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JULY, 1948

Vol. 3 No. 4

SCOTS ATHLETE

PRICE
6^D



J. B. PANTON (Victoria Park A.A.C.) looks round on winning the Scottish 440 Yards Championship from B. M. McKENZIE (Edinburgh University A.C.) (left) and R. H. BOYD (Victoria Park A.A.C.) (centre).

SPECIAL FEATURES INCLUDE
SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIPS
PHOTOFLASH No. 13.—SHEILA BURNS.
ACTION PHOTOS by ROY ROBINSON
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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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JULY, 1948.

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SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIPS 1948

THOUGH there were few really outstanding performances, there was a marked improvement in the general athletic standard and several thrilling events at the 56th Annual Scottish Amateur Athletic Association Championships held at Hampden Park, Glasgow, on 11th and 12th June, 1948.

Without commenting on all events we can touch on some of the highlights and make observations on the organisation of the meeting with the view of having any unsatisfactory features considered and rectified for future occasion.

Throwing the Hammer (Wire Handle) found Duncan McD. Clark (Royal Ulster Constabulary) showing progressive form on winning with 167 ft. 2 ins. and establishing "a Best Championship Performance" for the third successive year. But more revealing was the form of the runner-up, E. C. K. Douglas, former Edinburgh University and Inter-varsity champion and Internationalist Rugby three-quarter, with a grand throw of 164 ft. 3½ ins. which brought him right into the limelight for Olympic selection. This was certainly marked improvement, last year he had taken 3rd place with his best throw of 125 ft. 9½ ins. In other words through coaching and concentration he has improved nearly 40 ft. in a season.

George E. Mitchell (Glasgow Police) again won Throwing the Hammer (Scots Style) which title he first won away back in 1926.

Only seven entrants and four starters in the 6 miles was not very impressive, when distance running is considered to be so popular with athletes. Ten-miles champion Alex. McLean (Bellahouston H.) brightened affairs with grand running to win in "Best Championship" time of 30 mins. 54.7 secs. which was 7.3 secs. better than the time set up by J. E.

Farrell in 1938. McLean's 6 miles performance coupled with the fact of his winning the 10 miles title in the Spring gave him custody of the Crabbie Cup for the most meritorious performance of the championships.

It was a pleasant surprise to all when 24-years-old J. Drummond (Heriot's F.P. A.C.) was announced winner of Putting the Weight with 41 ft. 11 ins. on his first time of entering the championships. In each of his 6 Putts (3 in elimination and 3 in final) he cleared the standard distance of 39 ft. With coaching he is bound to be a star of the future.

P. G. Skea, also of Heriot's, had a grand throw of 178 ft. 3½ ins. with the javelin, beating A. Jackson's Scottish (1938) native record by 5 inches. Skea's record throw, of course, is subject to ratification.

Similarly the fine Hop, Step and Jump of 45 ft. 4½ ins. by nimble A. S. Lindsay, Inter-varsity champion, which was 1½ ins. better than the native record set by J. Howden in 1939 is also subject to ratification.

In winning the Discus throw, K. Maksimczyk (Edinburgh University) again proved his versatile athletic ability with a unique record. In 1946 he won the Pole-vault. In 1947 he did not retain the Pole-vault, but won Putting the Weight. In 1948 he was only 3rd in Putting the Weight but made amends by his Discus win. A champion at three different events in three successive years!

Holder, J. G. M. Hart, gave a fine show after a slow start in the 120 yards hurdles. With conditions not in his favour, his time of 15.6 secs. just one-tenth secs. slower than his recently established Scottish record was excellent.

Hart was surprised, however, in the final of the 440 yards hurdles, but not by

R. H. Boyd, the other "Olympic Possible" but by the Glasgow varsity champion G. M. Fraser who won in the new "Best Championship" time of 58 secs.

After leading all the way to the "bell" former champion, J. C. Ross (Shettleston H.) had to give best to his younger club-mate, J. Stuart, but, not after a thrilling ding-dong struggle round the last lap in the 2 miles Steeplechase.

The 1946 champion, J. B. Panton (Victoria Park), was back running with all his old confidence when winning the quarter-mile in 50.3 secs. comfortably, and making amends for his 1947 lapse.

J. S. Smart (Edin. Southern) had a merited and easy win in the half-mile. There was a surprise in the heats when J. S. Petty (St. Modan's), the most highly thought of youth, only qualified by being fastest third. He was even less impressive in the final. There is no doubt of his sterling class, but was he past his peak or was he too youthful to stand the nervous strain of the scratch championship running? His form was hard to understand though to our mind he is still Scotland's most promising half-miler.

The sprints were full of excitement and will be talked of for many a long day. Since comments are made with the photographs of the finishes published on other pages nothing need be said except that the thrills provided by the close running and finishing and determined efforts of the athletes in both races were alone worth admission paid to the best stand-seat.

There were 31 entrants for the 220 yards, but about half that number only were forward to compete.

As a spectacle and from the point of view of fairness to all competitors this was unfortunate. In most heats there were walk-overs whilst one competitor had to do 23 secs. to make sure of going through.

We could suggest several fair methods whereby quarter-finals are unnecessary—even if there are 31 acceptances.

The meeting finished three-quarters of an hour behind schedule—this is a long-standing complaint that should be considered thoroughly. It has to be admitted that some hold-ups are caused out of consideration for competition.

