

CROSS COUNTRY

EASTERN RELAY TITLE

SUTTIE SMITH IN FORM

Edinburgh Northern Harriers recorded their third successive win in the Eastern 10 Miles Cross-Country Relay Championship, decided at Redford Barracks on Saturday. Fourteen clubs, represented by seventeen teams, took part. W. Murdoch, Greenock, president of the National Cross-Country Union, started the first relay on the 2½ miles' course of road and heavy country.

At the end of the first circuit, W. H. Whalley, Edinburgh University, led by 12 yards from M. Stewart, Edinburgh Northern, and J. McKechnie, Dundee Thistle, with J. T. Suttie, Edinburgh Harriers; G. H. Robertson, Rover Scouts; W. A. P. Sanderson, Gala; W. Gall, Penicuik; and J. Gibson, Canon, following. Northern's second runner, W. Hinde, the national novice champion, deprived the students of the lead, and led at 5 miles by 50 yards from D. Coburn, Dundee Thistle, who was ahead of J. Ross, Edinburgh Southern, who had gained seven places, A. Ritchie, Edinburgh Harriers, and J. Brannan, Canon, who had gained three places. J. P. Laidlaw, Northern, ran a fast third "leg" to increase his club's lead to 300 yards from Dundee Thistle. A. W. Currae's third lap for Edinburgh Harriers brought them up to within 31 seconds of the second team, but Southern, through a default in the change-over, lost fully one and a quarter minutes, their third relay runner setting off in ninth instead of third place. At this stage Edinburgh Northern and Dundee Thistle were obviously going to be first and second respectively at the finish of the ten miles, but a great race was predicted for the remaining place. R. Mackay, Canon, changed over to the National champion, J. Suttie Smith, one minute behind Edinburgh Harriers' final runner, E. Stenhouse. Although it was generally thought Smith would considerably lessen this lead, it was barely imagined he would reverse the lead.

Probably the only runner in the race wearing spiked shoes, Smith set off in determined fashion and at a fast pace. Retarded a little by his footwear on the hard road, Smith made considerable headway on the grass and ploughed fields, ultimately passing E. Stenhouse, and finishing third twelve seconds ahead, having incidentally gained over a furlong on the winners. Smith's time was 15 seconds faster than the next best, that recorded by J. K. Hewitt, Edinburgh University, and fully confirms the belief that he is one of the best cross-country runners Scotland has ever produced.

Edinburgh Northern Harriers, as expected, won easily, their last runner, H. M'Intosh, finishing a furlong ahead of A. Hay, Dundee Thistle. The latter team, which showed three changes from that which occupied the same position last year, ran a plucky race and well deserved their honour. The winning team was one of the best ever produced by that club.

After the race W. Murdoch presented the medals to the winners. G. Crawford, president of Edinburgh Northern Harriers, accepted the custody of the Mackenzie Trophy.

Results:—

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

	mins.	secs.
1. Edinburgh Northern Harriers (M. Stewart, 15 mins. 5 secs.; W. Hinde, 15 mins.; J. P. Laidlaw, 14 mins. 35 secs.; H. M. M'Intosh, 14 mins. 58 secs.)	59	38
2. Dundee Thistle Harriers (J. McKechnie, 15 mins. 5 secs.; D. Cockburn, 15 mins. 8 secs.; D. Gowans, 15 mins. 11 secs.; A. Hay, 14 mins. 42 secs.)	60	6
3. Canon Athletic Club (J. Gibson, 15 mins. 23 secs.; J. Brannan, 15 mins. 39 secs.; R. Mackay, 15 mins. 53 secs.; J. Suttie Smith, 14 mins. 19 secs.)	61	14
4. Edinburgh Harriers (J. T. Suttie, 15 mins. 12 secs.; A. Ritchie, 15 mins. 38 secs.; A. W. Currae, 15 mins. 5 secs.; E. Stenhouse, 15 mins. 31 secs.)	61	26
5. Edinburgh University Hares and Hounds...	61	48
6. Gala Harriers	62	22
7. Edinburgh Northern Harriers (A)	62	25
8. Edinburgh Southern Harriers	62	58
9. Edinburgh Southern Harriers (A)	63	7
10. Kirkcaldy Y.M.C.A.	63	9
11. Penicuik Harriers	63	52
12. Hawkhill Harriers	63	58
13. Heriot Cross-Country Club	64	19
14. Edinburgh Rover Scouts	64	30
15. Canon Athletic Club (A)	66	54
16. Falkirk Victoria Harriers	67	56
17. West Lothian Harriers	68	52

FASTEST RELAYS

J. Suttie Smith, Canon A.S.C.	14	19
J. K. Hewitt, Edinburgh University	14	34
J. P. Laidlaw, Edinburgh Northern	14	36
A. Hay, Dundee Thistle	14	52
H. M'Intosh, Edinburgh Northern	14	58

At a meeting of the Eastern Committee after the race, it was decided to run the seven miles' championship at Dundee on 11th February.



RELAY CHAMPIONSHIP.—Competitors changing over in the midland district 10-miles relay championship, won by Shettleston Harriers, at Hamilton, on Saturday.