

- June.
 11/12—Scottish Championships.....Hampden.
 12—Sea Cadet Corps.....Edinburgh.
 Irvine—ST. Dunstan's.
 South-West Inter-County Youth, Hamilton.
 15—Kilbarchan A.A.C.....Kilbarchan Public Park.
 Edinburgh Northern Harriers v. Edinburgh
 Southern Harriers.....New Meadowbank.
 16—Royal Ulster Constabulary.....Belfast.
 19—Scottish Schools.....Westerlands.
 Edinburgh Corporation Lighting and Cleansing
 Department.....New Meadowbank.
 Fife and Kinross District Union of Y.M.C.A.'s
 Kirkcaldy.
 Glasgow Battalion B.B.
 Glasgow Academical Club.
 Motherwell and Wishaw Police.
 A.A.A. Marathon.....London.
 22—Inter-County Championships.....Heleavale.
 Five Club Contest for Heriot Trophy.
 New Meadowbank.
 26—Glasgow Police.....Hampden Park.
 Scottish Junior Championships and Senior
 Relay Championships.....New Meadowbank.
 Stewarton Bonnet Guild.....Siewa toa.
 26—Women's A.A.A. Championships.....Chiswick.
 29—Glasgow Eastern Cycling Club Sports.
 Helensvale.
 July.
 2/3—A.A.A. Championships.....White City.
 3—Ardeer Recreation Club.....Ardeer.
 British Legion.....Murrayfield.
 Vale of Leven A.A.C.....Alexandria.
 Braw Lads' Gathering.....Galashiels.
 6—Dollar Academy v. Geo. Heriot's School.
 Dollar.
 10—Edinburgh City Police A.C. New Meadowbank.
 Shettleston H. and Dalry Supporters' Club.
 Dalry.
 10—A.A.A. Junior Championships.....White City.
 14—Motherwell Y.M.C.A.....Pirbright.
 17—Triangular International.....Manchester.
 Bonnyrigg A.C.....Bonnyrigg.
 West Kilbride A.A.C.....Largs.
 Torquay A.C.....Torquay.
 17—Duns A.A. and H.C. Sports.....Duns.
 19—Maryhill Harriers.....Dunoon.
 Ayrshire Pipe Band.
 23/24—Edinburgh Academy Games.
 24—British Police Championships.....Hampden.
 Linlithgow Burgh Council.....Linlithgow.
 * Aberdeen Corporation.
 Newcastle United F.C.....Newcastle.
 29/August 7—Olympic Games.....Wembley.
 31—Co-operative Youths' Service Sports, Glasgow.
 Edinburgh Inter-Works Sports' Association.
 New Meadowbank.
 West Calder A.A. Meeting.....West Calder.
 Lauder Common Riding Games.....Lauder.
 Aug.
 7—Rangers F.C.
 Bute Highland Games (Confined).
 12—British Empire v. U.S.A.....London.
 14—Carlisle Infirmary Sports.
 South Queensferry Fair Sports
 South Queensferry.
 21—Milngavie Highland Games.
 Bute Highland Games (Open).....Rothesay.
 25—Cowal Games.....Dunoon.
 Campsie Highland Games.....Lennoxtown.

(NOTE.—Every care has been taken with compiling "Sports Diary." Any error, alteration of date, or omission, should be brought to our notice for revision.)

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THE SCOTS ATHLETE

PRICE
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JAMES FLEMING (Motherwell Y.M.C.A. H.) Olympic "Possible" competing in the International 1,500 metres race at the British Games, London.

SPECIAL FEATURES INCLUDE
 THRILLS OF TRACK AND FIELD
 By JAMES L. LOGAN
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 SPORTS PUBLICITY

GLASGOW POLICE
International Sports Meeting

(Under S.A.A.A., S.N.C.U. and S.A.W.A. Laws)

HAMPDEN PARK, GLASGOW,
SATURDAY, 26th JUNE, 1948, at 2.30 p.m.

£400 IN PRIZES.

Youths' Races; Open Races; Cycle Races; High Jump;
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INVITATION EVENTS—

Throwing the 16lb. Hammer; 120 Yards and 440 Yards, both
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**AMATEUR ATHLETIC
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

(Under S.A.A.A., S.N.C.U. and S.A.W.A. Laws)

HAMPDEN PARK, GLASGOW,
SATURDAY, 24th JULY, 1948, at 2 p.m.

