

THE CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP.

RUNAWAY VICTORY FOR M'CAFFERTY.

OTHERWISE A GREAT CONTEST.

(SPECIAL BY "PACE")

It was a great race unless in the case of M'Caafferty, and, indeed, his was a great performance, and his win stamps him as the greatest of Scotland's cross-country champions. The weather was on its best behaviour, and Scotland's grounds looked at their best. There was a good attendance of athletes from all parts of the country.

P. M'CAFFERTY'S CASE.

Some time was lost in the early part of the afternoon by the committee meeting to consider what was to be done in the matter of the West of Scotland Harriers' man. Ultimately, to the delight of the majority of those around the field, it was announced that, conditionally, he be allowed to run, and that his case be remitted to the Scottish Amateur Athletic Association. It was some 45 minutes past the advertised time when the officials marshalled the men at the west end of the show grounds, and very soon all leapt off to the word of the starter. Maryhill, the once lively club, ran no fewer than nine men short, exclusive of the reserves, not altogether by reason of the inability to run as the risk of being debarr'd from any district or junior championship, while there was a minimum chance of winning in the present instance. Bellahouston were severely handicapped by the absence of J. M'Gough, D. Kinnick, H. Lavery, Barnes, and Hunter. Larkhall, the hot favourites, were without the services of Bigger and Matheson, and ran only seven men. The most loyal team were those of the Edinburgh Harriers, every one of whom responded to the roll call. Clydesdale, the champions of champions, ran without Blair, Dickson, Lindsay, Mann, Martin, and Swart. The "West" non-runners were Geo. M'Kenzie and S. J. Corish, and this club's chances were further discounted by one of their racers, Wm. Marshall, being rendered hors de combat when little more than a mile out, and his clubmates humanely stopped, and gave the required assistance, as well as assisting with him until a medical man had been called. Glenspark had to do without Allan and Aikenshead, and Motherwell were three men short.

FROM THE START

The pace was made very hot, and it was at once apparent that the form of these championship aspirants showed much improvement on that of not so many years ago, when the spread-eagling act in immediately the racers were let loose. In the contest under notice all ran together, and at the end of half a mile less than 100 yards covered the leading and "tailing." A mile and a half out the whilom Colin Harrier, M'Caafferty, shot to the front. Roston put forth a promising effort to hold close to him, as did also D. W. Mill, last year's winner. The pace, however, was too great, and the wise men reserved themselves. The Irish champion increased his lead, and the general opinion was that there must be an early crack up. No one, however, he had been wound to go, and he negotiated heavy ploughed land and took two gates like a "Hunter," ultimately remaining on to the ground at half-distance some 200 yards in front of Crobie, the Larkhall man, with Edinburgh's leader, J. Rankin, and Roston. Elliot Ure (W. D. champion), Frew, and Mill (winner 1901 and 1902) well up. The leader flew up the hill outside like a deer, and two miles further out he slowed down, and seemed to consider that he had put out enough effort. No one could challenge him, even at the moderate pace, and, cheered on at different parts of the journey, he ran easily, arriving at the later stage of the arduous race a winner by fully 150 yards in Glens. Trees—good time over heavy ground. J. A. Ure, the individual aspirant, ran in tenth. Clydesdale took second place with the old, tried members, and none of the younger or unknown quantities "came off," if we may be allowed to except John Wilson, who was second in his team and twelfth in the placings.

TEAM PLACINGS.

1. Edinburgh Harriers—J. Rankin, 1; T. C. Hughes, 5; A. Kinnaird, 10; J. S. Craig, 14; James Baithgate, 18; W. Laing, 22. Total of the six placed men, 75 points.

2. Clydesdale Harriers—James Roston, 4; John Wilson, 12; Robert Frew, 13; Andrew Forrester, 19; Sam Stevenson, 20; Alex. J. Forrester, 25. Total, 83.

3. West of Scotland Harriers—P. M'Caafferty, 1; Theo. Muirne, 8; D. Kilpatrick, 21; A. Wilkinson, 27; J. Gilchrist, 53; D. Ritchie, 31. Total, 114.

4. Greenock Glenspark Harriers—D. W. Mill (champion 1901 and 1902), 1; Sam Elliot, 11; Arch. Down, 17; Wm. Elliot, 24; D. R. Brown, 27; Robert Lee, 34. Total, 123.

Larkhall finished with five men, as follows:—J. Crobie, 5; Fullerton Wilson, 7; Robert Barr, 15; Robert Moffat, 18; Robert Sample, 25. Total, 68.

Maryhill ran only three men, two of whom finished as follows:—J. M. Batters, 15; and J. Cochrane, 19—34.

Motherwell ran nine men, and two finished—J. Barrie, 9; S. Trotter, 28—37.

ORDER OF ARRIVALS.

1. P. M'Caafferty, West of Scotland Harriers, winner of individual championship—time, Glens. Trees. 2. J. Rankin, Edinburgh Harriers; 3. D. W. Mill, Glenspark Harriers; 4. Jas. Roston, Clydesdale Harriers; 5. J. Crobie, Larkhall; 6. T. C. Hughes, Edin.; 7. F. Wilson, Larkhall; 8. T. Muirne, West of Scotland; 9. Jas. Barrie, Motherwell; 10. J. A. Ure, Greenock Westpark; 11. A. Kinnaird, Edin.; 12. John Wilson, Clydesdale; 13. Robert Frew, Clydesdale; 14. J. S. Craig, Edinburgh; 15. Robert Barr, Larkhall; 16. R. Moffat, Larkhall; 17. Arch. Down, Glenspark; 18. J. Baithgate, Edinburgh; 19. Andrew Forrester, Clydesdale; 20. Sam Stevenson, Clydesdale; 21. D. Kilpatrick, West of Scotland; 22. W. Laing, Edinburgh; 23. W. G. Kennedy, Bellahouston; 24. Wm. Elliot, Glenspark; 25. R. Sample, Larkhall; 26. S. Trotter, Motherwell; 27. A. Wilkinson, West of Scotland; 28. F. D. Reynolds, Edinburgh; 29. A. Wilson, Edinburgh; 30. J. Gilchrist, West of Scotland; 31. D. Ritchie, West of Scotland; 32. D. K. Brown, Glenspark; 33. W. G. Brown, Edinburgh; 34. R. M'Kenzie, Edinburgh; 35. A. J. Forrester, Clydesdale; 36. R. Lee, Glenspark.