

ATHLETICS

ATHLETES from Orkney and Shetland competed at the Northern Cross Country Championships for the first time, with Jim Odie, Shetland AAA, winning the gold medal in the senior boys' 2½-mile race.

He clocked 17 min. 38 sec. after a stirring tussle with Neil Martin (Forres Harriers) who finished a yard behind.

The championships, held at Thurso (the first time they have been held north of Inverness), attracted seven athletes from Shetland. They flew in on Friday and will stay over at Thurso as there is no plane home until tomorrow.

Allan Lamb, of RAF Moray (31 min. 37 sec.), won the senior six-mile championship. He finished over 400 yards clear of Donald MacMillan (Inverness Harriers) 32 min. 58 sec., who gained the award for the first junior to finish.

Eugene McEvoy (Lochaber AC), was third in 33 min. 19 sec., just ahead of K. Tulloch (Shetland).

Lochaber won the team contest, narrowly defeating RAF Moray.

Jeff McMaster (Lochaber), won the youth four-mile event in 20 min. 55 sec. from Chris Voice (Caithness), 21 min. 16 sec. Ronald Matheson (Caithness), won the junior boys' two-mile event in 11 min. 2 sec. from Mike Mitchell (Inverness Royal Academy), 11 min. 15 sec.