steeplechase?

There is no word of form among the steeplechase contenders. Tommy Lamb is the holder, but J. C. Ross, of Shettleston, a past winner, may make a bold bid to recapture his title.

Bobby Reid, the well-known Birchfield Harrier, is toying with the idea of having a "go" at the Steeplechase. With his track speed and cross-country experience Bobby may go far in this type of event. Recently beaten by only six yards in a 4.27 mile, stranger things have happened than that Reid may try himself out in our Scottish championship as preparation for a tilt at the British Steeplechase.

Paterson Stands Alone

In the high jump Alan Paterson is so outstanding that he appears to scare off potential contenders. This is unfortunate, as I am sure he would welcome a little competition. Instead, he has to go elsewhere for real competition—of an International nature—which, however, should have done him good—as regards cultivating the temperament for the big occasion. Now in the Services, he has been inundated with invitations from as far apart as London, Czechoslovakia and Belgium. It is to be hoped that he gets permission to garner the experience which only International competition provides, in view of the Olympics next year.

Hurdles Events

J. M. Hart, of Edinburgh, should retain the 120 yds. hurdles event. If he perseveres in this type of event he should be a real hope for the future.

The S.A.A.A. have instituted a new championship, the 440 yds. hurdles, in conformity with the A.A.A. event. Perhaps Robin Boyd, who was placed in last year's A.A.A. event in London may be the first winner? or will Hart, who is an excellent half-miler, attempt to make it a double event?

J. Howden, of Edinburgh Harriers, is expected to retain his title of hop, step and jump, although last year he had a very narrow margin to spare from R. M. Smith, of Dundee Hawkhill, who just failed to add that title to that of his broad jump title.

W. Curtis (Victoria Park) will be a serious rival to Roy in the broad jump this year.

Heavy Field Events

At throwing the hammer, D. McD. Clark, the Belfast policeman, towers over his opponents, and as there is good news of his form, this is one title that should be retained. Similarly, D. Young, of Glasgow Police, should be too good for the opponents in the discus; could he regain his 1938 form, in which he set up a British native record, he would be a worthy competitor in even International competition.

G. E. Mitchell, the noted Glasgow Police athlete, should again be too good for his opponents in his own specialties. With his massive physique he is a kenspeckle and colourful figure in the kilt.

I do not know if pole vault champion K. Maksimzyk, of Edinburgh Univer-

sity; or javelin champion, P. G. Shea (Heriot's F.P.) are defending their respective titles. The former won from D. M. Hastie (Hillhead) last year, only because he cleared his height at the first attempt. Both men cleared 10 ft. 4 in.

Picturesque Events

The pole vault and the javelin throw, in the hands of experts, are among the most picturesque and artistic of events. What a pity there is not more opportunity for athletes acquiring proficiency. I, also, am firmly of the opinion that the concluding stages of all heavy and field events should be featured on their own, with a running commentary of technique and distances and heights achieved. What could be more picturesque, for example, than the graceful action of Cornelius Warmerdam in the pole vault, or the Finns in throwing the javelin?

Scottish Junior Championships

So far, little is known regarding form for this year's Junior Championships, to be held at Kilmarnock on June 28th. Many of last year's brilliant champions will have now passed the age limit. A. Y. Monaghan of Renfrew Y.M.C.A., in the sprints; J. S. Petty, St. Modan's, with his devastating finish in the half-mile (which would also be a menace to challengers for the senior title if he intends running in that event); R. Smith, of Garscube, last year's runner-up in the mile; and young Ramsay, of Victoria Park, in the high jump, must all have excellent chances in their respective events.

The Marathon

This championship takes place on 5th July, from Falkirk to Edinburgh, finishing at Meadowbank and covering, approximately the same course as last year. There is talk of bringing the runners to the ground by a slightly different route near the end of the course, but full particulars are not yet to hand. The race is run in conjunction with the revived International between England, Scotland, and Ireland so, all in, a grand day's sport should be witnessed.