The following OPEN HANDICAP EVENTS are included
in the Programme:—

100 YARDS FLAT RACE.
220 YARDS FLAT RACE.
880 YARDS FLAT RACE.
ONE MILE FLAT RACE.

NOTE—ENTRIES close, SATURDAY, 10th JULY, 1948, with Messrs.
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THE SCOTS ATHLETE

TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN
SCOTTISH AND WORLD ATHLETICS

EDITED BY - WALTER J. ROSS

EDITORIAL OFFICES—69 ST. VINCENT STREET, GLASGOW, C.2

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JUNE.

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Annual Subscription, 6/6.



WITH the tests for Olympic selection pending, Scots athletic enthusiasts will have a special interest in the attempt of the Scottish nominees to sport the British singlet at Wembley.

Sixteen Scots are included in the official list of Olympic "Possibles." In addition, two ladies, Miss S. Burns of Edinburgh University and Miss Q. Shivas of Aberdeen University appear in the women's list at 100 and 200 metres respectively.

Sheila Burns has been particularly impressive this season, she is very strong and of a determined type and if she can find a yard or so can well make her place. If she does it would bring great credit and give some needed driving power to a somewhat backward women's athletic movement in Scotland.

The list is not an exclusive one and does not veto the chances of other athletes coming into the reckoning when the official tests take place. For example, Alex.

McLean of Bellahouston Harriers and Charlie Robertson of Dundee Thistle, though not appearing in the official list are considered to have at least an equal chance on current form at respectively 10,000 metres and the marathon as the Scot's "possibles" in these events.

Many are Called—Few are Chosen

Despite the fact that just under a score of Scots may attempt to make the Olympic Grade, we must not be too confident that many will pass the final test.

To prove oneself among the best three in Britain in one's specific event is a stiff task, and if we have 3 or 4 Scots in the British team we will have done better than usual.

At the Olympic Games in Berlin, 1936, for example, we had two representatives in the British team, Bobby Graham of Maryhill Harriers, at 1,500 metres and Donald Robertson of Maryhill Harriers in the Marathon.

Alan Paterson—The One Certainty.

Alan Paterson in the high jump and in a lesser degree Duncan Clark in the hammer throwing event are the 2 virtual certainties for selection, while Allan Watt, D. D. McKenzie, Andrew Forbes, James Fleming, and Anglo-Scots John Fairgrieve and N. D. McWhirter, have perhaps the next best chances. Our hurdlers and marathon men should also make a real bid for a place. Taking the various events seriatim it can be seen at a glance just how formidable the opposition really is.

In the high jump, of course, Alan Paterson stands supreme. Despite his Hampden lapse in the Scottish Championships last year and his inability to defend his A.A.A. championship owing to his heel injury, he proved at Ibrox in his epic duel with Yankee "Bill" Vessie not only that he is Britain's best but that he is definitely of world class.

Duncan Clark showed last year by finishing 3rd in the hammer throw to the Hungarian, Nemeth, and Polish George Kordas, in the A.A.A. championship, that he was definitely Britain's best, and if he retains similar form should also be a certainty for selection.

So much for our two best chances.

Coming to the sprints, home-Scots Allan Watt of Shettleston Harriers and D. D. McKenzie of Edinburgh University (the latter having now decided to concentrate on 200 metres instead of 400 metres) should make their presence felt. Watt is following a progressive plan and is running well especially over the shorter sprint now that he has dispensed with starting blocks with which he was never entirely happy. Versatile McKenzie is also a robust type who never knows when he is beaten.

Both men have a really formidable task just look at the class of sprinter to whom they are opposed. Such as McDonald Bailey who last year proved himself the fastest sprinter in this hemisphere with his 9.6 secs. British record for 100 yards. True he suffered a break-down but fortunately his muscle appears to be standing up and his present form is quite impressive. J. C. Wilkinson rated Europe's best sprinter last year, not to mention J. A. Gregory, resident in Ireland,

but British born, and J. Archer, European champion, now recovering from a broken leg sustained in a Rugby match and a host of others, practically "even-timers." 200 metre "possible" Lt. P. H. Valle has already this year broken "evens" over the shorter sprint.