SCOTTISH INSTRUCTIONAL FILMS

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- No. 4.—LONG DISTANCE RUNNING (Heino, Finland).
- No. 5.—HURDLING (Miss Maureen Gardner).
- No. 6.—SPRINT STARTING (Miss Maureen Gardner).
- No. 7.—SPRINT STARTING—220 Yards (MacDonald-Bailey).

NOTE.—Coaching Loop Films are in production for Football, Rugby and Basket Ball.

In our opinion it is practical to bring the 3 miles event forward to the beginning of the programme and whilst in process, the heats of the "100" could be run off. This would greatly brighten the programme, cutting out the worst drags and making it a snappier show.

The announcing of results was again slow and with speeding up could be much more impressive.

In the "Women's Olympic Trials" held in conjunction, special mention must be made of Sheila Burns' thrilling display in the 200 metres. Her time of 25.4 secs. should be looked upon as a record; it represents faster running than Margaret McDowall's (1937) Scottish record of 25.8 secs. for the 220 yards.

The Association are to be thanked for bringing the ladies a little into the limelight, but, the women must have an Association and Championship of their own next season and the races should be over the metric distances to keep in line with the Women's Athletic movement throughout the world.

Details:—

- 100 Yards.—1. A. Watt (Shettleston H.) (holder); 2. D. D. McKenzie (Edinburgh University); 3. J. McLachlan (Maryhill H.). 10.4 secs.
- 220 Yards.—1. D. D. McKenzie (Edinburgh Univ.); 2. A. Watt (Shettleston H.); 3. G. MacDonald (Victoria Park). 22.5 secs.
- 440 Yards.—1. J. B. Panton (Victoria Park); 2. B. M. McKenzie (Edinburgh University); 3. R. H. Boyd (Victoria Park). 50.3 secs.
- 880 Yards.—1. J. S. Smart (Edinburgh Southern); 2. E. S. Blackadder (West of Scotland); 3. W. J. Spiers (Shettleston H.). 2 mins. 0.1 secs.
- One Mile.—1. J. A. Fleming (Motherwell Y.M.); 2. F. Sinclair (Greenock W.P.) (holder); 3. W. L. Brown (Heriot's F.P.A.C.). 4 mins. 27.8 secs.
- Three Miles.—1. A. Forbes (Victoria Park A.C.) (holder); 2. T. H. Braid (Edinburgh Univ.); 3. J. C. Morton (Springburn H.). 14 mins. 45 secs.
- Six Miles.—1. A. McLean (Bellahouston H.); 2. G. B. Craig (Shettleston H.); 3. R. McCormack (Lochwinnoch A.A.C.). 30 mins. 54.7 secs. Best Championship Performance.
- 120 Yards Hurdles.—1. J. G. M. Hart (Edinburgh Univ.); 2. J. A. Eddison (Edinburgh South); 3. G. M. Fraser (Glasgow Univ.). 15.6 secs.
- 440 Yards Hurdles.—1. G. M. Fraser (Glasgow Univ.); 2. J. G. M. Hart (Edinburgh Univ.) (holder); 3. R. H. Boyd (Victoria Park). 58 secs.
- Two Miles Steeplechase.—1. J. Stuart (Shettleston H.); 2. J. C. Ross (Shettleston H.); 3. G. M. Cunningham (Victoria Park). 11 mins. 0.3 secs.

High Jump.—1. A. S. Paterson (Victoria Park). 6 ft. 2 ins.; 2. A. McLaren (St. Modan's). 5 ft. 6 ins.; 3. A. G. Ramsay (Glasgow High School and Victoria Park). 5 ft. 6 ins.

Broad Jump.—1. R. M. Smith (Dundee Hawkhill) (holder). 21 ft. 1½ ins.; 2. A. Sutherland (Glasgow Univ.). 20 ft. 1½ ins.; 3. J. L. Hunter (Edinburgh Univ.). 20 ft. 0½ ins.

Hop, Step and Jump.—1. A. S. Lindsay (St. Andrews Univ.) (holder). 45 ft. 4½ ins.; 2. W. Curtis (Victoria Park). 43 ft. 0½ ins.; 3. R. M. Smith (Dundee Hawkhill). 42 ft. 1 in. (A Best Championship Performance. A new Scottish Native Record if ratified, though a better hop, step and jump by Lindsay is also awaiting ratification).

Pole-Vault.—1. D. M. Hastie (Hillhead High S. and Shettleston H.). 10 ft. 6 ins.; 2. R. F. Edington (Glasgow Univ.) (holder). 10 ft. 0 ins.; 3. W. McNeish (Glasgow Univ.). 10 ft. 0 ins.

Javelin.—1. P. G. Skea (Heriot's F.P. A.C.) (holder). 178 ft. 3¼ ins.; 2. W. Bisland (Bellahouston H.). 159 ft. 2½ ins.; 3. J. P. Nisbet (Edinburgh Univ.). 155 ft. 10 ins. A Best Championship Performance and new Scottish Native Record if ratified.

Throwing the Discus.—1. K. Maksimczyk (Edinburgh Univ.). 140 ft. 3¼ ins.; 2. D. Young (Shettleston H.) (holder). 130 ft. 10 ins.; 3. A. A. Bendy (Edinburgh Southern). 127 ft. 2½ ins.

