

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 1888-9 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 Kirkcaldy 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, Kirkcaldy, 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 ribbon with 53 points. Waverley Harriers, 31 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, Kirkcaldy Harriers, 177; 6, Edinburgh Southern, 254; 7, Edinburgh University H. and H., 285. 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 1902.

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 (300 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 30 minutes the runners were seen coming over the open country, and ran into the park, again making a circuit of the track.

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP AND PLACINGS.

1. Edinburgh Northern Harriers (J. B. MacLagan 2, Geo. English 3, And. Paterson 4, A. P. Innes 10, Geo. 11, Peacock 14, John Thomson 17—total 50); 2. Dundee Thistle (J. S. Matthews 1, W. Rodger 13, A. Pollock 18, W. S. Milne 22, J. Rodger 23, H. Morrison 32—total 110); 3. Edinburgh Southern (J. B. MacLagan 2, P. Baker 22, J. Thomson 23, W. Miller 24, W. Smith 25—total 99); 4. Edinburgh (T. Richardson 21, D. Logan 22, R. Robertson 22, J. P. Philip 22, A. Edwards 22, A. Hughes 22—total 90); 5. Waverley (W. S. Grant 6, G. C. Smith 18, J. Brown 20, Geo. Tyrell 22, A. Miller 21, G. Macdonald 21—total 94); 6. Grange (A. Fisher 21, D. Allan 22, T. McEwan 22, J. Thomson 22, R. Taylor 22—total 90); 7. Watsonians (H. T. Jamieson 19, Alfred P. Baker 22, J. Hutchison 22, E. J. C. Price 22, D. McEwan 22, W. McNaiven 22—total 94); 8. Harrier (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, master district surveyor, as chief referee and judges. The others for the day were—Referee, Mr John McCulloch; Judges, Messrs John Duffman, M. Stewart, Pennycook, and R. A. Stevenson; timekeepers, Messrs A. Hannah and A. Ross Scott.

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

Chairman of the Eastern District of the
National Cross-Country Union of Scotland.
Prominent athletic legislators present in-
cluded Messrs J. Burdett, newly-elected
President of the S.A.A.A.; C. Pennycook, R.
K. Kininmonth, Geo. Huie, A. Ross Scott,
President S.A.A.A.; J. McQuilloch, presi-
dent National C.C.U. of Scotland; A.
Hinde, vice-president S.A.A.A.; R. A. Hay,
C.C.U. champion, 1895, etc., &c.