

CROSS-COUNTRY

Forres Harriers Win Senior Relay

In an exciting race at Lossiemouth on Saturday, Forres Harriers repeated last year's success by scoring a narrow win over Inverness Harriers in the North District Senior Relay Championship. The race, over 4 laps of 2½ miles each, saw the Inverness club hold the leading position for the first and second laps through strong running by Innes Mitchell and club captain Brian Turnbull, but in the third lap Donald Ritchie, the experienced Forres Harrier made up a lot of ground and handed over a 50-yard lead to his team-mate Ian Mackenzie.

A valiant effort by Ian Johnstone, the last Inverness runner, gradually whittled down the Forres lead, but Mackenzie held on to win by 25 yards. Johnstone had the satisfaction of returning the best lap time of the afternoon, in 12 minutes 50 seconds, closely followed by Mackenzie and Bill Toner, R.A.F. Moray, who both clocked 12 minutes 57 seconds. Seven teams competed in the race, with R.A.F. Moray taking third place.

At the conclusion of the race the D. M. Duncan Trophy was presented to the successful team by Mr Walter Banks, Chairman of the North District of the Scottish Cross Country Union.

The next event in the cross country calendar is the Open Christmas Handicap race, sponsored annually by Forres Harriers, which will be run on Saturday over a six-mile course starting at 2.30 p.m. from Grant Park, Forres.

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Senior North Relay Declared Void

The North District 4 x 2½ mile Cross Country Relay Championship for men scheduled to be held at Fort William on Saturday, was declared void. After the customary pre-race inspection of the course by visiting athletes, and careful consideration of the situation by those concerned, the team from **Forres Harriers** and the three from Inverness **Harriers** withdrew from the championship on safety grounds. The race eventually started with teams from Lochaber A.C. and the R.A.F., but on the evidence of those finishing the first lap, the officials had no alternative but to declare the race void, and it will be re-run at another venue next month.

The young athletes' relay (3 x 1½ miles), held over a different course, was won by Caithness A.A.C., who finished only 1 second ahead of **Forres Harriers**. Lochaber A.C., who were expected to fare better on a very hilly course, finished third. The Inverness **Harriers** team of Steven Bone, Kevin MacKintosh and Donald McMillan did not have a good day, and finished well down the field.