

INVERNESS HARRIERS

ROSS CONTINGENT

INVERNESS HARRIERS enjoyed a very successful North District Cross Country Championship at Kinloss on Saturday. On a bitterly cold day, with snow and ice underfoot, five out of seven team awards went to the Inverness Club, with six **Harriers** lifting individual prizes.

Ross-shire-based Club members figured prominently, with "new girl" Jenny Rankine, Alness, taking a fine second place for Junior Women. Marianne Sinclair, Dingwall, was third in the Girls' race behind team-mate Roma Davidson, with a brave run by Kerry Donaldson, Dingwall, for tenth place, being enough to secure the team prize ahead of Orkney AAC. This trio is unbeaten on three appearances this season and thoroughly deserved their success.

For the Senior Boys, Scott Fraser, Dingwall, finished fifth to help claim another team championship. Craig Stewart, Dingwall, ran well for seventh place.

MIKE PROVES HIS POINT

SCOTTISH

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proved what many have believed for some time — that he is the best prospect to emerge in north athletics in a very long time.

The 20-year-old **Scots** runner made his point on Saturday when he ran with great poise and style to win the North of Scotland Senior Men's Cross Country Championship at Kinloss.

Only **Scots** **McCulloch** (Forres Harriers) presented a challenge on the tricky, snow-covered seven-and-a-half mile course, which included a large section of woodland.

Scots increased his lead over the last two miles to win by 150 yards in 39.18 to McCulloch's 39.49 with Brett MacMillan (Lochaber AC) having a fine run to take third place.

A fine turn-out of some 70 took part in this year's championships, which were brought forward in the seasonal calendar to accommodate Orkney competitors, who often experience difficulty in travelling when ferries have to cope with adverse weather.

The team competition, in which six runners count, was won by Forres Harriers, with Larbert AC runners-up and **Scots** **third**.

I. Moncur was the Harriers' second man home while a strong run by back-to-form I. Mackenzie enhanced his team's position.

Scots **part**, **Elgin** contingent never rose to the occasion, with only T. Jones finishing in a respectable position.

Local placings: I. M. **Scots** (Elgin **Scots**) 9 M. MacLennan (PH), 8 I. Moncur (PH), 9 I. Mackenzie (PH), 12 T. Jones (PH) 13 M. Francis (PH), 15 M. Wright (ELAAC), 16 D. Christie (PH), 18 M. Grant (PH), 24 A. Fletcher (ELAAC), 25 D. Grant (ELAAC), 26 A. Christie (ELAAC), 28 M. Christie (ELAAC), 30 A. Fletcher (ELAAC).

In the junior men's race another fine performance by **Scots** Chris Armstrong saw him edge clear of favourite Alan Reid (Cavers) to take the title on the five mile course.

Armstrong waited until the four mile mark before making his move to finish well ahead of the field in a time of 29.49.

Scots made it a hat-trick of successes in the women's race. Marianne MacLeod fought a close battle with L. Murray (Black Isle) but Marianne's experience paid off in the last quarter and she built up a small lead which she retained to the end. She was well backed up by the other two members, with Mairi **Scots** **scoring**.

Placings: I. M. MacLeod, 7 C. MacLeod, 9 M. Palmer.

In the youth race Chris Reid took seventh place, although not fully fit, while Linda Anderson finished eighth in the junior women's race.

Steven Wright performed well enough to take eighth place in the junior men's race while Marianne Murray (Christians) showed a similar level of form in ninth place.