

EASTERN DISTRICT RELAY

By M. STEWART

(Hon. Secy. Eastern District N.C.C.U.)

THE Eastern District Relay Championship for the George McKenzie Trophy, was decided from Edinburgh University Hares and Hounds H.Q., King's Buildings, west Mains Road, on Saturday, 6th Dec., 1947.

An entry of 13 teams was received, but was reduced to 12 starters by the withdrawal, owing to injuries, of Edinburgh Northern, 11 times winners of the Trophy. Transport difficulties delayed the start, and when Mr. H. Y. Scott of Edinburgh Harriers, sent the runners off into the haze, it was apparent that the visibility would be none too good towards the finish.

The course, which included a stiff climb up to the Braid Hills, proved to be over the $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles distance as nearly 17 minutes had elapsed before the first runner was sighted from the change-over point. The hopes of Southern Harriers received a set-back when it was seen that C. D. Robertson of Dundee Thistle was leading J. Smart of Southern by 100 yards. Close behind came J. Sanderson, Gala Harriers, the 1 mile and 3 miles Border Champion.

A slow second lap enabled Southern Harriers to take the lead through long-striding G. C. Mitchell. A feature of this lap was the running of R. J. Sherwin, of University, who took his team from 7th to 2nd place, Thistle dropping back to 3rd place.

The third lap produced no change in the leading positions, T. J. Logan, Southern, and R. R. Rowles, University, increasing their respective leads by a slight margin. At this stage it appeared odds-on Charlie Robertson's first lap time of 17 mins. 1 sec. being the fastest for the day, but when the last lap men loomed up in the semi-darkness, it was apparent that there would be a close contest for the honour.

W. Brown, who was 3rd in this year's National Novice, ran out the winner, giving Southern Harriers their first win for 23 years. T. H. Braid, University, put in a terrific finish to clock fastest time of 16 mins. 59 secs. Kirkcaldy Y.M.C.A. finished 3rd, thanks to a splendid lap by diminutive J. Preston.

Southern's second team ran very well to finish in fourth place.

- 1.—EDINBURGH SOUTHERN H.—J. Smart. 17.21; G. C. Mitchell. 17.59; T. J. Logan. 17.35; W. Brown. 17.06.—70 mins. 01 secs.
 - 2.—EDINBURGH UNIV. H. & H.—G. Young. 18.00; R. J. Sherwin. 17.37; R. R. Rowles. 17.41; T. H. Braid. 16.59.—70 mins. 17 secs.
 - 3.—KIRKCALDY Y.M.C.A. H.—W. Grieve. 17.45; A. Dow. 18.34; J. Ritchie. 18.10; J. Preston. 17.23.—71 mins. 52 secs.
 - 4.—EDINBURGH SOUTHERN H.—J. Pearson. 17.44; J. R. Weddell. 18.18; L. G. Kapelle. 18.09; R. Wellwood. 17.55.—72 mins. 06 secs.
 - 5.—DUNDEE THISTLE H.—C. D. Robertson. 17.01; G. Simkin. 18.42; D. Gowans. 18.06; N. Ewen. 18.27.—72 mins. 16 secs.
 - 6.—DUNDEE HAWKHILL H.—72 mins. 24 secs.
 - 7.—GALA H.—73 mins. 24 secs.
 - 8.—H.M.S. CALEDONIA.—74 mins. 05 secs.
 - 9.—EDINBURGH EAST. H.—75 mins. 03 secs.
 - 10.—ROVER SCOUTS A.C.—75 mins. 08 secs.
 - 11.—EDINBURGH H.—76 mins. 53 secs.
 - 12.—H.M.S. CALEDONIA.—78 mins. 0 secs.
- FASTEST TIMES.**—1.—T. H. Braid (E.U. H. & H.). 16.59; 2.—C. D. Robertson (D.T.H.). 17.01; 3.—W. Brown (E.S.H.). 17.06; 4.—J. Smart (E.S.H.). 17.21; 5.—J. Preston (K.Y.M.C.A.). 17.23; 6.—J. Sanderson (Gala H.). 17.24; 7.—C. Smith (D.H.H.). 17.26; 8.—T. J. Logan (E.S.H.). 17.35; 9.—R. J. Sherwin (E.U. H. & H.). 17.37; 10.—R. R. Rowles (E.U. H. & H.). 17.41; 11.—D. Lucas (H.M.S. Caledonia). 17.44; 12.—J. Pearson (E.S.H. "A"). 17.44.