

CROSS-COUNTRY

Harriers Win North Titles

Harriers won their first men's team title at the North District Cross Country Championships, sponsored by the North of Scotland Milk Marketing Board, in Port William on Saturday, but only by the narrowest conceivable margin. Once the six counters from each team had had their places added up, **Harriers** and Lochaber tied for first place on 46 points, with **Forres** only one point behind. When the tie-breaker procedure was applied, the leaders were still level, and it was only by resorting to a seldom-used alternative tie-breaking calculation that the **Harriers** team got the verdict. Not only was this the first **Harriers** senior win since the District Championships were instituted in 1971, it was also the first success the club had had since 1904, taking into account the previous championships held by the old North of Scotland Amateur Athletic Association.

The individual result, however, was less close. Simon Aron for the **Harriers** was nearly a minute clear of Willie Miller of Callhanna over the 7 mile course, but the battle for 3rd place was just as close as in the team contest. Mike McCulloch of **Forres** just getting the needles over Brian Turnbull of **Harriers**. The other **Harriers** counting athletes were Peter Gilding 11th, Alex. Sutherland 13th, Ross MacDonald 16th and Bobby MacDonald 18th.

FIVE TEAM AWARDS

In total, the Harriers won five of the seven team awards, and were unlucky not to take what should have been the eighth, the junior men's, where there were no full teams competing, although the Harriers had hoped to raise the necessary three athletes. The most rewarding Inverness success came in the senior boys' race, where the winner was Ian Dunn of Fort Augustus Abbey School, but seven of the next eight to finish were Harriers, which easily gave them the team title. Andrew Fraser in 2nd place was the top Harrier here, followed by Dominic MacAdam in 3rd place and Alan Bone 4th.

In the corresponding junior women's race, Jersey Hall continued the excellent progress which she has made this winter to take second place, and the remaining members of the winning Inverness team here were Hazel Hendry 4th and Lorraine Ross 5th.

George Worship made the trip North from university to win the youths' championship, from club-mate Mark Robertson, who also made a special journey, while Ewan Beal in 4th place completed yet another team success.

The final team win for the Harriers was in the women's race, and they accomplished this without the help of Lee Lobb, who was a last-minute withdrawal due to achilles tendon trouble. However, Cairns Bell in 2nd place, Elisabeth Scott 3rd and Ann Walder 4th secured the team trophy.

OTHER RESULTS

In the junior men's race, where no club managed to raise a full team, Jamie Bell won the individual title, while George MacLennan was 4th. There were no team or individual awards for Inverness in the under 13 events, but Chris Buchanan of Colodan Academy was 2nd in the boys' race and there were two second places in the team events, which indicate continuing improvement in this department. Roy McKinnon (7th), Duncan Harris (8th) and Billy Reynolds (9th) were the counters in the boys' race and Ann MacLennan (4th), Lynn James (7th) and Roslyn MacFarlane (8th) in the girls. However, it is expected that there will be continued improvement in these youngest age groups, as the new coaches which the Harriers have recruited over the last month are already "learning the ropes" enthusiastically, and will soon be in action.