

WESTERN DISTRICT.

(SPECIAL BY "PAGE.")

Premier events have as now been engaged in under conditions the reverse of favourable so far as mud and weather were concerned, and the last notable instance was that of the International C.C. race at Hamilton, run in March of last year. Saturday, however, was even more desperate than that occasion. To begin with, the ground by reason of recent rains was heavy enough in all conscience, but the lashing, pelting rains that fell previous to the start of the race, and which continued all through, was dispiriting in the extreme, and heavy on those fighting for district honours. Very complete arrangements had been made by Secretary Robbison and his committee, and so far there was not one detail left to be desired. Trail layers, trail, dressing accommodation, officials, were all anticipated and provided for, and but for the very unpropitious atmospheric conditions everyone in charge would now be shaking hands with himself.

It is exactly ten years since the junior running harriers clubs of Glasgow and district formulated the idea of a race in which they might all take part independent of the body that ruled at that time. The event was a pronounced success, and was run at Cathcart with an entry of seven clubs—the Bellahouston, Carlisle Beagles (since lapsed), Clydesdale Juniors (now the Olympic), Eiderslie Wallace (also extant), Springburn, Stenhousemuir (only a club in name now), and Whiteinch Harriers clubs. From that beginning sprang the W.D.C.C. Association, and year by year this body increased in power and usefulness under the fostering care of such well-known enthusiasts as Messrs. Alex. Horovin, A. McNab, J. Yorston, Jas. Walker, and although last to be named, the hardest worker of the lot, Mr. W. A. McCrae, now president of the one leading body for C.C. legislation in Scotland. In 1901 the senior and W.D. bodies merged into one, and since then the race has been run under its care, and the event is a continuation of the junior championship and that of the Western District.

As on previous occasions, the event of this year was arranged to take place over the well-known country starting from the Race Course on the Hamilton Palace policies. Nineteen clubs entered, which was just one within the record of a year ago. The principal absentees of Saturday were the Whiteinch and Larkhall. There were, however, representatives from the recently-formed Greenock Auchmountain Harriers, and the other clubs entered are well-known in C.C. circles and athletic meetings generally, and, looking over the individual names, one could not but be impressed with the importance of the race by reason of so many well-known track-racing men.

Thirty-five minutes after the advertised time, the nineteen bands were lined up in front of the grand stand. Some were minus their most promising men, but others ran their full teams as entered, among these being Auchmountain, Bellahouston, Dennistoun, Garscadden, Motherwell V.M.C.A., and Paisley Juniors. Immediately before lining up, the rain and wind did their worst, and the send-off was seen, as a rule, from under cover.

Once away, the leaders made no mincing of matters, but set the pace, and by the time the first mile had been covered there was a tailing off that covered quite 500 yards, and the bookie's voice shouted 2 to 1 against Kennedy and Russell, and 4 to 1 bar a couple. These two were first to run out to the open, and at this juncture quite twenty of the runners cried enough, and made tracks to their dressing quarters. Russell was at once shaken off by Kennedy, and the Garscadden runner was challenged by more than one of the Motherwell men. Nearing the finish of the contest McMurdo stuck to the leader, and the pair in their stimulation and determination passed away from the others. The Motherwell runner made great efforts, and could not be shaken off, and great were the eyes of the onlookers as this pair ran round the last bit of the journey. The dash was a great one, and both ran through the mud with less than ten yards of each other, when as fast as the stewards and judges could call the numbers of the mud-bespattered heroes they came rushing in close after one another, and altogether no fewer than 160 finished and were placed in the order as appended. The order of arrivals were as follows, but it must be understood that by reason of one or two slips and disqualification some of the numbers are successive off—1. Sam. Kennedy, Garscadden (champion); 2. W. M. Murdo, Motherwell; 3. W. Grahame, Olympic; 4. Thos. Young, Motherwell; 5. J. Jackson, Burnbank; 6. D. McCafferty, Burnbank; 7. G. McRae, Westerwood; 8. E. Moon, Motherwell; 9. W. Rodvers, Springburn; 10. F. Hauchey, Paisley; 11. W. G. Kerr, Clydesdale; 12. A. J. McCullie, V.M.C.A.; 13. W. McFarlane, Motherwell V.M.C.A.; 14. J. Johnson; 15. A. Tamm, Paisley Juniors; 16. A. McMillan, Glasgow V.M.C.A.; 17. W. McFarlane, Motherwell V.M.C.A.; 18. W. Walker, Motherwell; 19. W. Dick, Clydesdale; 20. W. Miller, Greenock Western; 21. Sam. Porter, Garscadden; 22. Wm. Ross, Garscadden; 23. Alex. Mann, Clydesdale; 24. McMurdo, Motherwell; 25. W. Walker, Paisley; 26. W. Fox, Paisley Juniors; 27. J. McLean, Motherwell V.M.C.A.; 28. J. McRae, Motherwell; 29. J. Stewart, Maryhill; 30. Robert Attentead, Garscadden; 31. Jim Christie, Garscadden; 32. J. Wallace, Motherwell; 33. J. Currie, Maryhill; 34. Alex. Grahame, Clydesdale; 35. J. Murray, Burnbank; 36. D. Rutherford, Maryhill; 37. Norman Stewart, Dennistoun; 38. J. McMillan, Garscadden; 39. W. McMurdo, Motherwell V.M.C.A.; 40. J. McRae, Motherwell; 41. J. S. Oliver, Wellpark;