Holder Has Experience

D. McNab Robertson (Maryhill Harriers), Olympic runner and many times British champion, is the present holder of the Scottish title first competed for last year, winning in 2 hr. 45 min. 39 sec., a time which is well outside his



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best times. Last year, Robertson had only one serious rival in the person of his famous veteran club-mate, D. McI. Wright, but this year, at least, on paper, he may have more than one serious rival, and may have to better last year's time to win.

This he appears to be fully capable of, as he is now out of the Services and training over his accustomed training routes. According to latest reports, he is well-satisfied with his progress and, as he is determined to again make the Olympic grade Robertson can be expected to make every post a winning post in his attempt to capture his old form.

His chief rivals may be found from a group including Harry Howard, Alex. Hill and W. Connor, all of Shettleston; J. Lindsay, of Bellahouston; W. Kennedy, Kilbarchan and myself. Although most of these are speedier than Robertson over, say, 10 miles, none has any notable performance to show over the full 26 miles course. Lindsay, Connor and Kennedy have not yet shown over the full course form equal to that in the lesser distances. Neither Howard, newcomer Hill nor myself have even run the distance. Howard, with several course records to his credit over distances from 12 to 15 miles can be brilliant or mediocre, and has recently blotted his copy-book by having to retire twice in subsequent races, yet this unorthodox runner can never be left completely out of the reckoning. Hill, who has come into the limelight through recent victories, has not yet been fully tested, and it may be asking too much off him to live with more experienced men in such an arduous test, but he looks a good prospect. Of my own prospects, all I can say is that I am cautious regarding the full distance; on the credit side, is the fact that I have raced 22 miles in fast time and am keen to do well and make the grade. Summing up, I should say that Robertson's experience and stamina over the last six miles may decide the issue against the speed of his opponents in what should be a most engrossing race.

The Incredible Double

Recently one of our sporting journals reported an interesting par concerning the famous Finnish distance runner, Heino, world record holder at many distances, and European champion over 10,000 metres. It was to the effect that



WILLIAM CARMICHAEL

(Hon. Sec., Eastern Dist., S.A.A.A.)
is doing his utmost to make Edinburgh a great centre for amateur athletics. He is responsible for the big 14th June meeting, at New Meadowbank, and Edinburgh Corporation Highland Games, on Saturday, 19th July, at Murrayfield.

after a further attempt on his own 10,000 metres' world record, he would test himself over the marathon distance in the autumn, and might compete in both Olympic marathon and 10,000 metres events—a most unheard of thing which even the great Nurmi never attempted. The modern tendency is to specialise in one event only—competition in world class being too intense to do otherwise. Phenomenal athlete as Heino undoubtedly is, it could be quite possible for even he to fall between two stools with disastrous results. Assuming that he met a man of, say, Wooderson's class in the shorter event, would he have sufficiently recovered to take part in such a gruelling as the marathon and be certain of success against a man of Holden's class, or some other obscure athlete which the marathon event so often throws up.

As expected, Heino broke Nurmi's British 6 miles record by 14 sec. with a time of 29 min. 22.4 sec. at the Whit Monday sports at White City, London. By sheer relentless pacing Heino compelled England's best distance runners to retire, and finished up with a devastating last lap of under 60 sec. quite in the Wooderson tradition.

The other feature was a 9.6 100 yards by Ed. Conwell, the American bullet, who is one of the fastest starters ever.

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2 Mile short-limit Handicap, £7/7/0,
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Forms and particulars from the Sports
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KILBARCHAN A.A.C. & HOME GUARD
ASSOCIATION

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(under S.A.A.A. Laws)

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Special Competitors' Bus from Glasgow;
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Entry Forms and further particular
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(under S.A.A.A. Laws)

MILLBURN PARK (Alexandria)

on SATURDAY, 5th JULY, 1947

Usual Events and 6 miles Road Race.
All particulars from Hon. Secy., W.
Stevenson, 59 Wilson Street, Alexandria.

BRAW LADS' GATHERING

OPEN SPORTS MEETING

(under S.B.A.A.A. and N.C.U. Rules)

At GALASHIELS

On SATURDAY, 28th JUNE, 1947

Usual events, including Ladies' & Gent.'s
Relay, and 3 cycling events.

