

# HARRIERS.

## AYRSHIRE TO THE FORE.

### EGLINTON WIN NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIP.

Eglinton Harriers on Saturday won the Novice Team Championship, in the team contest at Bothwell Castle. They are the first club outwith Glasgow area to get this team championship, and as Irvine T.M.C.A. Harriers were also well up in the list, while Beith last year were runners-up to Garscube Harriers, there is ample evidence that Ayrshire is keeping pace with the general progress being made throughout Scotland in the advancement of cross-country running.

Popular fancy for the team contest favoured Garscube and Shettleston Harriers, both of whom had three previous successes in this annual event. While Garscube representatives in the actual race were never strong challengers, Shettleston may be said to have failed through an error of judgment on the part of their novice champion, T. Goldie, who to his own and his club's disadvantage, set a pace in the initial stages which he could not maintain, and thus needlessly exhausted his stamina.

### INDIVIDUAL CHAMPION.

The progress of the individual champion, Hugh Gilchrist, Paisley Harriers, revealed excellent judgment. At the end of the first lap (1½ miles) his position was 7th, thereafter, he gradually moved up to 3rd place behind R. Allison, Springburn Harriers, and Jno. Barrie, Glasgow Harriers.

Thus the leaders ran until entering on the final stretch of road, when Barrie went to the front with Gilchrist next, followed by Reid and Evans, of Eglinton Harriers, both of whom had throughout been in close attendance.

It was at this point that an out-of-field steward reported that a large number of competitors had cut the trail, a circumstance, however, which was disregarded by the Union Committee after consideration of the details.

Gilchrist ran every powerfully in the finishing straight, ultimately winning by 25 yards from Barrie, with Reid (Eglinton) forty yards further behind. Then came J. McMaster (Irvine) and G. Evans, Eglinton's second man.

Thus Reid (3) and Evans (5) laid the foundation of

Eglinton's team second, the other two country men, Hugh Davidson (23) and J. Reid (47) bringing in a total of 78 points, while Shotleyton Harriers, the runners-up, with W. T. Anderson (10), J. Quinn (13), A. S. Farmer (17), and J. Hawthorn (56), recorded 98 points.

Other leading placings were:—2, Maryhill Harriers, 103; 4, Irvine T.M.C.A. Harriers, 114; 5, Piebald Harriers, 185; 6, Gartcubs Harriers, 199; 7, Glasgow Harriers, 158; 8, Baillieston and District Welfare Harriers, 161.

A protest was lodged against B. Reid, of Eglinton Harriers, who, it was alleged, was not a "novice" across country. On investigation and after hearing evidence the protest was dismissed by the Union Committee.

# HARRIERS AT BOTHWELL CASTLE.

## National Novice Championship

Excellent weather conditions favoured the decision of the eighth annual team and individual novice championship of the National Cross-Country Union of Scotland. The grounds of Bothwell Castle were placed at the disposal of the Union for the fourth successive year. Out of a record entry of 36 teams all were forward with the exception of Renfrew Y.M.C.A., who were too late in arriving owing to transport difficulties. Two of the three individual entrants were forward, so that, in all, some 280 competitors were sent on their journey by starter Donald. Each team was represented by eight runners (four to count). The runners had to traverse a five mile trail, laid out in three circuits of 1½ miles, and a final one of fully 1½ miles. The greater part of the journey was on grass, and the going was surprisingly good in view of the recent heavy rain. From the start T. Goldie, Shettleston Harriers, took the lead, but at the end of the first circuit the leader was R. Allison, Springburn Harriers, with G. Evans, Eglinton Harriers, second, and J. Barrie, Glasgow Harriers, third. On going round a second time Allison still led, closely followed by Barrie, with H. Gilchrist, Paisley Harriers, lying third. Next round the leading trio remained the same, except that Barrie and Allison had changed places. On reaching the final straight on the pit road Barrie went off the trail slightly, thereby losing ground and enabling Gilchrist to assume the lead, which he retained to win by 30 yards. R. Reid, Eglinton Harriers, was third, fully 40 yards further behind.

The contest for team honours, which Garscube Harriers had held for the past two years, was keen. Several city clubs were thought to have more than an outside chance of winning the Bryson Cup, but as it happened Eglinton Harriers proved to be the winners. Thus the honours go to a provincial club for the first time since the race was instituted in 1919. A protest against the eligibility of R. Reid, who was first man home for the winners, was thrown out. Shettleston Harriers who were second, did well, as they lost their best man, T. Goldie, early in the race. Results:—

Individual Championship—1. H. Gilchrist, Paisley H., 30min. 12 4-5sec.; 2. J. Barrie, Glasgow H., 30min. 18sec.; 3. R. Reid, Eglinton H., 30min. 25sec.; 4. J. McMaster, Irvine Y.M.C.A. H.; 5. G. Evans, Eglinton H.; 6. R. Allison, Springburn H.

Team Championship—1. Eglinton Harriers (R. Reid 3, G. Evans 3, H. Davidson 2, J. Reid 17), 78 points; 2. Shettleston Harriers (W. T. Anderson 10, J. Quinn 13, A. S. Fraser 17, J. Hawthorn 56), 96; 3. Maryhill Harriers (W. Kellas 16, D. Hunter 24, J. C. Adam 31, J. W. McGinn 35), 106; 4. Irvine Y.M.C.A. H., 114; 5. Plebian H., 135; 6. Garscube H., 139; 7. Glasgow H., 158; 8. Dalmington Welfare H., 161; 9. Greenock Wellington H., 180; 10. Kilmarnock H., 184; 11. Motherwell Y.M.C.A. H., 195; 12. Barleith H., 200.

All the competing teams finished with the exception of Canon A.S.C., New Cumnock Harriers, and West of Scotland Harriers.