London University student sprinter John Fairgrieve, though he won the 220 yards for England in the Triangular contest at Edinburgh last year is a Scot and I understand would prefer to be recognised as such for selection in any future International contests. If anything, he has shown improvement on his last years winning form and must stand an excellent chance of gaining the British Olympic singlet. Our other Anglo-Scot "Possible," 22 years-old Norris McWhirter has not been so forward through leg injury. Can he get "peak" by the fateful July 2nd and 3rd?

In the 400 metres, official candidate W. D. Connacher and Ian Panton, both Victoria Park, will both have to show improved times to trouble such as Pugh, Lewis, Pike, Collier, and perhaps evergreen W. Roberts of Salford, if he again decides to have a real try.

Still the class here does not appear to be of the standard of Rampling, Brown, Roberts-Berlin vintage, Reardon and the giant Wint, the best in these islands at this distance, are likely to represent respectively Eire and Jamaica.

No Contender for 800 Metres.

We have no official contender at 800 metres, and although such as J. S. Petty, St. Modan's, T. Begg of Glasgow University, C. Hall of Edinburgh University, Speirs of Shettleston, and J. Smart of Edinburgh Southern, are runners of exceptional promise, they are hardly mature enough for this year's Olympics.

At 1,500 metres our hopes are placed in fast and well-built James Fleming of Motherwell Y.M.C.A. Alex Nangle is trying to get his protege fit at the right time, but he too will have stern opposition in such as D. G. Wilson (Poly.), G. Nankeville (Achilles), W. Burfitt (Belgrave), A. B. Parker, W. Hawkey and R. Bannister (Achilles). The last mentioned only 19 years of age withdrew from the official list at his own request, but despite his youth he continues to reveal sterling form.



Photo by H. W. Neale.

Anglo-Scot, J. FAIRGRIEVE (London Univ.) (73) winning the final of the 100 yards from 1946 European Champion J. ARCHER (Loughborough) (42) at the University Athletic Union Championships, Mootpur Park.

Forbes Fighting Fit

I am more confident than ever of Andrew Forbes' chances of earning selection at 5,000 metres. Victoria Park 3 mile Scottish Champion and record-holder proved last year in the A.A.A. 3 miles that he was among the 3 best in Britain, but I believe his graduated training will prove him to be faster than ever this year. With his nice combination of pace and stamina, the other 3 mile contenders will have to produce fireworks to thwart him of his ambition.

H. Olney (Thames Valley), A. Chivers (Reading), G. Lucas (Belgrave H.), L. Brown (Sparkhill), S. Cox (Southgate), D. Haw (Leeds), S. McCooke (East Antrim), G. Monshall (Blackheath), and E. Downer (Eastleigh) will provide stern opposition, though some of these may possibly switch to 10,000 metres. Olney is rightly regarded as a great prospect. Steve McCooke also looked good but his recent form has not been too impressive, possibly due to a recurring leg injury.

Downer ran a great race in the International at Reading, but will he have recovered from its effects in time? Geo. Monshall would have the benefits of his association with renowned club-mate Sydney Wooderson, but is he robust enough for the job in hand?

In the 10,000 metres, Geo. Craig (Shettleston Harriers), official contender and Alex. McLean (Bellahouston Harriers) have something to do to penetrate the defences of such as Reg. Gosney (Eastleigh), J. Peters (Sussex Beagles), J. Smart (Belgrave), and P. Dainty (Southend).

Both our candidates have had a hard cross-country season, and it would be a mild surprise if either managed to be in the first three.

McLean might go near as he has weathered his busy cross-country season remarkably well.