Particulars from Hon. Sec., J. Gavin, 47
Galapark Road, Galashiels, with whom
entries close on Thursday, 19th June.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

BUTE HIGHLAND GAMES

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On SATURDAY, 23rd AUGUST, 1947

Full particulars next month.

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THE SCOTS ATHLETE

PHOTOFLASH

No. 6



ALAN WATT

(Shettleston Harriers)



Close observers of Alan Watt, Shettleston Harriers and 1939 British Youth Sprint Champion, will, this season, have noticed he has practically eliminated the "horsey" action which formerly denoted his style. He now runs with a long, smooth, free-striding action, and seems to cover the ground without effort.

Behind this change there is a story of real hard work. Alan came home from the Army near the end of last track season to find he had lost a great deal of his speed. During the winter when other sprinters were resting he worked hard and long at improving his style—helped in the theoretical side by Tom Anderson and in the practical side by his own club coach, Alan Scally.

The fruit of this training was seen at his first open race of the season when, at the Whit-Monday sports at White City, London, he finished second to the American sprinter, Ed. Conwell, when making a new British record of 9.6 sec. for 100 yards (yet to be ratified). Alan broke 10 sec. easily and his future looks particularly bright. I feel confident of his chances of taking the Scottish sprint titles and of bringing a British title to Scotland this year.

ROY ROBINSON.

1896 — HAMILTON HARRIERS — 1947

By JOHN McCALLUM

Last October Hamilton Harriers held a dinner at Clydesdale Restaurant, Hamilton, at which there were over 100 guests present. The purpose of the occasion was to celebrate the Jubilee of the Club, which had been functioning continuously for 50 years.

Though there had been a Hares and Hounds Club in the district around 1887 the Club was actually formed on 6th September, 1896, at the County Hotel, the founder being a Motherwell Harrier Mr. Miller. At the inaugural meeting the present club colours of white with red facings was chosen, and, at a later date, the crest bearing the head of the White Cattle Bull and the letters H. H. C. were introduced to be worn on the club singlet. (The White Cattle is a very rare, almost extinct, breed, which roam Cadzow Estate, Hamilton, and are owned by the Duke of Hamilton).

In the early days, Hamilton Harriers had many enjoyable outings with well-known County Clubs which are mostly now non-existent, such as the Malsely Club and Carlisle Beagles. These clubs should be remembered by older cross-country enthusiasts.

First Club Champion

Present at the Jubilee celebrations was the first Club champion, J. Simpson, who held the honour for two years in succession. His well-known son was the Club champion of Motherwell Y.M.C.A. Harriers a few years ago.

The year 1899 was a fortunate one for the club, three business men of the town: Mr. Wilson, hatter and hosier; Mr. Hastie, of the Black Bull Hotel; and Mr. Wilson, Jeweller, donated trophies for which there is still annual competition.

Olympic Champion a Member

The year 1906 was a historic one for the Club. In this season they won the Western District Championship. Incidentally, T. McAfferty, the winner of this race, resided in the Burgh of Hamilton but ran for Burnbank St. Cuthbert's. Also in this year, Dan Cather won the Junior Championship. This was not all, for, though it is not well-known, the famous Scottish athlete

and Olympic 400 metres (Stamford Bridge, 1908) champion, Lieut. W. Halswell, joined the club this year whilst stationed at Hamilton Barracks, and, at the S.A.A.A. Championships, held at Powderhall the same year, he accomplished the astonishing feat of winning the 100 yds., 220 yds., 440 yds. and half-mile titles. One of Hamilton Harriers' greatest treasures is the photo of the 1908 Olympic champions, presented to the club by Lieut. Halswell.

An Uncrowned King

Hamilton had other personalities, notably Gibbie Marshall, who was the uncrowned king of obstacle racing in Scotland from 1900-1910. W. C. Bell, whilst a youth, made a great name for himself in the country as a sprinter, around 1908-1912.