Putting the Weight (16 lbs.).—1. J. Drummond (Heriot's F.P. A.C.). 41 ft. 11 ins.; 2. D. McD. Clark (Royal Ulster Cons. and Wellpark H.). 41 ft. 2 ins.; 3. K. Maksimczyk (Edinburgh Univ.) (holder). 40 ft. 7 ins.

Throwing the Hammer (16 lbs.).—1. D. G. E. Mitchell (Glasgow Police A.A.) (holder). 110 ft. 10 ins.; 2. E. N. Gilruth (Perth). 98 ft. 10 ins.; 3. J. G. Gordon (Stirlingshire Constabulary). 96 ft. 4½ ins.

Throwing the Hammer (Wire Handle).—1. D. McD. Clark (Royal Ulster Cons.) (holder). 167 ft. 2 ins.; 2. E. C. K. Douglas (Edinburgh Univ.). 164 ft. 3½ ins.; 3. D. W. Boyd (Edinburgh City Police). 135 ft. 10 ins.

Tug-of-War (100 Stones).—Denny A.C. beat Cumbernauld two pulls to none.

Tug-of-War (Catchweight).—Denny A.C. beat Glasgow Police A.A. by two pulls to none.

WOMEN'S OLYMPIC TRIALS.

200 Metres.—1. S. Burns (Edinburgh Univ.); 2. Q. Shivas (Aberdeen Univ.); 3. M. A. F. Malcolm (Glasgow Univ.). 25.4 secs.

High Jump.—1. N. Murray (Dumfries High S.). 4 ft. 7 ins.

Broad Jump.—1. E. Anderson (Dumfries High S.). 16 ft. 9¼ ins.

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THE "100"

IT is doubtful if there ever has been such a close and exciting finish to the 100 yards in the long history of the championships than this year's race. Before the heats on Saturday afternoon it was generally forecast that the final would be fought out between the holder, Allan Watt (Shettleston H.) and David D. McKenzie (Edinburgh Univ. A.C.) particularly after the showing in the heat-running of the 220 yards on the previous evening. Running into the wind, Watt was fastest up in the heats with 10.5 secs. But the first surprise came when McKenzie, though qualifying, only finished 2nd in his heat. J. McLachlan (Maryhill Harriers) was his heat-winner. The "wise" people present said that McKenzie was reserving his energy. Oh, but they soon changed their tune when in the semi-final, McLachlan, with a snappy display, was again ahead of McKenzie in 10.5 secs. Watt won the other semi-final, again having the fastest time with 10.4 secs.

Then the speculation as to who would do it in the final. The atmosphere was tense as they sprang out of their holes, and McLachlan was ahead! Still a yard ahead at half-distance, the surprise man of the day. With last desperate efforts, Watt and McKenzie clearly closed up over the last few yards with Watt lunging his shoulder-drop finish. But who won? Even the judges didn't know. At least, they were taking some time to decide. The crowd were getting impatient and argued amongst themselves. Some said in conciliatory fashion, "They know who won alright, but are trying to work out who was 2nd and 3rd." Then what we were all waiting for, the announcement, "1st—Allan Watt, 2nd—D. D. McKenzie, 3rd—J. McLachlan."

But a large section of the terracing crowd rear in line with the tape evidently didn't like the decision and strongly booed the judges. It was an exciting event alright, and a clear case for more prompt judging and the photo-finish.

THRILLING SPRINT FINALS AT THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE "220"

BY his running all season previous, rugby Internationalist D. D. McKenzie was most fancied to take the 220 yards title. His prospects were enhanced by his easy and convincing cross-tie victory in 22.2 secs. in the Friday evening preliminaries. However Allan Watt restored his own confidence and came right back to favour with his followers on Saturday by clocking the fastest semi-final time of 22.3 secs. After the sensational 100 yards final, the 220 final was obviously going to be a great race between Watt and McKenzie. The others were not quoted.

Allan Watt, running magnificently had a 2 yard lead on entering the straight but McKenzie on the inside lane closed up and was abreast with 30 yards to go. Neither would yield but both showed tired strains as they fought it out for the tape. Then, seemingly from nowhere up came George McDonald (Victoria Park A.A.C.) former 220 yards champion with a tremendous finish in his sweet, fluent, machine-like style to almost cheat the "giants." McKenzie was declared winner but some said Watt was the actual winner. "The judges were just atoning for their lapse earlier in the afternoon." However, there was no booing (his time) and everyone seemed happy.

You can study these photographs for yourself. It was fortunate our camera-man, Roy Robinson, was on the spot to take them. They will help to recall down the years the thrilling sprint finishes at the 1948 Championships.



BRITISH MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIP AND OLYMPIC TRIAL

JOHN EMMET
FARRELL'S



BRITISH and Polytechnic Marathon and Olympic trial was won by the favourite Jack Holden of Tipton in 2 hrs. 36 mins. 44.6 secs. with Tom Richards a good second, 400 yards behind in 2 hrs. 38 mins. 3 secs. Surprise of the race was the performance of S. Jones of the promoting club in finishing 3rd in 2 hrs. 40 mins. 49 secs., just holding off a last minute bid by J. A. Henning who started slowly but finished very fast. Bert Hemsley of Gosforth and Freshwater (Poly.) gave sound performances to finish respectively 5th and 6th.