In winning the 10 miles championship recently on his own he gave an impressive

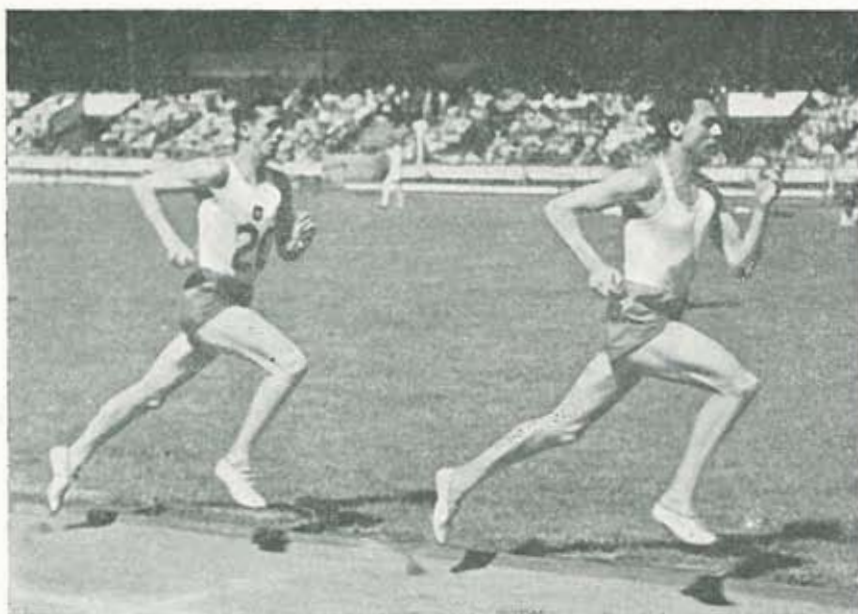


Photo by H. W. Neale.

FRITZ DE RUYTER (Netherlands) leading from E. NYBERG (Sweden) in the International 1,500 metres race at the British Games which was won by DE RUYTER in 3 mins 58.4 secs.

display and reached the 6 mile stage in 31 mins. 15 secs. just 13 secs. outside the best championship time. Could McLean improve the other 30 secs. needed to put him within striking distance of the leaders?

In both hurdle events the prospect of at least one Scotsman earning a place in the British team appears brighter than at first seemed possible. J. G. M. Hart of Edinburgh University has twice broken R. S. Stronach's long-standing record of 15.8 secs. for 120 yards hurdles by returning 15.5 secs. and may prove within the next few weeks that he is among the best three in Britain over the high "sticks." In this event R.A.F. wonderman Finlay is still the "don," while R. Powell (Achilles) and R. Whitworth (R.A.F. and Achilles) can both skim the hurdles in fast style. Another surprise contender is R. C. Barkway (Achilles) one of Britain's best quarter-mile hurdlers who has declared his intention of switching to the shorter event. His respective best times are 55.5 secs. for 400 metres

hurdles and 15.5 secs. for the sprint. He is now concentrating on sprinting and technique to bring down his 110 metres time. This versatile athlete is also a splendid performer at $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, high and long jumps as well as hop, step and jump.

In the 400 metres hurdles Robin Boyd and J. G. M. Hart are both rated. The latter has shown versatility in his hurdling, while the former is training progressively, and has shown fast times on the flat over 440 and 880 yards.

Robust Harry Whittle (Reading) is Britain's best, whilst W. Ede (Epsom) and F. Scopes (Achilles) are sound performers.

In the picturesque pole-vault our chances are not particularly bright and our representative R. F. Eddington has something to do to qualify especially as Britain's best ever pole-vaulter, T. R. Webster is attempting a come-back. Even if he does not equal the brilliant 13 ft. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. which gave him equal 6th at Berlin, he should at least prove himself the No. 1 Britisher.

Similarly our best in the hop, step and jump, A. S. Lindsay (St. Andrews Un.) will require to reveal marked improvement to gain the selectors' vote. In studying the Berlin Olympic film it was an education to watch the nimbleness, elasticity and technique of especially the Jap contestants in this event.

Although the A.A.A.'s championships on July 2nd and 3rd, may be regarded as the main test for selection there is the triangular contest at Fallowfield (Manchester) a fortnight later to settle any doubtful issues.

On the other hand the marathon men have only one "bite at the cherry." In such an arduous event it is impossible to race often. The selectors have done the correct thing in combining the Polytechnic and A.A.A. Marathon events in one. Formerly in an Olympic year the selectors chose the respective winners of "Poly." and A.A.A. Marathons and voted the 3rd from the 2nd man in these events. The times of the 2nd men were not always

a fair indication of the respective merits. Different trails, different weather conditions were a vital factor. But when all compete in the one race the conditions are the same for all.

S.A.A.A. Champion Donald Robertson and myself, both of Maryhill Harriers, are the official nominees with the addition of Charlie Robertson of Dundee Thistle. Unfortunately Donald Robertson has suffered a number of set-backs culminating in a recent injury and has definitely intimated his withdrawal from the Windsor to Chiswick event. Charlie Robertson has been training conscientiously and should make his presence felt despite his comparative lack of experience. I, too, have been training hard, and hope to have a real bid. Despite my experience last year in competing in both Scottish and A.A.A. marathons (which I feel should be very helpful) I feel that I am still a comparative novice at the full distance marathon. My chief problem remains, will I get the distance?