Wm. Roxburgh represented Scotland in the 1920 International, and, following R. Devine, had the distinction of winning the Club championship three years in succession from 1924.

But, in 1932, the most consistent Club champion of all—James Freeland, took the title, which he held continuously to 1940. James Freeland, who lost his life whilst in the R.A.F., had been Junior Champion in 1935 and had gained international honours. News of his death came as a great blow to Hamilton Harriers and Scottish cross-country circles.

63—And Still Going Strong

Another personality is Alex. Cullen—still running at 63 years of age. "Sanny," as he is called by his club-mates, started his running activities through having an accident in a coalmine. He joined Burnbank Harriers in 1905, and was four times champion of that club. He joined Hamilton Harriers at the cessation of World War I, and annexed the 5 miles Handicap Cup three times; the 7 miles Handicap four times, and the 10 miles Handicap ten times—a fine record. "Sanny" does not seem to intend hanging up his shoes and so asserts the old adage: "It is not how old you are, but how old you feel."

Two men have held the Presidency of the Club, between them, for 40 years,



THE ORIGINAL HAMILTON HARRIERS OF 1887.

This block was made from a photograph presented, after the Club's Jubilee celebration, by Dr. W. D. Rose. Dr. Rose, now retired, resides at Biggar. He is seen in this unique photograph on the extreme left, middle row.

namely, J. Smith and evergreen J. C. Scott, who still retains office, and to whom I am indebted for most of the details of this short chronicle.

Hamilton Harriers look forward to the future. A. C. Gibson, the present club champion, is only 21, and has distinct prospects. Under the watchful

eye of able Bobby Stewart, a former well-known professional athlete, there is a fine turn-out of local lads on Monday and Wednesday evenings at Douglas Park. Such coaching and enthusiasm will reap its reward and Hamilton Harriers are set to be in the fore of post-war athletics.

Our Post

ANOTHER GREAT RUN RECALLED

Dear Editor,—It was with great interest I read your article on Alfred Shrubbs historic one-hour run at Ibrox Park, 1904, in the April issue.

It was a great performance—truly a wonderful runner. Mention of that run brings to mind another of great ability and a similar type of race—J. Boulton, of France, who was runner-up in the International Cross-Country Championship in 1909, and winner 1911-12-13.

Here are the details of his one-hour's run at the Stadium, Stockholm, on 6th July, 1913:—

Miles	M. S.
First	4 53
Second (5.04)	9 57
Third (5.03)	15 00
Fourth (5.06)	20 06
Fifth (5.07)	25 13
Sixth (5.08)	30 21

Seventh (5.04)	35 25
Eighth (5.06)	40 31
Ninth (5.09)	45 40
Tenth (5.06)	50 46
Eleventh (5.08)	55 54
Distance in One Hour—11 miles 1442 yards.	

You will notice, of course, that at 10 miles the time is easily faster than any Scottish championship winning time. It is also a great point to show the value of a steady pace.

With best wishes for the success of a most useful magazine.

Yours faithfully,

Paisley. ROBERT LINDSAY.

VICTORIA PARK A.A.C. OPEN SPORTS MEETING

(under S.A.A.A. Laws)

in BARRFIELDS — LARGS

On SATURDAY, 19th JULY, 1947.

Special Buses from Glasgow.

Entry Forms from usual Sports Shops, and Hon. Sports Secy., Ian Macdonald, 40 Dudley Drive, Glasgow, W.2.

S.A.A.A. NOTES

A meeting of the General Committee of the S.A.A.A., was held in Edinburgh on Tuesday, 20th May, 1947. The following are the principal items of business transacted:—

1. It was reported by the Hon. Sec. that at an early date it was hoped to announce certain negotiations with the N.C.U. to cover the cycling position in Scotland as affecting the S.A.A.A. and the S.N.C.U., with a view to clarifying the present agreement between the S.A.A.A. and the N.C.U.

2. The Association hoped to be in a position to have Track Suits available for its representatives in the Triangular Match.

