

# CROSS-COUNTRY.

## T. BIDDILL'S VICTORY IN THE NATIONALS.

T. H. Biddill of Shropshire Harriers, who figured in particularly in early long-distance contests during the recent British amateur athletic season, won the National Cross-Country Championship at Buryhill Castle, Petersfield, on Saturday. Leading generally throughout, he crossed the centre-ground time-table in 30 min. 42 sec., and won by fully 40 yards.

The team favours went to Gloucester Harriers, but they were easily passed by Biddill, while the Buryhill men did well but could not group so well at the start, and the result:

Individuals: 1. T. H. Biddill, Shropshire H.H., 30 min. 42 sec.; 2. G. Hamilton, Cheltenham, H.H., 31 min. 2 sec.; 3. A. H. May, Gloucester H.H.; 4. G. H. McKeown, British H.H., 31 min. 5 sec.; 5. A. Boulton, Gloucester H.H.; 6. W. Young, Peterborough H.H.

Teammates: Gloucester H.H. 31 min. 11 sec.; 2. A. Boulton, H.H.; 3. A. Young, H.H.; 4. C. Green, H.H.; 5. 32 min. 2 sec., Peterborough H.H., 32 min. 2 sec.; 6. A. May, Gloucester H.H., 32 min. 2 sec.; 7. B. McKeown, British H.H., 32 min. 2 sec.; 8. B. Biddill, H.H., 32 min. 2 sec.

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### NATIONAL NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIP AT BOTHWELL.

The sixth annual novice championship of the National Cross-Country Union of Scotland was decided on Saturday within the grounds at Bothwell Castle, kindly granted by the Earl of Eton. There was a record entry of 31 teams (eight to run and four to count) and four individuals. All the teams were forward, but one of the individuals was an absentee. Altogether 220 runners started. The trail was comparatively short, being approximately 4½ miles, but the sodden ground made the test quite severe enough. The course was one of three laps, the first two being on the Uddington side of the main avenue, and the final one on the Bothwell side.

It was a keenly contested race throughout alike for team and individual honours. First man home was T. M. Riddell, Shettleston Harriers. Riddell did all that was asked of him, but he had not a great deal to spare at the finish. Throughout the race he was attended closely by Hamilton, Blue, and M'Kechnie, but on the final circuit Riddell's superior strength stood him in good stead, and he reached the tape first, ahead of Hamilton, with Blue two further behind. M'Kechnie, who was a good fourth, is only 16 years of age, and slightly built. The team championship was a duel between Shettleston Harriers (the holders) and Garscube Harriers, last year's runners-up. At first Shettleston looked like coming out on top, but in the end Garscube, as the result of a more even display, finished seven points to the good. The following are the results:—

Individual Championship:—1. T. M. Riddell, Shettleston H.; 2. C. Hamilton, Paisley Junior H.; 3. C. H. Blue, Garscube H.; 4. David M'Kechnie, Both H.; 5. A. Brooke, Garscube H.; 6. W. Gunn, Fifeian H.; 7. A. Lamont, Mauchline H.; 8. Geo. Clark, Mauchline H.; 9. P. Murty, Shettleston H.; 10. R. Devine, Hamilton H.; 11. A. Bridges, Garscube H.; 12. F. H. Duthie. Time, 28min. 42sec.

Team Championship:—1. Garscube Harriers (2. 5. 11. 18), 21 points; 2. Shettleston Harriers (1. 9. 14. 19), 20; 3. Maryhill Harriers (12. 13. 20. 21), 18; 4. Both Harriers (4. 16. 25. 28), 16; 5. Mauchline Harriers (7. 8. 24. 29), 15; 6. Bellahouston Harriers (27. 29. 30. 40), 13; 7. Clydesdale H., 14; 8. St. Peter's A.A.C., 13; 9. Springburn H., 11; 10. Fifeian H., 9½; 11 and 12 (tie), Glasgow T.M.C.A.A.C. and Paisley T.M.C.A.H., 8½; 13. Glasgow University H. and H., 7½; 14. Paisley Junior H., 5½; 15. East Stirlingshire C.C.C., 3½; 16. Wellpark H., 3½; 17. Edinburgh Northern H., 2½; 18. Dumbarton A.A.C., 2½; 19. Hamilton H., 2½; 20. Auchmountain H., 2½.

## CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP. —

The Garscube Harriers were represented in the National Novice Championship Race at Bothwell on Saturday, and for the second time since 1919 were winners of the team honours with 32 points. Shettleston (Riddell and Mairty, 9; Shaw, 14; Holland, 15), 39 points, were second, and Maryhill (Dalziel, 12; Gillanders, 19; Blakely, 30; Mitchell, 31), 92 points, were third. By annexing the National Novice team title at Bothwell on Saturday last Garscube Harriers have again confounded the cross-country critics by the wonderful performance of their team. As a club they seem to have a natural aptitude for coming to the front just when they are least expected. Their success is made all the more remarkable by the youthfulness of the counting men, their average age being 17½ years. The names and placings of the winning team are as follows: —C. H. Blue, third; A. Brooke, fifth; A. Bridges, eleventh; J. Carson, thirteenth. This shews splendid team-packing, and there is no doubt that this feature is the success of team running. The club may be condemned in some quarters for allowing men of such an age to take part in competitive races, but it is understood that the officials will not allow the team to compete in any more races this year. Garscube Harriers have been most unlucky in the National Championship the past four years, having been three times second and once third in that period, but it is confidently felt that this latest success will be the forerunner of many more this season. It is indeed wonderful how a club such as this, with a running membership of only about thirty members, has always been more or less in the forefront of cross-country running in Scotland. It is to be hoped that this latest honour will be the means of arousing the interest of the young men in the district to a fuller sense of the joys that are to be obtained from cross-country running, and thereby add considerably to the membership of this well-known club, Garscube Harriers. The officials will give a hearty welcome to all new recruits at headquarters, Temple Conservative Hall, Anniesland.