Charlie Robertson's Sensational Bid

Scottish hope, Charlie Robertson, set the initial pace for the first 2 miles and was running easily and confidently. Holden was back a bit at this stage, but when the field settled at 5 miles there was a group of 8 or 9 runners together including Robertson, Holden, Richards, Jones and Griffiths. At 10 and 15 miles the order was still unchanged with Ballard and myself lying handy 40 yards away. At 20 miles Robertson still had a narrow lead but shortly afterwards Holden took the initiative with Robertson 2nd and Richards 3rd. At 22 miles Richards overtook Robertson, and at 23 miles the latter was forced to retire, Jones was now 3rd but Henning came away strongly over the last few miles from 8th position to within 10 secs. of Jones at the finish. He undoubtedly misjudged his race erring on the side of caution in contra-distinction to Robertson who may have been a little impetuous. It is easy to be wise after the event, however, but there is speculation as to what the latter may have done had he taken an easier start. He undoubtedly went out to win the race, and it is

impossible not to admire his spirit. Although he assured me that he was running within himself. 26 miles is a hard task-master. He has demonstrated outstanding ability. Experience may do the rest. Charlie can console himself with the thought that his chance may come again. With myself it is different. This is my swan-song, I have shed my silk, I was terribly disappointed. Never have I trained more conscientiously. Never did I feel fitter. Yet at 5 miles when running easily a muscle in my right leg tightened up. For 15 miles I trailed the leg and tried to nurse it but at 20 miles I had to slow down to less than a walk. For the first time in my running career and in my most important race I failed to finish the course.

Luck of the Game

It is the luck of the game. C. Ballard (Surrey) another favourite had the misfortune to injure a shoulder during the week and he also failed to finish. Henning whose misfortune has been noted could not get going at the start. He felt sluggish and thought it was caused through a week's rest before the race.

Charlie Robertson in contra-distinction to critics does not feel that he went too hard at the start. He feels that he could have made the "first three" comfortably had he not at 15 to 20 miles got caught up with the excitement of racing Holden for 1st place. This is what he says, "It was just that after a nice canny start I went away and chased Holden between 15 and 20 miles, feeling alright at the time, of course, but actually taking far too much out of myself for the last 6 miles, and so just after I passed the 23 miles feeding station I had to stop through

sheer fatigue and lack of any power in my legs."

It was pleasing to enthusiasts to see Tom Richards take 2nd place. He ran steadily throughout and in so doing was overcoming indisposition.

Considering the fast course and good conditions I was somewhat disappointed with the times. The heavy showers came on too late to materially affect the leading runners. Could it be that the course was a little longer than usual?

Holden won in fluent style, yet he seemed tired after his effort and assured me that Robertson worried him for a bit. His chances in the Olympics depend on what he has in hand. But something better will be demanded from Jack in the bigger event. Despite his long career Holden has the knack of rising to the occasion however and he has a most economical style. I still think he will be prominent and will give a good account of himself, but with equally classy men in the field, the man with the luck to have a good day may win.

Here is how I rate the chief known contenders, Yon Buk Suh (Korea), Mikko Hietanen (Finland), J. Holden (Great Britain), Charles Hierendt (Luxembourg), Johannes Coleman (S. Africa). If Heino

(Finland) tackles the marathon as well as the 10,000 metres he has the class to win.

Nevertheless I still say the Marathon is a most unpredictable event. Anything can happen, and it is not outwith possibility for some complete dark-horse snatching victory.

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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.
YOUTHS' 100 YARDS FLAT RACE.

STAND, 3/6, 2/6. GROUND, 1/6.

NOTE—ENTRIES close, SATURDAY, 10th JULY, 1948, with Messrs.
RUSSELL MORELAND & McARA, LTD.; LUMLEY'S LTD., or
with Constable T. D. McKIE, Central Police Office, Glasgow.

WINNING SCOTTISH TITLES AT HAMPDEN PARK



A dramatic picture of JAMES STUART (Shettleston H.) leading from clubmate J. C. ROSS at the water jump in the last lap of the 2 miles Steeplechase. Being dramatic comes easy with him. After the meeting he had to hurry off to play his part as an actor in the Citizen's Theatre Company. He is at present on tour in "Bunty Pulls the Strings."



SHEILA BURNS (Edinburgh University A.C.) looks very strong and determined when winning the special 200 Metres "Olympic Trial" in the excellent time of 25.4 secs.



24-years-old J. DRUMMOND (Heriot's F.P. A.C.) takes his winning throw. This was his first Championship appearance.



Well ahead J. SMART (Edinburgh Southern) takes the half-mile.

LEWIS FROM TRINIDAD

By DAVID McHARDY

TRINIDAD'S "ace" sprinter, George Lewis, who has twice equalled the world record of 9.4 secs., set by Jesse Owens, will be one of the star attractions at Rangers Sports Carnival at Ibrox Park in August—perhaps as Olympic 100 metres winner!

With victories over both McDonald Bailey, his fellow-Trinidadian and Herbert McKenley (Jamaica), Lewis may go one better than "MacBailey" and set up a new Scottish All-Comers' record on 7th August.

No other athlete in the British Empire can boast of such consistency and record breaking, and the Trinidad champion must be regarded before most of the other Empire stars as the one likely to shatter American ambitions in the sprint.

Besides his 9.4 secs. dash in British Guiana in August 1944, when he defeated E. MacDonald Bailey, Lewis has returned times of 9.8 secs. for the 100 yards more than a dozen times on grass tracks.

