

HARRIERS.

SCOTTISH EASTERN DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Over a seven mile course at Portobello on Saturday, the 23rd annual team and individual championships of the Eastern District of Scotland were decided in splendid weather. There was a good blending of road, plough, and grass in the course, which was covered twice, with an extra piece to secure a finish on the road inside Portobello Public Park. Out-points in the course, which was begun on Milton Road, at the south-east corner of Portobello Public Park, were Niddrie cross-roads, Niddrie Main, Niddrie Marchal, and Jewel Cottages, and some of the going was uphill and heavy.

Thirteen clubs faced the starter, compared with twelve last year, and in all there were over 150 runners. Mr D. Holland, Edinburgh Southern Harriers, was starter; Mr D. Taylor, Heriot's Cross Country Club; Mr George Home, Edinburgh Harriers; and Mr G. M. Grant, Edinburgh Southern Harriers, were timekeepers. Mr Grant, who is hon. secretary of the Eastern District of the National Cross-Country Union of Scotland, was secretary of the meeting. Other prominent officials on duty included Mr A. D. Lawson, Gala Harriers, president of the Scottish Amateur Athletic Association, and Mr W. F. McMoray, Motherwell Harriers, who is president of the National Cross-Country Union of Scotland. Many more of the old-time famous Scottish cross-country runners assisted, and helped to swell the attendance of the crowd of 300 at the start.

The men had Portobello Baths as dressing-rooms, and walked half a mile to the starting point. Interest in the race was maintained throughout, as the men had to arrive at the starting point before going for the second half of their journey. In 25 mins. 11 secs. the leaders were setting out on their second tour. Two Dundee candidates were running abreast—namely, G. A. Farquharson and J. S. Smith. They were followed at ten yards by W. Morrison, Edinburgh Northern, who led slightly from a group consisting of A. T. Armstrong, Edinburgh Northern, and A. A. Bowman and R. Peterson, both of the Edinburgh Southern. At this stage the field of runners had tailed away over a distance of fully quarter of a mile, and a few candidates dropped out.

The finish was a grand one. The half-distance leaders, Farquharson and Smith, entered the park for the 100 yards straight run home almost together, but Farquharson sprinted gallantly and got home by twelve yards from his closemate. By that time Bowwell had not yet entered the straight.

As for the team race, Edinburgh Northern men won handsomely for the 5th time in fifteen contests.

Results:—Team championships—1, Edinburgh Northern Harriers, 4, 3, 6, 8, 9, 19—51 points; 2, Edinburgh Southern Harriers, 11, 15, 16, 18, 21, 22—100 points; 3, Thistle Harriers, Dundee, 1, 2, 20, 27, 29, 41—120 points; 4, Edinburgh Harriers, 179 points; 5, Edinburgh University, 230 points; 6, Falkirk Victoria, 263 points; 7, Kirkcaldy Y.M.C.A., 273 points; 8 and 9 (equal), Heriot's Cross-Country Club and Torridale Harriers, 325 points; 10, Gala Harriers, 424 points; 11, Hawthill Harriers, 436 points; 12, Canon A.S. Club, 439 points; 13, Selkirk Harriers, only three men of which finished.

Individual championships—1, G. A. Farquharson, Thistle Harriers (Dundee)—time, 52 mins. 31 secs.; 2, J. S. Smith, Thistle Harriers (Dundee), 52 mins. 35 secs.; 3, F. H. Bowwell, Edinburgh University, 53 mins. 11 secs.