EDINBURGH CITY POLICE A.A.C.

OPEN SPORTS MEETING

NEW MEADOWBANK,
EDINBURGH,

SATURDAY, 10th JULY, 1948,
at 2 p.m.

FULL PROGRAMME OF OPEN AND INVITATION,
TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS.
SENIOR FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL.

Full particulars and Entry Forms from the Convener:—
Inspector W. HILL, Police Station, Leith, Edinburgh.



Photo by H. W. Neale.

T. RICHARDS.

Tom Richards, Welsh Olympic marathon "Possible" and runner-up in the British marathon championship last year, winning the famous Finchley Harriers' 20 miles road race.

Jack Holden (Tipton) is regarded as the king-pin of Britain's distance experts. His performance at Loughborough last year was a brilliant one and by winning the Midland Counties Marathon on his own in 2 hrs. 36 mins. 13 secs. has demonstrated his early fitness. What will he do tuned up to peak condition?

Second to Holden last year at Loughborough, Tom Richards (South London) showed pace as well as stamina in winning the Finchley "20" in 1 hr. 56 mins. 19 secs., just over 2 mins. outside Jack Holden's course record of 1 hr. 53 mins. 42.8 secs. As Richards is even better over the full course he must be well in the running for a place in the first 3 on the 19th June.

The other 2 official nominees are J. A. Henning (Duncairn Nomads) and C. H. Ballard (Surrey).

Henning has revealed stamina by winning over the distance this year and all

Northern Ireland is with him to a man. In winning the Sussex 20 miles Championship in 1 hr. 53 mins. 32 secs. with almost 13 minutes to spare from his runner-up, South African Ballard, has shown that he is also very fit. There is good reason for both these men to be well-fancied to make their place.

Last year the tousy course, oppressive heat and perhaps Holden's devastating caused both men to retire after being well in the van. So much for the official nominees; of the others, the pick may be from among, Dr. Turing (Walton), S. Jones (Poly), R. C. Manley (Woodford Green), B. Hemsley (Gosforth), L. H. Griffiths (Reading) and D. E. Morgan (Mitcham). Will the last-mentioned prove a surprise? His recent performance in winning the Surrey County 20 miles championship from Tom Richards in a new record of 1 hour 55 mins. 27 secs., against Richards old



Photo by H. W. Neale.

British Champion, and "hope" for the Olympics, HARRY WHITTLE on winning the Inter-Counties, 440 yards hurdles in the new record time for the meeting, of 56.1 secs. His hurdling technique has greatly improved since last year but the photograph suggests there is still room for further improvement.

record of 1 hour 56 mins. 2 secs. was first class. Tom Richards could only do 2 hours 4 mins. 16 secs. on this occasion and was possibly suffering from the reaction of his Finchley win. Still this does not explain Morgan's record performance.

The above survey indicates briefly the stern task awaiting the Scots nominees in their bid for Olympic recognition. Still whether or not many Scots finally gain selection, enthusiasts north of the border will wish the British athletes selected the very best of luck.

Scots Will Be Triers.

Whether they succeed or fail, I know that the Scots contenders will do their very best. They have all trained conscientiously and now await the final test. As Shakespears finely says "Tis not in mortals to command success," but we'll do better, Sempronius, we'll deserve it."

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 Miles Road Race, Youths' Half-mile
 Handicap.

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 Entry Forms from usual Sports Shops, and Hon.
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VALE OF LEVEN A.A.C.
OPEN SPORTS MEETING

(Under S.A.A.A. & S.N.C.U. Rules)

MILLBURN PARK, ALEXANDRIA
SATURDAY, 3rd JULY, 1948, at 2.30.
OPEN EVENTS—100 Yards to 1 Mile,
 High Jump, Distance Road Race.
INVITATION EVENTS—880 Yards
 H'cap., Medley Relay, 2 Miles Team
 Race.

CYCLING; FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL.

 Entries close SATURDAY, 26th JUNE, with Hon.
 Secy., W. Stevenson, 57 Wilson St., Alexandria.