3. Mr. J. Drummond, who had attended the C.C.P.R. Easter Coaching Course at Rosyth, gave a full report on the proceedings, coaching, and potentialities. It was evident that great potentialities lay in such organised courses, and the Association promised further support should another course be feasible in the Autumn. In this case the Association would be prepared to nominate athletes and meet the expenses arising therefrom.

4. Rugby Park, Kilmarnock, had been inspected by representatives of the Association, who had found the park suitable for the Junior Championships. Arrangements for these were remitted to the Western District Committee.

5. In connection with the Triangular Match (5th July), the scoring table was agreed to at 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. The events are now confirmed as:—100, 220, 440, 880, 1 mile, 3 miles, 120 hurdles, High Jump, Long Jump, Putt, Discus, Javelin, Medley Relay Race (13 events).

6. Every endeavour is to be made to bring the Association's impedimenta up-to-date as far as supplies are available. Considerable replacements are necessary following the disastrous fire to the Queen's Park stand, where much of the Association's equipment was stored.

7. The Hon. Sec. reported on difficulties in making the Handbook available, but it was hoped to have these ready early in June. The Handbook (Constitution and Rules of the Association, etc.) would be available from the Hon. Sec., at the price of 1/- per copy.

8. Applications for affiliation from Stewart Bonnet Guild Festival Amateur Sports Committee and Glasgow Corporation Youth Service Amateur Athletic Association were approved.

9. Request from Milngavie Highland Games Committee for permission to include an Inter-County Relay Race in their Sports Programme was approved.

10. Intimation of handsome donation of £250 from Rangers F.C. Ltd., to the Olympic Games Appeal Fund was made. The donation was accompanied by the offer to make certain facilities at Ibrox available for Olympic Games Coaching Schemes.

11. A request from Victoria Park A.A.C. that this year's Relay Championship be "farmed out" was considered, but it was agreed no change should operate for this year.

12. It was agreed to award a suitable plaque to J. Howden, to recognise his record Hop, Step and Jump performance in 1939, for which he was due "a Gold Medal" in accordance with rules operating at that date.

13. In view of the present shortage of official timekeepers in the Eastern District, it was agreed to enlist the services of unofficial Timekeepers who had gained experience in confined club meetings, to act in conjunction with recognised Timekeeping officials, who would be in a position to make the necessary recommendations to the District Committee.

The next meeting of the General Committee will be held immediately after the Championships, when the Team to take part in the Triangular will likely be selected.

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FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL

CHAMPIONSHIP MEETING

HAMPDEN PARK, GLASGOW

FRIDAY & SATURDAY.

20th & 21st JUNE, 1947

(FRIDAY, 6.45 p.m., and SATURDAY, 2.45 p.m.)

FRIDAY PROGRAMME:

Eliminating Events.—220 Yards, 440 Yards, 880 Yards, High Jump, Broad Jump, Hop, Step and Jump, Pole Vault, Throwing Javelin, Throwing Discus.

Finals.—Throwing Hammer (both styles), Throwing 56lb. Weight, Six Miles.

MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIP—5th JULY, 1947.

FALKIRK to EDINBURGH—26 miles 385 Yards—START 1.30 p.m.

ENTRIES Close, Definitely, First Post, MONDAY, 9th JUNE, 1947, with Hon. General Secretary, JAMES GILBERT, 17 PEARCE AVENUE, CORSTORPHINE, EDINBURGH 12, from whom Entry Forms can be obtained

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

At RUGBY PARK, KILMARNOCK

Saturday, 28th June, 1947, 3 p.m.

EVENTS:

(Open to Youths, 16 or over, but under 18 years on 1st March, 1947)

100 Yards, 220 Yards, Quarter-Mile, Half Mile, One Mile, 120 Yards Hurdles Race (3 ft. hurdles), High Jump, Broad Jump, Putting the Weight (12 lb.), Throwing the Javelin, and Medley Relay (440 x 220 x 220 x 440).

Entry Fee—2/6 for first Event, and 1/- for each subsequent Event.

Entry Fee for Relay Race, 5/- per Team.

NOTE.—No Youth may compete in more than two Running Events (including the Relay Race) and one Field Event or three Field Events in all.

