

# CROSS-COUNTRY.

## EASTERN DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP

### ELEVEN TEAMS FINISH COMPLETE.

#### TEAM HONOURS—EDINBURGH NORTHERN.

#### INDIVIDUAL—MATTHEWS, OF DUNDEE

(Special by "Pace.")

What a splendid and interesting bit of history is that attached to the Eastern District C.C. team and individual championship. Its institution just nine years ago recorded quite a new era in this highly popular branch of athletics. Towards the early days of the 1898-9 season, the athletes east of Falkirk, impressed by the success that had attended the Junior and Western cross-country championship, considered that something of the kind was necessary for them. To seriously consider the question and put on their thinking cap was to act, and Messrs A. Ross Scott, the energetic secretary of the combined Association and Union and Harriers' Organisation; George Hume, our grand old-young moving spirit; Tom Fraser, at that time president of the S.A.A.A.; A. M. Bryson, vice-president of the Union; D. Blewes, of the then Kirkealdy Harriers; all took a leading part, and on Saturday, 4th February, 1889, the first Eastern District Junior Cross Country Championship was run from the Rugby Union Field, Edinburgh. The venture was a particularly successful one, and there were ten clubs entered:—Bonnybridge, Stirling Osborne, Kirkealdy, Lothian A.C. (all extinct now), Edinburgh University H. and H., Edinburgh Harriers, Edinburgh Northern, Edinburgh Southern, Waverley, and Watsonians.

As was to be expected, the good old Edinburgh Harriers put the speediest team on the field, winning the juniors' blue riband with 53 points. Waverley Harriers, 91 points, second; and Bonnybridge Harriers, 107 points third.

As a matter of history "Pace" desires to give the other placings and totals, and they were:—4, Edinburgh Northern, 171 points; 5, Kirkealdy Harriers, 177; 6, Edinburgh Southern, 254; 7, Edinburgh University H. and H., 283. Three failed to finish with teams. Stirling Osborne only ran three men, and Watsonians a like number.

Since the first year the races have been an unqualified success, and it would be a daring spirit who would be bold enough to suggest an amendment upon the arrangements, independent of any discontinuance in the sequences of the annual contest.

#### THE RACE OF 1908.

For Saturday's event there was an entry of twelve clubs, and three individuals which constituted the record, although on the printed race programme the individuals are not given. The contest under notice was run from Victoria Park, Falkirk, the financial success of the race at Dundee last year tempting the committee to again try the venture in the provinces. No better centre than Falkirk could have been selected, as it is easily reached from East, West, and North, and not only so, but within a radius of a few miles there are situated the headquarters of Victoria Harriers, East Stirlingshire Harriers, and Grange Harriers, and a local influence is thus bought to bear on the race, which should help from a gate standpoint.

The stripping quarters were in the Victoria School adjoining the park. The runners were despatched by Mr M. Dewar, Edinburgh Southern Harriers, chairman of the Eastern District, and after making one circuit of the trotting track (800 yards), ran out into the country. A. Follan, Dundee Thistle Harriers, being first; T. Morton, Stirlingshire Central Harriers, second; and James C. Brown, John B. MacLagan, and John Thomson, all Edinburgh Northern Harriers, third, fourth, and fifth.

After an interval of 40 minutes the runners were seen coming over the open country, and ran into the park, again making a circuit of the track.