One of the greatest ever Cross-Country runners having won the International on 4 occasions, JACK HOLDEN has ran 30 miles inside 3 hours. He won the 1947 British Marathon in the grand time of 2 hrs. 33 mins. 20 secs.

Britain's representatives were second in this race in the last two Olympic Games. At 42 years of age will Jack be the first Britisher to take the Olympic classic?



It would be a great thrill to Scottish enthusiasts if ALAN PATERSON, (Joint British record-holder at 6 ft. 7½ ins.) were to win the Olympic Crown. Alan aims to be at his peak at the Games. He has all our best wishes.

GREAT BRITAIN'S "BIG THREE" FOR THE OLYMPICS.

E. McDONALD BAILEY; JACK HOLDEN; ALAN S. PATERSON.

Fittingly enough, most fancied athletes to win an Olympic title for Great Britain represent extreme branches of athletics. E. McDONALD BAILEY in the sprints, JACK HOLDEN in the marathon, and, ALAN S. PATERSON in the High Jump. Though it would be a tremendous feat for all to win and perhaps, too much to expect, each has shown in the past that they have the power and the class to gain the supreme Olympic honour.



E. McDONALD BAILEY

showed tremendous speed last year in a series of races and made a new British record of 9.6 seconds for the 100 yards. At Rangers F.C. Sports he ran 100 metres in 10.4 seconds, just one-fifth second outside J. C. OWENS Olympic and World records.



THRILLS OF TRACK AND FIELD I REMEMBER

By
JAMES L. LOGAN

THE keenest athletics' fan will not claim that his sport, as a spectacle, comes into the thrill-a-minute category, like football or in hockey.

Nevertheless, as an ardent follower of other sports, I find that the dramatic moment in athletics lingers longest in memory. And, to an enthusiast of nearly twenty years' standing, a few minutes reflection brings dozens of such memories tumbling into the mind.

Undoubtedly, the big thrill of the past two decades was Paterson's wonderful leap of 6 ft. 7½ ins. at last year's Ibrox meeting. All the elements of drama went to the build-up for the last nerve-wracking moments. Alan had lost his Scottish title in sensational fashion, he had failed all season (due to injury) to reach his previous best and he was pitted against an American opponent with a formidable record. Although it was not then apparent to everyone, an important psychological factor also hinged on Alan's performance. Did we really have a world-ranking athlete who could sustain the challenge or would he, like so many of his compatriots in other fields of sport, crumple against his American opponent at the crucial moment? When Vessie, at his first attempt, scraped over 6 ft. 7½ ins. and Alan poised himself for the second run-up (after failing narrowly on his first attempt at the height), thousands of us were getting ready to say, "The Yanks always manage to be just that little bit in front." Imagine the attitude to-day to Paterson's chance of the Olympic title if he had failed. The "second best" mentality would already have been clouding our hopes.

All this, plus joint ownership of the British record, depended on that one jump at Ibrox. And, as Alan poised for a moment and then began the fateful run-up,

fifty thousand Scottish hearts beat a little faster. A moment's absolute silence as the slim figure leaped and turned. A couple of seconds' agonising scrutiny of the shivering bar and, then when it was seen to be still, the roar of triumph.

Yes, those fortunate enough to witness that historic leap will retell it through the years.

Another of the big thrills which has locked itself in my memory also concerns a record. To be strictly correct, I should say a "Best Performance" because, being over the unofficial distance of 75 yards, it does not have the full status of record.

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The occasion was the Glasgow Transport meeting of 1930 and the event, a special 75 yards' "dash" featuring Jimmy Crawford, Scottish champion sprinter, record holder and International football player and the magnificently proportioned coloured runner, Jack E. London, who had represented Great Britain and gained second place in the 1928 Olympic 100 metres event. Over the full 100 yards, London would almost certainly have had a slight edge on Crawford but, in the shorter distance, the stocky Scot's remarkable powers of acceleration would give him an initial lead which the tall London would find difficult to cut down within 75 yards. It did indeed work out like that and, nearing the tape, the muscular, dark-skinned Olympic runner-up gathered himself for a prodigious effort to hurl himself past Crawford. But it was the Scot's chest which carried the tape away, inches in front of London.