Just to show that he is still Trinidad's fastest, George flew to California in May this year, and again returned the Jesse Owens' record of 9.4 secs.—no mean feat despite Mal Patton's 9.3 secs. fastest ever.

The "Trinidad Tornado" competing on his favourite British Guiana track in April of this year returned 9.6 secs.—figures equalling the joint British All-Comers' record of E. MacDonald Bailey (Trinidad) and Eddie Conwell (U.S.A.).

Running the fastest 100 yards ever accomplished in Trinidad, Lewis returned 9.6 secs. again in May, a proof of his consistency.

Almost as good over the furlong as he is over the sprint distance, Lewis has this year taken up what is, to him, a new event since I knew him down in Port of Spain—the 440 yards.

Already he has established a Trinidad record with 49 secs. dead—better than the time returned by J. P. Reardon when he won the last A.A.A. quarter title.

Bar one slip in 1946 when he was beaten into fifth place in the sprint at the Caribbean Games at Barranquilla, Lewis's record bears the hall mark of the world-beater.

Here it is:—

1944—Trinidad, 100 Yards, 9.8 secs.
(Beat McD. Bailey to set Caribbean record.)

1944—B. Guiana, 100 Yards, 9.4 secs.
(Beat McD. Bailey. Equalled world record.)

1945—Curacao, 100 metres, 10.5 secs.

1946—Barraquilla, 100 metres unplaced.

1947—B. Guiana, 100 Yards, 9.8 secs.

1948—B. Guiana, 100 Yards, 9.6 secs.

1948—California, 100 Yards, 9.4 secs.

1948—Trinidad, 440 Yards, 49 secs.

Whatever the Americans think of their chances of winning the 100 metres at Wembley—and it is regarded as a foregone conclusion that the Stars and Stripes will be the Flag of Victory—this brilliant Empire athlete, I am convinced, will be holding his own with America's best at the tape—with an even money chance of gaining the verdict.

PHOTOFLASH No. 13.

SHEILA H. E. BURNS

(Edinburgh University A.C.)



Miss Sheila Burns, Edinburgh University, British Olympic "Possible" in winning the 200 metres in 25.4 secs. at the Scottish Women's Olympic Trials at Hampden Park equalled the time of the Russian star, SETSJENOV, when she won the European title at Oslo in 1946.

Running with power and determination seldom seen in a girl, 22-years-old Sheila raced away from her opposition, which included the very best in the country, to win with 5 or 6 metres in hand.

Taking into consideration, weather conditions, which reduced most of the track times to mediocre, I rank Sheila's time equivalent to Sylvia Cheeseman's 25 secs. at the 1947 A.A.A. Championships, and given the competition I will not be surprised if she lowers Miss I. Chambers' 24.9 secs. British 200 metres record before the season is out.

ROY ROBINSON.

SPORTS DIARY

July.

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.....Fiswick.

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.

21—Millingavie 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.)



S.A.A.A. JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Reviewed by
JAMES L. LOGAN

NEW Meadowbank, Edinburgh, venue of the 1948 Junior Championships, was a distinct improvement on last year's choice of Rugby Park, Kilmarnock.

The track was up to Championship standard and the inclusion of the Senior Relay events was an additional attraction which brought out a crowd worthy of the occasion.

Those who are depressed by our slow climb back to pre-war athletic standards must have been heartened by the performances at New Meadowbank which underlined those of the previous week at Westerlands in the Schools' Championships. Progress in the Senior world may be slow but our Juniors are coming on by leaps and bounds.

It was hardly surprising that the custody of the Glegg Trophy for the most meritorious performance was not immediately decided for there were several performances worthy of recognition. There was J. P. McAslan's electrifying 120 yards' hurdles run. This boy's pace and hurdling was superb and the measure of his performance can best be gauged by comparing his time of 15.1 secs. with Olympic "possible" J. G. M. Hart's 1946 best performance of 16.2 secs. Even allowing for the following wind, we must regard this as a brilliant effort and a fine augury for the future.

The "three-events" restriction, although a proper safeguard for youths, obscured the versatility of G. A. Bell. Here we had a lad who knew how to do just enough to win his heat and semi-final and to put in his big effort where it counts—at the tape and in the final. His against-the-breeze "hundred" victory in 10.5 secs., his second place in the javelin and finishing quarter for the winning Heriot's relay team were pointers to his all-round ability. The three-events rule kept him out of the broad jump, an event in which he is already Scottish Schools' champion.

I have the feeling that this boy, equipped with his strong sprint and ability to master technique, could make a big name for himself in the broad jump.

A. D. Herdman, with the happy combination of good technique and a physique suited to the event, added nearly four feet to the existing best performance when he putted the shot 43 ft. 2 ins. and E. Clarke, now of Glasgow University, made a substantial improvement on his 1947 javelin "best" with a fine throw of 189 ft. 9½ ins. These are performances which deserve the label "meritorious" and, although the Junior missiles are lighter than those used in Senior competition, these two lads should make a stir when they step up among the Seniors.

A. G. Ramsay retained his high jump title with a leap of 5 ft. 9 ins. Ramsay has temperament and an unforced style and his steady improvement suggests that Scotland will soon have, not one, but two, men to uphold her prestige in this event. His second place shot putt of 37 ft. 9 ins., although overshadowed by Herdman's fine effort, would have been good enough to win the event in any other year.

