

THE MIDLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

By EDWIN TAYLOR, Hon.

Secy. Midland District N.C.C.U.

The Midland District 7 miles Junior Championship and Youths' 2½ miles race, were held at Hamilton Racecourse on 25th January, 1947, and were monopolised by Victoria Park A.A.C., who took the four premier awards—no "photo-electric" finishes being required in arriving at the results. "Vicky Park," a track club by repute, are this season blazing their trail on the country, and to a large extent their track stars are the shining lights—showing that good champions should be able to race on any conditions.

Four men dominated the seven miles—Forbes, Cairns, Craig and Lamont—the first two vying with each other in setting the pace, the four being out on their own from the second mile. Forbes eventually wore down his rivals and won easily, giving a great lead to his team's victory. Shettleston filled 2nd team place and 2nd and 3rd individual places; with Maryhill 3rd team.

A splendid race between W. Young of Victoria Park and R. Smith of Garscube ended in a victory by the former whose sprint finish took him clear of his rival. J. McGhee of St. Modan's also ran well to finish 3rd, as did Duffy of Garscube in 4th place. With 15 points, Victoria Park had a margin of 12 points to spare over their immediate opponents, Garscube and Maryhill with 29 points apiece.

Of the individual entrants, the first home in the Youths was J. Barbour (Hillington) in 16th place; in the Junior, J. Clark (Shettleston) finished 10th.

Worthy performance was W. MacMillan's, of Springburn, being first

novice home with an excellent placing—being 5th to finish in the 7 miles.

Results are as follows—

7 Miles Junior Championship—Individual Placings—A. Forbes (Victoria Park), 1 (38 mins. 28 secs.); B. Cairns (Shettleston), 2; G. Craig Shettleston), 3; G. Lamont (Victoria Park), 4; W. McMillan (Springburn), 5; G. Cunningham (Victoria Park), 6.

Team Race—1st, Victoria Park (Forbes 1, Lamont 4, Cunningham 6. McFarlane 8, Adam 12, Ritchie 18), 49 pts.; 2nd, Shettleston (Cairns 2, Craig 3, Connor 7, Brechin 12, Millar 28, Short 29), 81 pts.; 3rd, Maryhill (Mathieson 9, Bissell 15, Hoskins 16, Wilkie 27, Nelson 25, Stevenson 34), 126 points; 4th, Bellahouston (10, 14, 20, 31, 43, 44), 162 pts.; 5th, Glasgow University (18, 22, 26, 36, 40, 52), 194 pts; 6th, Garscube (21, 24, 30, 39, 41, 45), 200 pts.; 7th, Vale of Leven (17, 42, 46, 66, 71, 72), 314 pts.; 8th, Clydesdale (37, 38, 53, 65, 68, 74), 335 pts.; 9th, Hamilton (13, 49, 59, 76, 79, 80), 356 pts.; 10th, Springburn (5, 32, 47, 88, 92, 94), 358 pts.

Youth 2½ Miles—Individual Placings—W. Young (V.P.) (11 min. 30 secs.), 1; R. Smith (Garscube), 2; J. McGhee (St. Modans), 3; J. Duffy (Garscube), 4; D. Mill (V.P.), 5.

Team Race—1st, Victoria Park (Young 1, Mill 5, Sim 9), 15 pts.; 2nd (equal), Garscube (Smith 2, Duffy 4, O'Kane 23); Maryhill (Jordan 7, Lawson 10, Miller 12), 29 pts.; 4th, Plebeian, 36 pts.; 5th, Shettleston, 58 pts.; 6th (equal), St. Machan's, 61 pts.; St. Modan's, 61 pts.