The time of 7 4/5ths secs. may not appear a particularly outstanding feat at first sight, as it is about 3 yards outside

"evens" but it must be remembered that the initial winding-up loss is very marked in such a short race. Also, London, runner-up in the Olympic sprint of two years earlier, represented world class. Yes, Jimmy Crawford put himself in a special niche with that unique and thrilling performance.

Five years later, Helenvale was again the scene of a big thrill, the full savour of which was perhaps tasted only by those equipped with an intimate knowledge of the game. "Bobby" Graham, then approaching his peak as a miler, was attacking Tom Riddell's Scottish mile record of 4 mins. 15 secs. in a specially framed handicap. To those keen enough to be following the progress of the attempt with their own stop-watches, the event was complicated by the fact that the Helenvale track did not have a full quarter-mile lap.

At the end of the third lap it appeared to the knowledgeable eye that Graham could not possibly beat the record as he appeared not only to be outside schedule

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but to be lacking in the fire necessary for a last lap "burst." How wrong the experts were: and how pleased they were to eat their words.

As he entered the last lap Graham stepped up his pace. Faster, faster, until he was moving with all the pace and power of a good quarter-miler in full stride. He flashed past the post in 4 mins. 12 secs. and Tom Riddell, the dethroned record holder, was the first to offer congratulations.

To those equipped with stop-watches that was a great thrill as they only could fully appreciate the dramatic race against time.

Two other thrilling efforts, one successful and the other a glorious failure, concerned athletes whose names are probably unknown to the youngest generation. The successful man was a quarter-miler named Davie, of Glasgow Police, and the occasion was a British Police Championship meeting of the mid-nineteen-thirties held at Hampden Park. Davie, running the last leg in the medley relay event, took over the baton with a

S.A.A.A. 1948 HANDBOOK

Copies of the S.A.A.A. 1948 Handbook are now available and may be had from Mr. J. GILBERT, Hon. Secretary, 17 Pearce Avenue, Edinburgh, 12.—Price 1/1 post free.

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List of Office-Bearers, Judges, Timekeepers, etc.
Particulars of Sub-Committees.
Standard Times for Scottish Championships.
All Scottish Records.
List of Affiliated Clubs and Secretaries.
1948 Sports Fixtures.
1948 Amendments to Laws and Rules for Competition.

Copies of the Constitution Laws and Rules for Competition with insert of 1948 amendments (bringing the booklet up-to-date) are also available.—Price 1/1 post free.

Every Athlete and Official should possess copies of these Handbooks, and it is suggested that Clubs, Associations, etc., might be prepared to make comprehensive purchase to cover sale or gift to their members.

huge deficit. It looked hopeless, even when he closed most of the gap over the first 350 yards or so, for the effort took its toll and he was obviously going back on his heels. But he kept struggling on and the crowd roared encouragement when it was observed that his opponent had also "sold out." Thereafter it was a sort of slow-motion struggle between two men, both of whom were in dire physical straits. You could almost hear Dave's teeth gritting as he strove to overtake his slower-moving rival in the last few yards. How the crowd roared its appreciation of his courage as he staggered past his opponent just on the tape. A gallant effort which sticks in the memory of all who saw it.

The unsuccessful, but equally courageous, athlete was a fair-haired, bespectacled youth named J. A. M. Robertson and the occasion was the Scottish Youths' Half-Mile Championship of 1936. At that time another bespectacled lad W. M. O. Rennie, was dominating youths' events and was reigning champion. As the capabilities of Robertson and his other rivals were known, Rennie's victory was taken as a foregone conclusion and as he moved smoothly into the lead almost from the beginning, the only question was how near he would come to two minutes. The fair-haired Robertson was trailing Rennie closely, however, and at 300 yards to go, Rennie, with no apparent effort, stepped up the pace to shake off his persistent shadow. Robertson began to show signs of crack-up but still he hung on grimly at Rennie's elbow. Eighty yards to go Rennie, although retaining his poise like a true champion, was pushing himself to his limit. And still he could not burn off the game Robertson, whose head was fairly rolling on his shoulders by this time. Courage alone carried him over the last thirty yards. The crowd rose to his magnificent effort and there is no doubt that if Rennie had faltered in the slightest he would have been beaten by the never-say-die youth. The time returned by Rennie in this great race, 1 min. 59.3 secs. still stands as record and was faster than the winning return in the Senior Championship held on the same day. There is no doubt that Robertson's time would have won many a Senior Championship.