ENTRIES Close Definitely, First Post MONDAY, 16th JUNE, with G. DALLAS (Hon. W.D. Secretary), 38 GARTCRAIG ROAD, GLASGOW, E.1.

JAMES BRANNEN

The sudden death on 21st April, 1947, of James Brannen, marked the passing of one who did much for Scottish athletics during a period when the future of our sport was none too bright.

Conditions at home here were not too good during 1941-42-43, were they? Those of us who can recollect the trials and tribulations which was the lot of clubmen trying to keep the sport alive will agree with me that it was, indeed, a happy day for Scottish running when late in 1940 Jim Brannen decided to stage a come-back.

Nothing had been heard of him since 1931, when, in his early 20's, as a member of Dundee Hawkhill Harriers, he completed a successful season by being selected as reserve for the National Cross-Country team, having finished 12th in the National Championship. When, nearly 10 years later, he decided to again don his running shoes, he found the war-time remnants of Hawkhill and Thistle Harriers functioning only in a listless sort of way under the name of Dundee Harriers. Jim very soon altered this state of affairs. Before long he had most of the services units in the district lined up, and, off his own bat formed the Eastern Cross-Country League, giving regular competition to the club and service personnel.

Having accomplished this, the average clubman would have been satisfied. Not so Jim Brannen. Success merely inspired him to greater effort, and this was true of him in every respect.

In 1942 he turned his attention to marathon running and decided that it was time that the Perth-Dundee race, last run in 1894, was resuscitated. This he duly accomplished in the face of what, at first, appeared to be insuperable difficulties, and Jim Brannen was a happy man that Saturday night in July, 1942, when he saw D. McNab Robertson being presented with the handsome trophy which had also been donated largely through his influence.

Season 1942-43 was undoubtedly the season of his career, but, alas, the



JIM BRANNEN finishing on the Tayside in the 1942 Perth-Dundee road race.

beginning of the end. Having carried all before him over the country and on the roads he was looking forward to either McNab Robertson, Tom Richards (Mitcham) or himself setting up the fastest time ever recorded in this country for the full marathon distance. He had organised this event to take place on the extended Perth-Dundee course in July, 1943. Unfortunately, flu kept Robertson out of the race, and Brannen and Richards were left to make the best of it. We all know now that about seven miles from home Jim collapsed, but none of us knew at that time that the previous evening his medical man informed him that he could not hold himself responsible for the consequences if he ran the following day. It appeared that the eye trouble from which Jim had been suffering was of a much more serious nature than he let his friends know, and rather than let the sporting public down, he decided to run.

Then followed a serious operation in Edinburgh, from which very few of us thought he would ever recover. But the guts and determination which had carried him through so many races during the past few years was again drawn on with considerable, if only partial, success. It was some time before he was able to run again, but he recovered sufficiently to win his club road championship in 1944, and take part in the

Kingsway Relay in October of the same year.

Whether it was because he knew that he could never stand the strain of intensive training again, or for other reasons, I do not know, but at any rate his activities became more and more devoted to amateur boxing in which his organising abilities soon bore evidence. Then came trouble, the exact nature of which I have never been able to discover, but it resulted in sine-die suspension on Jim Brannen by S.A.B.A. which, of course, was naturally upheld by the S.A.A.A. Jim never talked much about this affair to me, but I got the impression that he felt he had been made the scapegoat, and was looking forward to the day when the suspension would be raised.

From then, he devoted all his time to work amongst the youth of the city and was a prominent leader and instructor in the North-End Youth Club, Dundee, which can claim as an original member Bobby Boland, the promising young Dundee boxer. Physical fitness was the keynote of this club and, led by Jim Brannen, its members soon became noted for their prowess, particularly in archery, in which he took an exceptionally keen interest.

My own interests have been many and varied, but never in all my experience did I encounter anyone imbued with such great energy and enthusiasm for whatever he put his hand and mind to than Jim Brannen. To him nothing was impossible. He scorned the idea of there being a difficulty about anything. He set his mind at obtaining results and results he got, though most often his methods of achieving such results were most unorthodox.

