

# CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP OF SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH HARRIERS v. CLYDESDALE HARRIERS.

This match took place on Saturday on Lanark Racecourse and neighbouring ground. There was an incessant rain, not only during the race, but throughout the day. However, the temperature was mild. Eleven of the Eastern athletes and six from the West entered the list, and a start was made a little after five o'clock. The course was round the Racecourse and on to near the centre of the back stretch, darting down a drove road, and across the Muir, over the Lanark Branch Railway, and on to Mrs Donald's farm; from that to the farmhouse of North Faulda, then eastward to Huntlyhill farmhouse, and from there over the fields and fences on to the Drove Road, and round the remainder of the Racecourse. They passed the post in the following order:—A. P. Finlay (C.H.), A. Jack (E.H.), D. S. Duncan (E.H.), W. M. Gabriel (E.H.), W. Thomson (C.H.), J. Dickie (C.H.), J. Henderson (C.H.), Beith (E.H.), Addison (E.H.), Clarkson (E.H.), R. H. Mossman (E.H.), J. H. A. Laing (E.H.), J. Meek (C.H.), Bucknell (C.H.), Lawson (C.H.), Legge (C.H.). The others stopped. There was only about one-half of the course run. They ran on to the Drove Road, and, making the cross-country circuit as before, finished up by coming again on to the Racecourse and running round the bottom turn and up to the post—in all about ten miles. They came in in the following order and time:—

	Hour.	Mins.	Secs.
A. P. Finlay, C. H.....	1	2	57
D. S. Duncan, E. H.....	1	3	25
J. Jack, E. H.....	1	4	0
W. M. Gabriel, E. H.....	1	5	49
J. Dickie, C. H.....	1	5	53
Wm. Thomson, C. H.....	1	6	2
Beith, E. H.....	1	7	3
J. Henderson, C. H.....	1	8	0
J. S. Clarkson, E. H.....	1	8	1
W. Addison, E. H.....	1	8	53
J. H. A. Laing, E. H.....	1	12	3

On the points being calculated, it was found that the Edinburgh Harriers had won by 12 points, the numbers being—Edinburgh, 35; Clydesdale, 47. Owing to the weather the attendance was small. Among those present were—Provost Lamb and Treasurer Watson, Lanark; Mr John Smith, writer; Mr James Gilroy, Mr A. Morison, writer; Mr D. Neil, &c., &c. We may add that it was perhaps the first race meeting on the Muir within living memory at which no drink was on sale, and as a consequence the affair passed off with singular quietness.

LANARK, Saturday Evening.

The first annual cross country championship of Scotland took place here to-day, and it could not be said to have been altogether a success. The weather was of the most wretched description, a soaking rain having fallen through the entire day. The attendance of spectators was very limited indeed, but this was accounted for in several ways. The event was originally fixed for the 13th, but owing to the course being covered with snow to a considerable depth and the hard frost at that time, the committee arranged to postpone it till to-day. Then again, rumour had it that the postponement was till the 3d April, while what must have militated most seriously against the attendance was the International Association Football Match at Hampden Park. Much regret was expressed that the West Country Harriers were so poorly represented, and that they had failed to send more than half the originally fixed team of 12. The sport is a very exhilarating pastime, and deserves to become more popular with amateur athletes, and doubtless the fixtures which the Scottish clubs have this year with English clubs will do much to spread its popularity. There are only two Harrier Clubs in Scotland worthy of the name—the Clydesdale and Edinburgh—and representatives from these took part in the race. The course over which the championship was contested was as nearly as possible (though slightly under, in our opinion) ten miles. The competitors started opposite the grand stand on the Lanark racecourse, and after completing one circuit and a quarter of it they broke off through the plantation skirting the back stretch, then on to an old drove road across the moor to the Carstairs branch railway. Crossing the line, they join the main road, then along it to Caldwellside Farm on to Northfaulds; down by Huntleyhill Farm, then back on to the moor, and join the racecourse at the point where they had left it. Continuing, they again made another circuit of the course, then broke away over the same cross-country, and finished on the straight of the course. The turf was in an exceedingly spongy state, and consequently it was very heavy going; but, notwithstanding, the time of the winner was really an admirable performance. There was little betting, and it was confined entirely to the individual runners—it being considered a foregone conclusion that Edinburgh as a team would be the winners. Duncan was installed favourite at 2 to 1, Gabriel being next in demand at 3 to 1. Thomson and Findlay found supporters at 4 to 1 each, and Dickie was backed at 5 to 1, while 8 to 1 was on offer about the others. Seventeen competitors started—six from the Clydesdale and eleven from Edinburgh (in place of twelve from each club, as originally arranged). They were as follow:—