F. W. Sime's cool conservation of energy in his heat of the quarter and the timing of his finishing effort in the final were worthy of an athlete of long experience. The time of 52 secs. was excellent in the windy conditions.

The other champions, W. Jack, "220," and the Shettleston trio, E. Bannon, "mile," H. Galbraith, "880," and J. P. H. Paton, broad jump, all gave performances which were well up to championship standard. This is assuredly the kind of new blood that will invigorate Scottish Senior athletics. J. P. McAslan was later announced as custodian of the "Glegg Trophy."

Bargain sets of "The Scots Athlete" Volume I, April 1946—March 1947 (excluding June, No. 3 issue) are obtainable. Price 2/3 (Post free).

SCOTTISH SCHOOLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE weather was a spoil-sport in the 1948 Scottish Schools' Championships at Westerlands. Cold, and latterly heavy rain, made conditions unpleasant but the youthful athletes were undaunted and performances were of a high general standard.

Organisers could take a few hints on efficiency from this annual event. Perhaps the "schools' atmosphere" helps discipline but, even allowing for that, the efficient handling of upwards of 500 eager boys, excited by the big occasion, is a heavy task which is ably discharged by the "Schools' officials."

The business-like appearance of the competitors and their obvious "know-how," even among the under-fourteens, was another heartening sight. It is clear that more schools are learning that encouragement of athletics means taking positive steps to encourage the boys to do the job properly and giving them the facilities to learn. The more backward schools must now realise that "hit-or-miss" competitors are a confession of slovenliness in what is now recognised as a worthy part of normal school life.

J. McAslan, Trinity Academy, gave a pre-view of his Junior Championship form by winning the Open 120 yards' hurdles in 15.6 secs. This beat L. J. Duns's 28 years-old record by .2 secs.

Red-haired J. P. H. Paton, Kelvinside Academy, came through strongly to win the Open "100" in 10.4 secs., an excellent time in the conditions, but perhaps the best running efforts were the 52.3 secs. Open quarter by D. Finlay, Morgan Academy, and the 2 mins. 8.1 secs. under sixteen half-mile by J. D. Clark of Irvine Royal Academy.

A fine beginning was made in the pole-vault, 9 ft. 6 ins. being cleared by J. Dunn and P. McAndrew, both of Aberdeen Grammar School. This is just six inches short of S.A.A.A. standard medal height.

A. C. Gourlay, Shawlands Academy, hurdled beautifully to annex the under-sixteen 100 yards' hurdles' title in the record time of 13.5 secs. This is the boy who was a multiple winner in the under-fourteen class on the same ground two years ago. I will follow this boy's progress with interest.

JAMES L. LOGAN.

Appropriately, Edinburgh clubs captured the two Senior Relay Championships. In the 4 x 110 yards' event, sloppy baton work spoiled the efforts of several teams. A smooth takeover is vitally important in the short relay and Edinburgh University's superiority in this was perhaps the main reason for their victory.

In the Mile Medley Relay, J. Smart confirmed his position as Scottish Champion by laying the foundation of Edinburgh Southern Harriers' victory with a fast "half" and the other members of the team carried on the good work. The time of 3 mins. 36.8 secs. was first-class as this event was run in a rainstorm.

Details:—

- 100 Yards.**—1. G. A. Bell (George Heriot School); 2. P. C. McKillop (Edin. Southern Harriers); 3. W. Jack (Victoria Park A.A.C.). 10.5 secs.
- 220 Yards.**—1. W. Jack (Victoria Park A.A.C.); 2. P. C. McKillop (Edin. Southern Harriers); 3. J. Dishington (Rover Scouts). 23.6 secs.
- 440 Yards.**—1. F. W. Sime (Victoria P. A.A.C.); 2. R. C. Graham (Airdrie Harriers); 3. J. M. Hamilton (Bellahouston Harriers). 52 secs.
- A Best Championship Performance.**
- 880 Yards.**—H. Galbraith (Shettleston Harriers); 2. G. King (Airdrie Harriers); 3. R. F. McLean (Springburn H.). 2 mins. 6.8 secs.
- One Mile.**—1. E. Bannon (Shettleston Harriers); 2. C. Jones (Edin. Rover Scouts); 3. I. G. Murdoch (Heriot's). 4 mins. 45.4 secs.
- 120 Yards Hurdles.**—1. McAslan (Edin. Trinity Academy); 2. A. Blackwood (Edin. Southern); 3. J. D. Rollo (Victoria P. A.A.C.). 15.1 Secs.
- A Best Championship Performance.**
- Javelin.**—1. E. Clarke (Glasgow University); 2. A. Bell (Heriot's); 3. I. H. Drummond (Heriot's). 19 ft. 9½ ins.
- A Best Championship Performance.**
- Broad Jump.**—1. J. B. Paton (Shettleston H.); 2. G. N. Mackenzie (Greenock Academy); 3. D. Hey. 19 ft. 2½ ins.
- High Jump.**—1. A. G. Ramsay (Victoria Park). 5 ft. 9 ins.; 2. G. L. McEwen (Dumfries Academy). 5 ft. 3½ ins.; 3. R. B. Robertson (Lochwinnoch) and A. S. Watson (Edinburgh Harriers). tied at 5 ft. 1½ ins.
- Putting the Weight.**—1. A. D. Herdman (Dollar Academy). 43 ft. 2 ins.; 2. A. G. Ramsay (Victoria Park A.A.C.). 37 ft. 9 ins.; 3. I. H. Drummond (Heriot's). 37 ft.
- A Best Championship Performance.**
- Medley Relay (440 x 220 x 220, 440 Yards).**—1. George Heriot's School—1. Murdoch, A. Rodger, G. McKenzie, G. A. Bell. 2. Victoria Park A.A.C.; 3. Garscube Harriers. 2 mins. 39.5 secs.