We are grateful for his unsparing efforts on behalf of the sport he loved so well and such races as the Kingsway Relay, Perth-Dundee marathon, Around Dundee Relay, which he sponsored or was materially instrumental in their successful launching, will be everlasting memorials of his name and work. We remember him, also, for the work he put in on behalf of the Eastern Cross Country League and the Dens Park

Sports Galas, and while at the end of his day many an athlete will leave behind a more notable racing record, I doubt if many will be able to claim a similar record of service to our sport.

D. M. THOMSON.

D. M. Thomson, who wrote the above appreciation is a Dundee Hawkhill member and was an associate of Brannen.

Andrew Burnside, Maryhill Harriers and well-known Marathon runner, has also written an appreciation, from which we take the following extracts:

"His ability with such a slight build amazed many, and his cheery demeanour made him very popular."

After referring to several great efforts in various races, A. Burnside goes on to write of Brannen's remarkable courage and indomitable enthusiasm.

"The 1944 Perth-Dundee Road Race came with Dunky Wright and Tom Richards in opposition. Brannen rose from a sick-bed and lay on an emergency couch in the van carrying the competitors' clothes, seeing that everything was going all right. At the finish in the British Restaurant at Dundee, when he was assured the runners' comfort was being attended to, he had to be taken home.

"Such was the undaunted courage and amazing enthusiasm of one who has helped to make distance running such a present-day success.

"He has set a great example for all those in the pursuit of fostering sport."

SPORTS DIARY

- June 10—Clydebank British Legion.
- 11—Inter-County Track Contest—Helenvale Park.
- 12—Lanimer Day Sports—Lanark.
- 14—Scottish Schools A.A. Championships—Edinburgh.
- Border Championships.
- 14—Babcock & Wilcox A.C.—Renfrew.
- Central Council of Physical Recreation—Hampden.
- Ayrshire Youth Championships—Stevenston.
- Irvine Ex-Servicemen—Irvine.
- Bruce Peebles & Co., Ltd.—Lauriston.
- 14—Motherwell & Wishaw Burgh Police—Fir Park.
- Boy Scouts Assn.—Dunfermline.
- Edinburgh Corporation Lighting and Cleaning Depart. Open Meeting—Meadowbank.
- .. 20/21—Scottish A.A.A. Championships—Hampden.

THE DISTANCE TRACK RACE

By JAMES L. LOGAN

Most athletic enthusiasts are agreed that specialisation is essential to improved performances.

One of the chief obstacles to the realisation of this, in Scotland at least, is that certain events are not popular with our sport promoters.

The longer distance track race is a notable instance, and the reason, of course, is obvious. A three mile handicap race will occupy twenty minutes including the preliminaries of getting the competitors on to their starting stations. Also, the promoter has always to be careful that his ordinary on-lookers (generally in the majority) are kept entertained. Remember, the longer the race, the less chance there is of a "tight" finish—and it is the thrilling, shoulder-to-shoulder burst to the tape which delights our ordinary sports patron.

Good handicapping can give a sporting chance of such a finish, but the ordinary onlooker, lacking, shall we say the connoisseur's appreciation of the finer points of athleticism will be fidgeting long before the last lap excitement.

Thus the opportunities for our long-distance track aspirants are limited to championships and representative matches. If he wishes to have a full season of competition (and that is the aim of most athletes) he has to turn his attention to the more popular mile and half-mile.

This, I think, is an unsatisfactory feature in Scottish athletics, and we have only to consider our average all-the-year-round enthusiast to prove the point.

In the late autumn he is competing in road and cross-country races of 2½ to 7 miles, and, later in the winter, graduates to the full distance cross-country events of up to 10 miles. In April, perhaps, he has a crack at the 10 miles track S.A.A.A. Championship. After that, if he wants competition, he has to come down to the half-mile and mile events, unless he is prepared to train until June for the 3 or 6 miles S.A.A.A. Championships. After the Championships he has, again, to return to the short middle-distances.