#### THEY RAN FAST

the judges in the following order:—1 J. S. Matthew, Dundee Thistle Harriers—time, 51min; 2, J. B. M'Lagan, Edinburgh Northern Harriers—time, 51min 5sec; 3, George Inglis, Edinburgh Northern Harriers—time, 51min 13sec; 4, Andrew Patterson, Edinburgh Northern Harriers—time, 51min 15sec; 5, John Torrie, Gala Harriers—time, 51min 28sec; 6, W. S. Grant, Waverley Harriers—time, 51min 37sec; 7, D. M'Kerracher, Falkirk Victoria Harriers; 8, W. Morrison, Stirlingshire Central Harriers; 9, D. Smith, Falkirk Victoria Harriers; 10, Adam F. Inglis, Edinburgh Northern Harriers; 11, P. Baird, Falkirk Victoria Harriers; 12, Andrew Sanderson (captain), Gala Harriers; 13, William Rodger, Dundee Thistle Harriers; 14, George H. Peddie, Edinburgh Northern Harriers; 15, Thomas Morton, Stirlingshire Central Harriers; 16, A. Follan, Dundee Thistle Harriers; 17, John Thompson, Edinburgh Northern Harriers; 18, James Thomson, Edinburgh Southern Harriers; 19, H. T. Jamieson, Watsonian C.C.C.; 20, Robert Grierson, Teviotdale Harriers; 21, William Elder, Teviotdale Harriers; 22, J. W. Turnbull, Teviotdale Harriers; 23, J. S. Halliday, Teviotdale Harriers; 24, Alexander Waugh, Edinburgh Southern Harriers; 25, William Marshall, Falkirk Victoria Harriers; 26, George Yorkston, Stirlingshire Central Harriers; 27, W. S. Milne, Dundee Thistle Harriers; 28, J. Downie, Falkirk Victoria Harriers; 29, J. Rodger, Dundee Thistle Harriers; 30, J. Moore, Edinburgh Southern Harriers; 31, William Marshall, Falkirk Victoria Harriers; 32, Harry Douglas, Dundee Thistle; 33, Thomas Richardson, Edinburgh Harriers; 34, James Burns, Teviotdale Harriers; 35, Peter Torrie, Gala Harriers; 36, Samuel Fairbairn, Edinburgh Northern Harriers; 37, George Henderson, Gala Harriers; 38, J. Bauchop, Stirlingshire Central Harriers; 39, H. Fairlie, Edinburgh Southern Harriers; 40, George Grant, Edinburgh Northern Harriers; 41, Alexander Fiskien, Grange Harriers; 42, William Martin, Dundee Thistle Harriers; 43, J. Smith, Edinburgh Southern; 44, Joe Maxwell, Teviotdale Harriers; 45, William Kennedy, Dundee Thistle Harriers; 46, J. Tosh, Dundee Thistle Harriers; 47, D. Logan, Edinburgh Harriers; 48, J. C. Smith, Waverley Harriers; 49, Bert Thomson, Grange Harriers; and 50, P. Galligan, Gala Harriers. In all 118 finished the full distance. J. S. Matthews (Dundee Thistle) winner of the individual championship and members of the team second in team honours. Second individual honours to John B. M'Lagan, Edinburgh Northern.

#### TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP AND PLACINGS—

1, Edinburgh Northern Harriers (J. B. M'Lagan 2, Geo. Inglis 3, And. Paterson 4, A. P. Inglis 10, Geo. H. Peddie 14, Jas. Thomson 17—total, 50); 2, Dundee Thistle (J. S. Matthew 1, W. Rodger 13, A. Follan 16, W. S. Milne 27, J. Rodger 29, H. Douglas 32—total, 118); 3, Falkirk Victoria (D. M'Kerracher 7, D. Smith 9, P. Baird 11, J. Downie 23, W. Marshall 31, D. Robertson 58—total, 144); 4, Teviotdale (R. Grierson 20, W. Elder 21, J. S. Halliday 23, J. Burns 34, J. Maxwell 44, S. Marchbank 57—total, 189); 5, Gala (John Torrie 5, A. Sanderson 12, P. Torrie 35, G. Henderson 37, P. Galligan 50; J. Dobson 62—total, 201); 6, Edinburgh Southern (J. Thomson 18, A. Waugh 24, J. Moore 30, H. Fairley 39, J. Smith 43, R. Jack 51—total, 205); 7, Stirlingshire Central (W. Morrison 8, T. Morton 15, G. Yorkston 26, J. Bauchop 33, T. Miller 79, W. M'Intosh 83—total, 249); 8, Edinburgh (T. Richardson 33, D. Logan 47, T. Robertson 53, J. P. Philip 59, A. Edwards 60, A. Hughes 69—total, 320); 9, Waverley (W. S. Grant 6, G. C. Smith 43, Jas. Brown 56, Geo. Tyrrell 68, A. Miller 71, G. MacDonald 74—total, 324); 10, Grange (A. Fiskien 41, D. Allan 52, T. M'Kay 53, J. Thomson 68, R. Taylor 75—total, 333); 11, Watsonians (H. T. Jamieson 19, Alfred P. Baker 22, J. Hutchison 54, E. G. C. Price 61, D. H. Bell 94, W. M'Niven 99—total, 349); 12, Heriot (who did not finish with full team).

The local arrangements were in the hands of Mr John Hunter, Falkirk Victoria Harriers, with Mr A. Taylor, Eastern District secretary, as chief director of affairs. The officers for the day were:—Referee, Mr John M'Culloch; judges, Messrs John Bartleman, M. Dewar, C. Pennycook, and R. K. Kinninmont; timekeepers, Messrs A. Hannah and A. Ross Scott.

The tea and presentation of medals was held in M'Hardy's Restaurant, High Street, under the chairmanship of Mr M. Dewar.

chairman of the Eastern District of the  
National Cross-Country Union of Scotland.  
Prominent athletic legislators present in-  
cluded Messrs J. Barleiman, newly-elected  
president of the S.A.A.A.; C. Pennycook, R.  
Kinninmont, Geo. Hume, A. Ross Scott,  
presidents S.A.A.A.; J. McCulloch, presi-  
dent National C.C.U. of Scotland; A.  
Hannah, vice-president S.A.A.A.; R. A. Hay,  
C.C.U. champion, 1895, &c., &c.