42. J. Templeman, Bellahouston; 43. W. Rodger, Paisley; 44. A. T. McArthur, Paisley Jun.; 45. R. Fulton, Paisley; 46. R. Urquhart, Auchincruive; 47. Adam Scott, Hamilton; 48. A. Craighead, Maryhill; 49. W. G. Clark, West of Scotland; 50. C. W. Bissland, Maryhill; 51. A. G. M. Swart, Clydesdale; 52. D. Mitchell, Motherwell Y.M.C.A.; 53. G. N. May, Bellahouston; 54. J. Somerville, Motherwell Y.M.C.A.; 55. W. Hunter, Wellpark; 56. G. S. Campbell, Clydesdale; 57. A. Paul, Hamilton; 58. J. McVicar, Motherwell; 59. J. Graham, Paisley; 60. Jas. Hewitt, Garreloch; 61. A. Graham, Glasgow Y.M.C.A.; 62. A. Forsyth, West of Scotland; 63. A. Dick, Garreloch; 64. R. R. Lambie, Clydesdale; 65. W. Bowman, Paisley Y.M.C.A.; 66. W. Hendries, Bellahouston; 67. J. S. Menzies, West of Scotland; 68. John McVille, Clydesdale; 69. R. Currie, Wellpark; 70. John Martin, Glenpark; 71. Geo. Todd, Olympic; 72. M. McKenzie, Glenpark; 73. A. Anderson, Hamilton; 74. R. Barclay, Glenpark; 75. Jas. McChes, Clydesdale; 76. W. Martin, Wellpark; 77. J. McGrath, Paisley Juniors; 78. Wm. Connell, Garreloch; 79. J. Barrowman, Burnbank; 80. J. Chapman, Olympic; 81. J. Smart, Bellahouston; 82. W. Stewart, Wellpark; 83. H. Terrell, Paisley Juniors; 84. C. Boyle, Burnbank; 85. Jas. Black, Glenpark; 86. A. Graham, Wellpark; 87. J. Moore, Motherwell; 88. J. Adam, Paisley Juniors; 89. J. M. Culloch, Motherwell Y.M.C.A.; 90. Jas. Brownlie, Springburn; 91. Ernest Lamont, Glenpark; 92. J. Henderson, Olympic; 93. J. Baxter, Motherwell; 94. R. Turner, Hamilton; 95. W. Paterson, Paisley Y.M.C.A.; 96. D. Thomson, Paisley Y.M.C.A.; 97. W. Lediell, Maryhill; 98. A. S. Mathieson, Paisley Y.M.C.A.; 99. J. McQueen, Bellahouston; 100. John Wilson, Springburn.

Team results:—1. Garreloch Harriers, 121 points; 2. Motherwell Y.M.C.A., 181 points; 3. Clydesdale (winners of the junior 1894, 1900, and 1901), 185 points; 4. Paisley, 233 points; 5. a tie between Motherwell (winners junior 1898), Maryhill (winners of the junior 1899), and Bellahouston (winners Western District 1896), each 288 points; 6. Wellpark, Greenock, 284 points; 9. Paisley Juniors, 333 points; 10. Burnbank, 353 points; 11. Glasgow Y.M.C.A., 363 points; 12. Greenock Glenpark (winners W.D. 1900), 422 points; 13. West of Scotland, 435 points; 14. Glasgow Olympic, 478 points; 15. Springburn (winners W.D. 1899), 523 points; 16. Hamilton, 526 points; 17. Paisley Y.M.C.A., 583 points; 18. Glasgow Dennistoun, 609 points. Anclmountain (Greenock) took last place, but did not finish with the requisite number of men, and so had no count. First man's time, 4mins 41 3-5secs. Starter, Mr John McCulloch, Maryhill Harriers; referee, Mr A. Ross Scott, Clydesdale Harriers; timekeeper, Mr J. W. Brownlie, Maryhill Harriers; judges—Messrs W. A. McCrae, Garreloch Harriers, and Sid W. Cornish, West of Scotland Harriers.