

Women's West District Championships

At Lanark, November 24th

THE Scottish Women's West District Cross Country Championships this year produced one of the closest finishes ever seen when Janet Swanson just edged out Sandra Branney to gain a well deserved victory in the Senior event. Janet was the early leader over the flat, grassy course and she set a brisk pace around the first, near two miles, lap that quickly spread out the field. But Sandra took over and attempted to open up a gap with a confidence which belied the fact that she is in only her first year of competition. Janet was not to be thwarted, however, and, keeping well in contention, she mustered a well timed finishing sprint over the final 100m to pull clear and take the title. Fay Campbell gained Nith Valley's first ever medal in the Senior event when she finished third. McLaren Glasgow retained their team title and it was good to see former Scottish champion Fiona McQueen back in their colours after a long lay-off from competition.

The meeting organisers, Lanark and Lesmahagow Track Club, were looking to young Frances Hillen for victory in the Intermediate event. Frances has been the top Inter. in the Scottish League, but it was not to be her day. The highly consistent Carol-Ann Bartlay turned in yet another impressive performance and emerged a worthy winner, well clear of Wendy McFarlane and Nicola Allison. Victoria Park, with three girls in the first five, were easy winners of the team title. There was an exciting finish to the Junior race, with Mary McClung and Haylie Haining matching stride for stride up the long final straight. Haylie appeared to be the favourite in the final sprint, but Mary responded magnificently to clinch the narrowest of victories in a hard-fought race.

Derek Parker

1. J. Swanson (Monkland Shettleston).....	21:20
2. S. Branney (Victoria Park).....	21:24
3. F. Campbell (Nith Valley).....	21:45
4. E. Steele (Glas) 22:00; 5. C. Thomson (Glas) 22:01; 6. E. Cochrane (Glas) 22:13; 7. E. Scally (Glas) 22:17; 8. C. Devlin (VP) 22:22; 9. F. McQueen (Glas) 22:25; 10. J. Stewart (VP) 22:35. <i>Teams</i> : 1. McLaren Glasgow 18; 2. Monkland Shettleston 22; 3. Victoria Park 71. Inters —	
1. C. Bartlay (VP) 18:12; 2. W. McFarlane 18:34; 3. N. Allison (Glas) 18:54; 4. L. Campbell (VP) 19:09; 5. L. Morland (VP) 19:31; 6. K. Blair (Airdrie) 19:35. <i>Teams</i> : 1. Victoria Park 10; 2. Central Region 41. Juniors — 1. M. McClung (Kilm) 9:57; 2. H. Haining (Nith) 9:57; 3. M. Gemmell (S'kelvin) 10:15; 4. L. Shaw (Kilb) 10:19; 5. E. McGinley (VP) 10:21; 6. A. Fisher (Kilb) 10:22; 7. J. Artis (Colz) 10:32; 8. K. Baird (Kirk. O) 10:33. <i>Teams</i> : 1. Kilbarchan 34; 2. Colzium 82; 3. Strathkelvin 93. Girls — 1. E. Hanlon (Nith) 10:37; 2. D. Rutherford (Kilm) 10:42; 3. A. Paterson (S'kelvin) 10:48; 4. A. Mooney (Shett) 10:54; 5. K. Greenlees (VP) 10:58; 6. C. McCusker (VP) 10:59; 7. J. Wolfendale (VP) 11:00; 8. E. Sharpe (Kilm) 11:01. <i>Teams</i> : 1. Victoria Park 29; 2. Monkland Shettleston 58; 3. Central Region 73. U/11 — 1. D. McInally (VP) 6:11; 2. K. Dyer (Ayr S) 6:24; 3. L. Wilson (VP) 6:29. <i>Team</i> : Strathkelvin.	