

Wright's clear win

By SANDY SUTHERLAND

Alison Wright (Edinburgh SH), the New Zealander now living at Auchterarder, won the Scottish women's cross-country title for the first time at Caird Park Golf Course, Dundee, on Saturday, and seems certain to lead the Scottish team in the world championships in Madrid next month now that she has opted for Britain internationally.

What must worry the Scottish selectors however is how cruelly their new recruit exposed the other contenders. For, in spite of a record field of 78, Mrs Wright finished 150 yards clear of the next competitor.

At least the scrap for minor places was close with Barbara Murray (Aberdeen University) just holding off former local favourite and several-times winner Christine Price (Bolton United Harriers). Jean Lordan held on to fourth place ahead of the fast-finishing Margaret Comber (Cambridge Harriers) another former winner who had just returned from the US where she is on an athletics scholarship.

Plucky Fiona McQueen (Glasgow), the only one to try to stay with Mrs Wright — they were together at the half

distance — paid the penalty for her challenge and faded to sixth though, as Jean Lordan is English, she should still make the team.

Yvonne Murray justified her "favourite" tag in an excellent intermediate race not trusting a sprint finish and pulling away from Lynn MacDougall to win by 80 yards. Linsey Macdonald and Liz Lynch battled round together before Linsey out-sprinted the local girl for third.

Results — Senior 4½ miles — 1, A. Wright (ESH), 21min 57sec; 2, B. Murray (Aberdeen University), 22:29; 3, C. Price (Bolton UH), 22:31; 4, J. Lordan (Edin Univ), 22:44; 5, M. Comber (Cambridge Harriers), 22:45; 6, F. McQueen (Glasgow AC), 22:47. Intermediate — 3 miles — 1, Y. Murray (Edinburgh AC), 17:22; 2, L. MacDougall (Glasgow AC), 17:40; 3, L. Macdonald (Pitsea), 17:44.

Junior — 1, A. Johnston (Dundee HH), 13:08; 2, H. MacFarlane (Ayrshire), 13:21; 3, J. Hickson (Bedford and County), 13:28. Girls — 1, V. Vaughan (Dundee HH), 8:22. Minors — 1, L. Morland (Victoria Park), 4:22.