There would be no lack of entries for the longer-distance track races if there was adequate opportunity for competition throughout the season. In fact, I think that such events might even attract to summer competition some of those cross-country men who fancy neither the fierce pace of the shorter races nor the grind of the marathon. They would also help to reduce the unwieldy fields in the "half" and the "mile."

The promoters problem, I suggest, could be solved by using the longer event as the curtain-raiser of his programme.

Sports patrons, like dance-goers, are slow to arrive. The greater proportion of the crowd usually rolls up in the middle of the heats of the "hundred."

This latter event, a good crowd-pleaser with a finishing thrill every minute, could be profitably held over for twenty minutes, which would give the late-comers time to buy their programmes, find their pencils, and generally settle down to their afternoon's entertainment. And there would still be many enthusiasts keen enough to come in time to see top-grade runners performing at their true distance.

For the athletes themselves, the advantages are obvious; summer competition which is complementary to their winter activities. I think that, given this opportunity both their winter and summer performances would show the improvement which follows specialisation.

GLASGOW Y.M.C.A. HARRIERS, who have again able and enthusiastic James R. Scott as their President, train at Stanalane, Thornliebank, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and Renfrew Playing Fields on Saturday afternoons.

The club is anxious to secure the services of a trainer. Anyone willing to help should get in touch with J. R. Scott, 257 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, C.2.

GLASGOW POLICE A. A.

GRAND INTERNATIONAL SPORTS MEETING

(under S.A.A.A. and N.C.U. Rules)

At HAMPDEN PARK, GLASGOW

on SATURDAY, 28th JUNE—at 2.30 p.m.
Running, Jumping, Cycling, Heavy Events
and Tag-of-War

Entries close on Saturday, 21st June.

Forms from usual Sports Shops and Hon.
Sec. T. D. McKie, Central Police Office,
Glasgow, C.1.

WEST CALDER A.A.C.

SPORTS MEETING

(under S.A.A.A. Laws)

At BURNGRANGE PARK, West Calder
On SATURDAY, 26th JULY—at 2.45 p.m.

EVENTS: 100 yds., 220 yds., 440 yds.,
and 880 yds., 1 mile, 2 miles, pole
vault, high jump, discus, javelin, shot,
throwing 56lb. over the bar, youths' lap
(356 yds.), and invitation mile medley
relay.

Ladies: 80 yds., 100 yds., 220 yds., and
invitation relay race.

Entries close on Saturday, 19th July,
with Mr. David Wilson, Maybank Cottage,
West Calder.

ACROSS

2—Look for him at awkward corners in a race (7).

7—Isn't it ripe for a fairy? (4).

9—If you take care of your feet you won't get this (4).

11—Also (3).

13—Girl's name (4).

14—A starting point (3).

15—Name withdrawn from list (7).

17—Royal (3).

18—Word that could describe last year's A.A.A. 3 miles championship race (4).

20—Donkey (3).

21—One of three fates in Scandinavian mythology (4).

22—Just an easy run (4).

23—Not so famous brother of 4 down (7).

DOWN

1—On show (9).

3—Should be in this for racing (4).

4—European champion starts off by a thicket (9).

5—Otherwise the trail (5).

6—A popular relay race at the pre-war. Q.P. F.C. sports (9).

8—Famous athlete and Olympic 1600 metres finalist 1932 and 1936 was of this nationality (7).

9—Possibly an inter-club (6).

10—Not so young (5).

12—Clover-like plant (5).

16—You have usually got to do this to win (5).

19—A passage for sweat (4).

LAST MONTH'S CROSS-WORD SOLUTION.

Across:—(2) Jumpers; (7) Ows; (9) Neap; (11) Ire; (13) Eats; (14) Tar; (15) Veteran; (17) Aid; (18) Esau; (20) Rest; (21) Lies; (22) Tyre; (23) Adheres.

Down:—(1) Polevault; (3) Unit; (4) Persevere; (5) Reata; (6) Apertures; (8) Sisters; (9) Nearest; (10) David; (12) Canal; (16) Edged; (19) Sty.

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