

CROSS-COUNTRY.

Western District Championships at Hamilton.

The 29th annual team and individual championships of the National Cross-Country Union of Scotland (Western District) were decided on Saturday at Hamilton Park Racecourse. Despite the inclement weather there was a good turnout of spectators. Of the 28 teams entered, all were forward with the exception of Irvine Y.M.C.A., whose four runners had perforce to compete as individuals. Each team, as usual, consisted of nine runners, of whom the first six counted in the points aggregate. A year ago on the same venue Plebeian Harriers and Motherwell Y.M.C.A. Harriers tied for the team honour, while C. H. Johnston, Glasgow University Hares and Hounds, gained the individual award. The course was a three-lap one. The first lap was entirely on the race track, and measured $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles. Thereafter the competitors were given a wider circuit, the trail being laid across the Low Parks and back on to the racecourse, thus completing a lap of about three miles. By traversing this circuit twice, a distance of approximately seven miles was covered. While there was no ploughed land included, the course was a testing one as a result of the heavy rains.

The field of over 200 runners was soon spread out. At $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles the leaders were Gardiner, Henderson, Donnelly, Allison, and Campbell, all practically together. There was little change at 5 miles, except that G.P. Inglis (Maryhill H.) had crept up into third place, with Calder fourth, Allison fifth, and Evans sixth. Gardiner and S. Henderson, however, had now opened up a gap from the others. On the final round Henderson went to the front, and on coming into the finishing straight of fully half a mile he had a few yards' advantage. Running strongly, Henderson, who also holds the Renfrewshire Championship, rapidly put the issue beyond doubt, reaching the tape about 150 yards ahead of the Motherwell representative, with G. Dick (Doon H.) about the same distance farther behind.

The team race, which was looked upon as of a very open nature, was won rather easily by Maryhill Harriers, whose young team ran like veterans to win by the lowest score for a number of years. This was Maryhill's third success since the war, and their fourth win in all. Shortleston Harriers were favourites before the race, but were beaten by a better team. The outstanding feature of the Maryhill club's win was the splendid way in which they "packed," all six men finishing within 15 places.

Monkland Harriers secured twelfth place in the West of Scotland team championship race at Hamilton racecourse last Saturday with 468 points. In all, 27 teams took part in the contest, which was the 29th of the series.



Maryhill won the team championship of the West of Scotland cross-country runners with 98 points; Shettleston Harriers (141) were second and Beith Harriers (244) third.



The individual championship was won by R. Henderson, Glasgow Harriers, whose time for the seven miles course was 45 min. 54 4-5 sec. A. Gardiner, Motherwell, was runner-up.

CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP.

The Western District cross-country championship was decided yesterday:—Individual Championship—1 R. Henderson (Glasgow Harriers), 2 J. Gardiner (Motherwell Y.M.C.A.), 3 G. Dickson (Doon Harriers), 4 R. Allison (Springburn Harriers), 5 G. Evan (Eglington Harriers), 6 J. Calder (Beith). Time—45 min. 54 4-5 sec. Team Championship—1 Maryhill Harriers (10, 11, 12, 19, 21, 25)—98 points; 2 Shettleston Harriers; 3 Beith Harriers.