SENIOR RELAY CHAMPIONSHIPS.

- 440 Yards Relay.**—1. Edinburgh University A.C.; 2. Victoria Park A.A.C.; 3. Shettleston H. Winning Team—A. T. Bruce, St. C. Taylor, J. L. Hunter, D. D. McKenzie. 43.8 secs.
- Mile Medley Relay.**—Edinburgh Southern H.; 2. Victoria Park A.A.C.; 3. Glasgow Univ. Winning Team—J. Smart, H. W. Mercer, W. Thompson, J. Crow. 3 mins. 36.8 secs.

WOMEN'S OLYMPIC TRIALS.

- 80 Metres Hurdles.**—1. Stella Lineham (Ardeer Recreation Club); 2. Jean Thompson (Edin. University A.C.); 3. Norma Murray (Dumfries High School). 12.9 secs.
- 100 Metres.**—1. Doreen Stewart (King's Park Ladies A.A.C.); 2. Margaret Hamilton (Hamilton Academy); 3. Patricia Devine (Morgan Academy). 13.4 secs.

OLYMPIC SPIRIT

"ATHLETIC REVIEW" carrying the sub-title "The Recognised Organ of Athletics in Great Britain" is published monthly by "The Hotspur Publishing Co., Ltd., Gloucester Street, Manchester, 1. We shall refer to the self-styled and bumptious sub-title later after dealing in part with a specially contributed leading feature by the Hon. Features Editor, W. J. Fraser on the Olympic Games which appears in the June 1948 issue.

Although paying lip-service to the spirit of the Olympics, the writer shows, in the part which must not go unchallenged in athletic circles, that he surely does not understand it's meaning and cares less.

He writes:—

Would that the spirit that actuated the peoples of the world two thousand seven hundred years ago when the Games were first instituted, and when all tribal wars in Greece were suspended, could be emulated now! Whilst the exclusion of Germany and Japan can readily be understood, the aloofness of Russia can only be regretted, for the British sporting public would most certainly have been glad to show their appreciation of the great achievements of that country during the recent war, and to applaud to the full any successes which its citizens may have gained over here.

This is so out-of-touch, so garbled and contradictory that it can hardly bear analysis!

Speaking of the ancient Olympic tradition and then in smug style dismissing the right of German and Japanese athletes to compete in the 1948 Games in less than a sentence. What effrontery! What a concept of Olympic Spirit!

The fact that Germany and Japan is not to be allowed to compete does not reflect to the credit of the Olympic Association. The attitude is one of betrayal to the pioneering motives of the founder of the modern Olympic Games, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, who had, to quote H. J. Oaten, "a supreme contempt for narrow, nationalist ideologies." Furthermore, it was a breach of the Charter of the Olympic Games which states that the "amateurs of all nations" should be assembled for competition.

Yet all this is glibly passed over and the position acquiesced in by the Hon. Features Editor of "Athletic Review" when the attitude of the Olympic Association should have been challenged by all who would really understand Olympic spirit and sporting tradition. It is pure hypocrisy to make criticism of the Berlin Olympics and Hitler's snubbing of negroes and then believe in a barrier for German

Then his reference to Russia just represents out-dated, conventional rubbish!

Fancy at the Olympic Games, applauding athletes as a token of appreciation of their country's achievements during a war! Does W. J. Fraser know that Italy has been invited and will participate at the 1948 Games? And if an Italian fares well will he join "the British sporting public" in applause?

If he does, will that be showing appreciation of the great achievements of Italy during the war? That's his logic.

Though published as a leader in "The recognised organ for Great Britain" we are convinced that the views expressed by W. J. Fraser does not reflect the approach of the athletic movement.

We draw attention to a paragraph of the Editorial in the June, 1948, "Blue Cross" club magazine of Bellahouston Harriers, edited by Gavin Bell.

This reads:—

I am convinced that the Games Committee have made a tragic blunder in banning German and Japanese competitors. I am equally convinced that Russia is making a mistake in refusing to send entrants in case their defeat results in loss of national prestige. The Russians emerging from centuries of desperate poverty and oppression may have some excuse for not yet subscribing to the highest sporting ethics of other nations: there is no excuse for the Games Committee.

We prefer the forthright, sincere and more logical statement of the club magazine to that of the apologetic illogical rambling in "The recognised organ for Great Britain."

About the sub-title referred to above, some explanation is necessary. Before "Athletic Review" came into existence, "Athletics" the monthly, published by John Langdon, Ltd., Maida Vale, London, containing the official notices of the A.A.A. and the Women's A.A.A., carried a sub-title "The National Magazine for Track, Field Events, Road-walking and Cross-Country running." In view of the official recognition and the fact that it was the only magazine on the field at the time the general reference was, in our opinion, fair and natural.

Later "Athletics" also carried the official notices of the British Amateur Athletic Board.

