

CROSS COUNTRY

North Championships at Inverness

The annual North of Scotland Amateur Athletic Association cross country championships were held in Inverness on Saturday afternoon in favourable weather conditions, after a morning of almost continual rain, which had the effect of making the going rather heavy.

A record number of 176 competitors took part, including two of last year's champions who successfully defended their titles, and the race started and ended at the Queen's Park ~~the~~ ~~light~~. Calum Laing, Inverness Harriers, now at Glasgow University, retained his senior title, completing the six-mile course in the excellent time of 34 mins. 43 secs., finishing 1 min. 12 secs. ahead of his nearest rival, D. Gifford, Lochaber A.A.C.. M. Berry, Milnes High School, Fochabers, was the other successful defending champion when he won the boys' event over 2 miles, in 15 mins. 22 secs., narrowly beating H. Mackenzie, Inverness High School, who was 2nd in this race last year. ~~The new junior~~ champion was R. Porter, Forres Harriers, who finished second last year, and in the youth event D. MacParouhar, Inverness Royal Academy, won the title previously held by his brother Roderick.

Credit is due to the organisers, the N. of S. A.A.A. in conjunction with Inverness Harriers A.A.C., for their excellent administration and marking, and to the Civil Defence Mobile Unit, which provided progress reports throughout the races. There was, however, one slight hitch in the proceedings when competitors in the youths' race had to be recalled to allow a ship to pass through the canal—a hazard that had not been foreseen.

Mrs Wotherspoon, wife of Provost Wotherspoon, presented trophies and plaques to the winners, who were:—

Senior (over 21, ~~six miles~~)—1 Calum Laing, Inverness Harriers (34 mins. 43 secs.); 2 D. Gifford, Lochaber (35 mins. 55 secs.); 3 J. Clare, R.N.A.S., Lossiemouth (36 mins). Team—1 Forres Harriers (26 points); 2 Lochaber Athletic Club (42 pts.); 3 R.N.A.S. Lossiemouth (54 pts.).

Junior (16-20, ~~six miles~~)—1 R. Porter, Forres Harriers (35 mins. 58 secs.); 2 M. Esson, Elgin Athletic Club (36 mins. 31 secs.); 3 D. Davidson, Elgin Athletic Club (37 mins. 6 secs.). Team—1 Forres Harriers.

Youths (15-17, 3 miles)—1 D. MacParouhar, Inverness Royal Academy (19 mins. 51 secs.); 2 R. G. Duncan, Gordonstoun (19 mins. 58 secs.); 3 J. Young, Gordonstoun (20 mins 26 secs.). Team—1 Gordonstoun "A;" 2 Elgin Academy; 3 Gordonstoun "B."

Boys (13-14, 2 miles)—1 M. Berry, Milnes High School, Fochabers (15 mins. 22 secs.); 2 H. Mackenzie, Inverness High School (15 mins. 38 secs.); 3 W. Bruce, Golspie (15 mins. 43 secs.). Team—1 Gordonstoun Boys "A;" 2 Inverness High School; 3 Elgin Academy.