## CLYDESDALE.

W. M. Thomson, Royal Albert F.C.  
J. Henderson, Chryson.  
E. Dickie, Ayr F.C.  
A. F. Findlay, Ayr F.C.  
J. C. Lawson, unattached.  
W. S. Legge, Cheshire Tally-ho.

## EDINBURGH.

W. M. Gabriel, Edinburgh University A.C.  
D. S. Duncan, Royal High School.  
J. W. L. Beck, Blackburn Harriers.  
W. M. Jack, Warrington A.C.  
J. C. Clarkson, Edinburgh Northern B.C.  
F. Addison, St James's F.C.  
J. Mossman, Port-Glasgow Boxing Club.  
J. H. A. Laing, E.U.A.C.  
J. M. Bow, E.U.A.C.  
J. Meek, Warrington A.C.  
O. E. B. Bucknill, E.U.A.C.

Having accomplished one-half of the journey the competitors passed the judges in the following order:—Findlay with a lead of 15 yards from Jack, who was about 40 yards in advance of Duncan, with Gabriel 50 yards further in the rear. Then came Thomson, Dickie, Henderson, Beck, Addison, Clarkson, Mossman, and Laing, with Meek, Bow, and Bucknill a long way off, and Lawson and Legge absolutely last. At this point Bow retired, and at the finish the times were:—

	H.	M.	S.
Findlay.....	1	2	57-1
Duncan.....	1	3	38-2
Jack.....	1	4	18-3
Gabriel.....	1	5	42-4
Dickie.....	1	3	55-5
Thomson.....	1	6	22-6
Beck.....	1	7	25-7
Henderson.....	1	8	0-8
Clarkson.....	1	8	3-9
Addison.....	1	8	55-10
Mossman.....	1	10	45-11
Laing.....	1	11	2-12

Meek, Legge, Bucknill, and Lawson, when they entered the course for the run home, seeing that any effort on their part would not affect the result of the contest, did not finish, but catered to the dressing-rooms by the wrong course. The following are the points scored by the respective clubs:—

EDINBURGH HARRIERS.—Duncan, 2; Jack, 3; Gabriel, 4; Beck, 7; Clarkson, 9; Addison, 10. Aggregate number, 35—first.

CLYDESDALE HARRIERS.—Findlay, 1; Dickie, 5; Thomson, 6; Henderson, 8; Lawson, 13; Legge, 14. Aggregate number, 47—second.

To describe the race is a very simple matter. The 17 were despatched about 5 minutes before 5 o'clock in one line, and the first to break through was Addison, followed by Beck, but there was no decided lead taken till the lot had negotiated once round the course. Then Findlay, just before they disappeared through the plantation, went to the front with about 10 yards the best of Jack, with Gabriel, Duncan, Thomson, and Dickie next in order. The cross country was very severe going, and Gabriel and Jack alternately attempted to get

on terms with the leader, but he shook them off, and holding the advantage he had obtained he came on to the course again fifteen yards in advance of Jack. The lot passed the stand in the order already given, and saving that Jack was displaced by Duncan on the next run over the moor, and Thomson by Dickie, the lot came in sight again at very irregular intervals. Windley, who was first by nearly 300 yards, is the champion harrier this year, while the Edinburgh club hold the championship. The winner ran in a fine, easy style throughout, and is possessed of remarkable staying powers. Duncan looked very fresh, and so did Jack and Gabriel. Dickie, who had been suffering from a slight cold, got a pretty severe grueling, but he ran pluckily. The others all pulled up in fair condition. The duties of starter and referee were admirably performed by Mr W. W. Tait, who also rendered valuable assistance to the timekeepers, Messrs W. A. McLaren and A. McNab. Messrs D. McIntosh and W. S. Armstrong acted as judges, and Mr J. Cow was clerk of the course. The teams dined together in the evening.