

CROSS-COUNTRY

North Championships in the Snow

Despite atrocious road conditions, which prevented a number of would-be competitors travelling to Inverness, over 100 runners took part in the North of Scotland Amateur Athletic Association's annual cross-country championships on Saturday afternoon, starting and finishing at the Queen's Park, the Bagh, Inverness.

The competitions, including 34 girls who were competing in the first N.S.A.A.A. championship to be held for girls, had to contest extremely difficult underfoot conditions created by snow, ice and slush over various routes, including Kiermylne Farm, Craig Dunain Hospital and Balnacraig Farm, and the competitors were described as having "the heart of Bruce" by Provost W. A. Smith of Inverness, who presented the trophies to the winners.

CLOSE FINISHERS

J. Clark, R.N.A.S. Lornmouth, who finished second in the senior event last year, went one better on this occasion to win in an excellent time of 24 min. 7 sec. for the 5-mile course. In the junior event, D. Fraser, Lochaber Athletic Club, won the championship in fine style after a thrilling finish against J. Waldorf, Cathness Athletic Club, who was forced to retire in last year's championship because of cartilage trouble, and J. Howatree, Gordonstown School. J. Moyle, Gordonstown, retained his youth title by holding off M. Jeudman, Inverness High School, and D. Dunn, Gordonstown, who both finished only 4 seconds behind him. P. McArdie, Kingussie, was perhaps a little unlucky in defending his championship in the boys' event, when he apparently misinterpreted a signal given by a policeman on traffic control duty at the Glen Drogan Road bridge over the canal and lost about a hundred yards as a result. He did well, however, to finish in 2nd place, recording the same time as C. Campbell, Lochaber High School, who finished second, but had no chance with J. Eyles, Gordonstown, who was a worthy winner. A. Kennedy, Milburn School, led all the way in the first girls' championship event to finish well ahead of her nearest rivals. Gordonstown School did remarkably well to retain their two team trophies in the youths' and junior sections, and they even added a third, in the boys' section. R.N.A.S. Lornmouth retained their senior team trophy.

RESULTS

The complete results are:—

Boys—15-14 years: Two miles—1 J. Eyles, Gordonstown (15 min. 17 sec.); 2 C. Campbell, Lochaber High School A; 3 P. McArdie, Kingussie. **Team—**1 Gordonstown, 40 points; 2 Milburn Secondary A, Inverness; 3 Lochaber High School A.

Youths—15-17 years: three miles—1 J. Moyle, Gordonstown A (17 min. 3 sec.); 2 M. Jeudman, Inverness High School; 3 D. Dunn, Gordonstown A. **Team—**1 Gordonstown A, 10 points; 2 Lochaber A.A.C.; 3 Inverness High School.

Juniors—18-20 years: five miles—1 D. Fraser, Lochaber A.A.C. (25 min. 1 sec.); 1 J. Waldorf, Cathness; 3 J. Howatree, Gordonstown. **Team—**1 Gordonstown, 20 points (only one team entered).

Seniors—21 and over: five miles—1 J. Clark, R.N.A.S. Lornmouth (24 min. 7 sec.); 2 G. Hinchison, Cathness A.A.C.; 3 R. Meadows, R.N.A.S. Lornmouth. **Team—**1 R.N.A.S. Lornmouth, 21 points; 2 Cathness A.A.C.; 3 Lochaber A.A.C.

Girls—13 and over: two miles—1 A. Kennedy, Milburn A (16 min. 48 sec.); 2 G. Macdonald, Inverness High School A; 3 J. Kennedy, Inverness High School A. **Team—**1 Milburn A, 21 points; 2 Inverness High School A; 3 Milburn B.