FINISH TO AN EPIC RACE.

W. M. O. RENNIE (Glasgow Univ.) just gets the tape inches ahead of J. A. M. ROBERTSON (Victoria Park A.A.C.) in the remarkable race recalled by JAMES L. LOGAN—the 1936 half-mile Youths' Championship. The winning time of 1 min. 59.3 secs. is one record hardly likely to be broken at this year's Junior Championships to be held, on 26th June, at New Meadowbank, Edinburgh.

Unfortunately, the war swallowed up these two fine young athletes before they had a chance to show us what they could do as grown men.

Yes, we all have our pet memories of thrilling moments in this fascinating sport. And the men who thrilled us, like Davie

and Robertson, are not all champions whose performances are officially recorded.

But their deeds are remembered by those who find that courage lingers in the memory long after mere skill and natural ability are forgotten.

U.S.A.'s "FLYING PARSON"

By DAVID McHARDY

WHEN Lennart Strand turns out for the Olympic 1,500 metres in London next August, he will have unexpected opposition from America's "Gallop Parson."

World record holder of the mile on the indoor track since 1944 when he returned 4 mins. 6.4 secs., the Rev. Gilbert Lothair Dodds, M.A., has persistently refused to commit himself to any promise "to go for the Games" and has shaken U.S. optimism in their 1,500 metres chances, by retiring several times "for good."

Unbeaten since 1943, Dodds was away from racing for two years after breaking the world record. He returned in 1946 winter and won half-a-dozen races in a row and again quit.

Following his latest comeback, the "Flying Parson" showed he had lost none of his old dash by breaking his own world record at Millrose Games in New York on January 31st, this year, with 4 mins. 4.053 secs.

Since New Year Gil Dodds has been training outdoors on a track sometimes banked with snow newly ploughed so that he could have as much early preparation for a strenuous season on the cinders.

Hitherto reticent on the subject, Gil has admitted in a recent letter to me that he is coming to Wembley. As he modestly writes:—"I am attempting to get back into shape and hope to qualify for the Olympics"

Regarded as the best middle-distance proposition the Yanks have had, as one U.S. sports critic has put it, "since the heyday of Glen Cunningham, Bill Bonthron, Gene Venzke and the Rideout twins, the 'Lord's Miler'" is the only American runner conceded a chance of beating Sweden's 1,500 metres world record holder, Lennart Strand.

America is certain to make a big effort to win this event at Wembley for not since 1908—funnily enough the last time



GIL DODDS

making his new indoors world-record of 4 mins. 4.6 secs. for the mile.

the Games were held in London, has the "Stars and Stripes" been the Flag of Victory.

In training, as in his personal life, Gil Dodds is thorough and conscientious, and he has that hallmark of greatness—he is prepared to pass on anything he may know which might help others. Indeed, one of his greatest pleasures is training with the very young members of the local Y.M.C.A. club and giving practical demonstrations.

An all-round sport, this great runner began in junior high school when 12 years of age and inspired by the great U.S. runner Lloyd Khan, he made the track his favourite recreation.

In his training schedule he plans a fairly long spell of "baking" his legs beneath a sun-ray lamp. This he avers strengthens them and keeps him in record-breaking trim.

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AT "BARRFIELDS," LARGS,
SATURDAY, 17th JULY, 1948,
at 2.15 p.m.

Youths' 100 Yards Handicap; Ladies' 100 Yards Handicap.

OPEN HANDICAPS—

100 Yards, 220 Yards, 880 Yards and One Mile Flat Races;
High Jump; 13 Miles Road Race (Scratch).

INVITATION EVENTS—

Senior Relay; 2 Miles Team Race; Senior and Junior
Five-a-Side Football Tournament.

ENTRIES close THURSDAY, 8th JULY, 1948.
Full particulars from Mr. GEORGE WILSON, Hon. Secy., Sports Club,
West Kilbride.

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at 3 p.m.

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100 Yards, 220 Yards, 440 Yards, 880 Yards, One Mile,
120 Yards Hurdles (3 ft.), High and Broad Jumps,
Weight Putt, Javelin, Medley Relay.

SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS—

4 x 110 Yards and One Mile Medley Relay.

OTHER EVENTS—

WOMEN'S OLYMPIC TRIALS at 100 Metres Flat and
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120 Yards (Open Handicap) Flat Race.

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