Also, before the existence of "Athletic Review," "The Scots Athlete" had been serving the sport in Scotland and had

The first issue of "Athletic Review" carried on the front page "The National Magazine for all Athletes." This, in view of the prior service of "Athletics," though not greatly objectionable was hardly quite the thing.

The magazine was stated to be the official organ of the Northern Counties A.A., the N.C.C.A. and the N.C.W.A.A. Recently the references to the associations have been dropped and it is now referred to as "The recognised organ of Athletics in Great Britain." "The recognised organ" by whom? The publishers?

Perhaps as a sub-title it has a good commercial ring but it was certainly unnecessary. It lacks dignity for it is simply untrue as the facts prove. Considering that other magazines were serving our sport do readers think that when this sub-title was adopted principles of sportsmanship were being advanced?

We regret that this criticism has to be made as otherwise "Athletic Review" is a good magazine and has many interesting features. We need and must have a united athletic movement. There is room for all athletic magazines to give our sport the necessary publicity, each serving in their different capacities. Our sport needs many servants. Isn't it the finest in the world? And isn't there so much that can be done?

PRELIMINARY NOTICE MILNGAVIE HIGHLAND GAMES

will be held in
THE CRICKET GROUNDS,
SAT., 21st AUG., 1948, at 2 p.m.
FULL PARTICULARS LATER
Hon. Secy.—JOHN McPHERSON,
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SPORTS MEETING

(Under S.A.A.A. Laws)

AT BURNGRANGE PARK,
WEST CALDER

ON SATURDAY, 31st JULY, 1948,
at 2.45 p.m.

EVENTS: 100 yds., 220 yds., 440 yds. and 880 yds., 1 mile, 2 miles, high jump, discus, javelin, shot, throwing 56-lb. 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, 24th JULY, with Mr. DAVID WILSON, Maybank Cottage, West Calder.

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Usual Flat Events, Cycling, High Jump, Pole Vault, and 12 Miles Road Race. Valuable Prizes.

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DO FIGURES PROVE ANYTHING?

IMMEDIATELY following the Scottish Senior Athletic Championships I felt it might prove of some interest to your readers to apply the Finnish scoring table to the results of the various events. It is certain that the figures below will give some food for thought to many of the mathematically inclined athletes, and is sure to create some heated arguments as to relative merits. Here are the resulting details:—

HAMMER (Wire) ...	167 ft. 2 ins.	Pts. 921
THREE MILES ...	14 min. 45 sec.	895
HIGH JUMP ...	6 ft. 2 ins.	883
SIX MILES ...	30 min. 54.7 sec.	881
440 YARDS ...	50.3 sec.	875
220 YARDS ...	22.5 sec.	833
120 YARDS HRDLS. ...	15.6 sec.	827
ONE MILE ...	4 min. 27.8 sec.	812
880 YARDS ...	2 min. 0.1 sec.	811
DISCUS ...	140 ft. 3½ ins.	795
440 YARDS HRDLES. ...	58 sec.	791
HOP, STEP & JUMP ...	45 ft. 4½ ins.	760
100 YARDS ...	10.4 sec.	741
PUTTING THE WT. ...	41 ft. 11 ins.	693
JAVELIN ...	178 ft. 3½ ins.	669
LONG JUMP ...	21 ft. 13 ins.	661
POLE VAULT ...	10 ft. 6 ins.	575
TEN MILES (no corresponding Olympic dist.)		

To give a clear indication of what 921 points means in relation to other field events the following equivalents will possibly also raise some discussion:—

ROYAL BURGH OF QUEENSFERRY

FERRY FAIR ANNUAL GAMES

STATION ROAD PARK,
SOUTH QUEENSFERRY
SATURDAY,
14th AUGUST, 1948,
at 2.30 p.m.

100, 220, 880 yds., 1 mile, high and long jump, javelin, pole-vault open handicaps, open relay and tug-of-war.

Entry forms at McKenzie's, Thornton's, Lumley's and Russe'l Moreland's.

Entries close with A. B. Christie, Council Chambers, South Queensferry, not later than Wednesday, 4th August, 1948.

Rail. Station—Dalmeny adjoining Park.

Buses from St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh.

POLE VAULT ...	13 ft. 3 ins.
HIGH JUMP ...	6 ft. 3½ ins.
LONG JUMP ...	24 ft. 4 ins.
HOP, STEP & JUMP ...	49 ft. 0 ins.
JAVELIN ...	218 ft. 1 in.
DISCUS ...	152 ft. 9 ins.
PUTT ...	49 ft. 2 ins.

I leave it to the mathematical experts to compute the equivalents for the track events!

Is the Finnish scoring table a method to assess relative merits to determine the "most meritorious performance," or what other considerations should be taken into account? I am giving no secret away when I say that in my personal opinion, I felt that J. G. M. Hart's performance of 15.6 secs. against the wind in his 120 yards hurdles (2/10th secs. better than the Scottish Native Record which has stood since 1905, and 1/10th sec. outside his own 15.5 secs. Native Record passed by the General Committee subsequent to the Championships) was the premier meritorious performance, and this is without disparaging in any way the fine performances of so many of the other winners. I only mention Hart's performance to bring out my own weakness when I attempt to relate it to the scoring table. Relatively it turns out to be well down the list given above! So what?

Can it be left to your readers to supply all the pros and cons?

J. GILBERT, Hon. Secy. (S.A.A.A.)

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