

The Eastern District ten miles cross-country championship was decided at Musselburgh racecourse on Saturday, and produced more thrills than any of the previous races in the series.

The first occurred at the end of the first relay of two and a half miles, when, entering the racecourse from the country, it was seen that ex-national champion Suttie Smith held a lead of ten yards over the youthful Southern Harrier, A. Archer, and the first member of the Edinburgh Northern team was as far back as tenth. Coming up the straight, although he made a good fight for it, Smith was passed by Archer, who went on to hand over a four seconds lead to L. G. Kapelle. J. P. Laidlaw, Edinburgh Northern's second runner, took off over a minute behind the leader.

A surprise runner over the second relay was A. H. Carfrae, for Edinburgh Harriers. Carfrae had been excluded on a technicality from his club's team, but his club appealed against the decision, and, pending the result of the appeal, they included him in their team. Carfrae, who is an Edinburgh policeman, ran a great race to bring his club into the lead at the end of five miles. At this distance Laidlaw had gained three places, handing over the baton to W. Hinde in seventh place. D. Ford Wood brought University into second place six yards behind Carfrae, while Southern had fallen back to third place.

FROM SEVENTH TO SECOND

The running of W. Hinde over the third relay left no doubt about the ultimate winners. He brought Northern up from seventh to second place with the fastest running of the whole race, and enabled the Dollar Academy master, G. A. Smith, to take off for the final circuit only two seconds behind Southern, who, through Ian Ross, had regained the lead. The students' team was in third place, and the holders, Dundee Thistle, whose team was much weaker than last year, occupied fourth place, and Dundee Hawkhill fifth.

G. A. Smith made no mistake for Northern. Running "all out," he quickly overhauled his Southern opponent, and went on to regain the championship for the Northern for the seventh time in eight years, by a margin of 20 yards. For second place one of the most thrilling finishes ever seen at the end of a ten miles race took place when O. T. Stoddart, running the fastest race of his career, gradually overhauled W. J. Marshall, Edinburgh Southern, until coming up the finishing straight they were running neck-and-neck. Neither could pull out a little more than his opponent, and they passed over the finishing line so close together that the judges could not separate them.

Edinburgh Harriers, who had finished in seventh place, were disqualified for running an ineligible runner.

Results:—

TEAM

1, Edinburgh Northern Harriers (T. B. Ainslie, 16 mins 40 secs; J. P. Laidlaw, 15 mins 52 secs; W. Hinde, 15 mins 19 secs; G. A. Smith, 15 mins 35 secs), 63 mins 26 secs; 2 (dead heat), Edinburgh Southern Harriers (A. Archer, 15 mins 39 secs; L. G. Kapelle, 16 mins 27 secs; I. Ross, 15 mins 43 secs; W. J. Marshall, 15 mins 41 secs); Edinburgh University H. and H. (J. D. Martin, 15 mins 55 secs; D. Ford Wood, 16 mins 9 secs; L. S. Bruce, 15 mins 58 secs; O. T. Stoddart, 15 mins 38 secs), 63 mins 50 secs; 4, Dundee Thistle Harriers (holders) (D. Coburn, 15 mins 49 secs; D. Turner, 16 mins 25 secs; D. Cowan, 16 mins 6 secs; A. M. Donnet, 15 mins 41 secs), 64 mins 1 sec; 5, Dundee Hawkhill Harriers, 64 mins 12 secs; 6, Edinburgh Rover Scouts A.C., 65 mins 35 secs; 7, Edinburgh Northern Harriers B team, 66 mins 51 secs; 8, Gala Harriers, 67 mins 14 secs.

INDIVIDUAL

1, W. Hinde, Edinburgh Northern Harriers, 15 mins 19 secs; 2, O. T. Stoddart, Edinburgh University, 15 mins 38 secs; 3, G. A. Smith, Edinburgh Northern, 15 mins 35 secs; 4, C. Smith, Dundee Hawkhill Harriers, 15 mins 38 secs; 5, A. Archer, Edinburgh Southern Harriers, 15 mins 39 secs; 6 (equal), A. M. Donnet, Dundee Thistle, and W. J. Marshall, Edinburgh Southern, 15 mins 41 secs.

VENUE FOR 7 MILES CHAMPIONSHIP

At a meeting of the Eastern Committee after the race it was agreed that the seven miles Eastern Championship be run at Kirkcaldy this season.