

# THE SCOTS ATHLETE

To Stimulate Interest, to Develop Enthusiasm  
and to Encourage Sportsmanship in Scotland

Edited by WALTER J. ROSS

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## OUR FIRST ISSUE

### THE STARTING POST

We are "All Ready" to start a new venture. Scotland has at last succeeded in bringing out a magazine to cover the athletic field. We are determined to do well and stay the distance. Every harrier will agree on the need for a journal such as this. We hope that it will fill a breach in the armour of Scottish sport.

#### Now Is The Time

One cannot think of a more opportune time to embark on a crusade of sporting journalism than this very month of April 1946. The world is just recuperating from an orgy of violence and a nightmare of suffering and despair which lasted for the past six years and we are looking forward to brighter days of happiness and peace with ample time for physical recreation. Out of that holocaust, Scotland came out no better than any other country. In fact, considering the result of the recent International Cross-Country Championship, held at Ayr, it would appear that the standard of our runners has deteriorated in relation to the other countries, with the possible exception of England whose team certainly did not hit the high spots. This state of affairs in the athletic world does not augur too well for Scotland from a competitive point of view. This may seem somewhat pessimistic, it is not intended to be so, but, we must face reality. There is room for great improvement. The arrival of our paper *The Scots Athlete* immediately following the debacle of the Scots at Ayr only denotes the invincible spirit of enthusiasm. It can, must and will be an organ and expression of patience, endurance, and strength.

April, a month of fervent activity and preparation. Mother Nature has



J. C. FLOCKHART, Shettleston Harriers, first Scot home in International C.C. Race at Ayr, finishing 13th. He was individual winner at Brussels in 1937.

discarded her winter garb and life begins anew. The birds are singing, buds are springing and there is warmth in the air. Let us increase our athletic activity and enthusiasm. Let it synchronise with the rebirth of nature. *The Scots Athlete* has sprung up with the early flowers and like the flowers it should be rather refreshing to every harrier in the country. It is the ideal month to be born. April, the month of happy promise, the prophet of a glorious summer that is to be, the foreteller of health abundant, of sunshine and roses. April, the symbol of vitality.

#### Share Your Fellowship

Mr. Jack Crump, British A.A.A. Hon. Team Manager, speaking at the well-filled meeting, organised by the Victoria Park A.A.C. in the Chrystie Institute, Glasgow on "Olympic Games, Past and Future," emphasised the need to share

our facilities, share our knowledge and experiences. He said that we even should share our coaches. We agree and endorse all that he said but we would have also said, as even more important, "Share your fellowship." Though of course, the speaker implied it and took it for granted. Nevertheless, we think it cannot be emphasised enough. Often in the hurly burly of competition, we look to the winning of a race as the be-all and end-all in Sport. The beauty of our sport lies in the friendship it gives, the sociability that arises from appreciation of a common endeavour. The primary object of this paper will be to foster sportsmanship which in turn should make for good and responsible citizenship.

#### Olympic Games

Since it has been recently announced that the Olympic Games are to be held in London in 1948, Scotland needs a paper of its own more than ever to act as a spur. It shall act as a stimulus to each club-member, stirring him or her to concentration and action. It will be a central and focal point of industry and activity, registering ability and progress.

Already, Scotland has a quintette that have shown themselves capable of representation in the Olympic Games. These are Alan Watt, Shetleston Harriers, Alan Paterson and John Pantin of Victoria Park A.A.C. and our two marathon men, Duncan McL. Wright and Donald Robertson of Maryhill Harriers. There are others who are potential participants provided they get the necessary co-operation, backing and coaching, particularly worthy of mention are A. Broadley of Glasgow Y.M.C.A.; J. J. Donnelly, Garscube Harriers; W. H. D. Conacher, G.U.A.C. and V.P.A.A.C. in the sprints. We see no reason why Ferd Sinclair, Greenock Wellpark, John Hoskins, Maryhill and Gordon Smillie, V.P.A.A.C., should not make the grade in the middle distances. On different occasions they have revealed their class. It is our intention to give every Scottish Olympic potential all the support and publicity possible. Moreover, there are many controversial points of view in practically every aspect of the Olympic Games. We will welcome full discussion from anyone who has anything useful to say. This is your paper.

#### Straight Speaking

The editor has no official standing in either the S.A.A.A. or the N.C.C.U. He is just an ordinary member of a local club. This need not be a drawback, indeed, we think it should be an asset. We will not become an apologist for any reaction, but on the contrary, we will act as the voice of the athlete himself, giving the sport dynamic purpose. Needless to say we are not opposed to the official organisations, we are in favour of them. We will aid those bodies to carry out their function. Still, we will always claim the right to criticise. Very often the views of officials are divorced from those of the runners. We would not say it is deliberate rather it is a natural tendency. Every lover of the sport will agree that this attitude is not desirable. If criticism is used to further the sport, then we sincerely believe that officials will welcome it when necessary. Let it be clear, however, our aim is not to drive a wedge between the officials and the runners. We want them more closely knit together than ever in the past. But officialdom must remember it is not a body to talk down to, or to dictate to the athletes. It should purely be the organised expression of their desires. On the other hand, the runners should recognise the benefits derived from their exuberant enthusiasm, the upsurge of youth being tempered with realism, knowledge and experience of their guardians of the sport.

#### Conclusion

Cross-country work is now at an end. It was a fine, exciting season and reminded us of pre-war days. Next season will bring us back to normal with all the old-time championships. Meanwhile, we will devote our space to track and road-running mainly. *The Scots Athlete* is on its way. It has taken a modest start, but it is determined to stimulate interest, develop enthusiasm and to encourage sportsmanship in Scotland.

Every time you acquire a new interest, or a new accomplishment, you increase your power in life. No one who is deeply interested in a large variety of subjects can remain unhappy. The pessimist is the person who has lost interest.

—Wm. Lyon Phelps.

## RUNNING COMMENTARY

By J. E. FARRELL

The result of the International Cross-Country Championship threw into bold relief the poverty of British long distance running.

England were poor, but still far in advance of Scotland's inglorious display . . . at the same time it must be said in mitigation that the hot weather and fast, almost-track-like course, did not help our boys . . . also the slip-shod arrangements made for them prior to the start were not helpful.

E. G., Mr. Crump, the English team manager button-holed a certain well-known Scottish athlete personality asking why the Scottish team should be walking miles round the course on the morning of the race.

Jimmy Flockart and Willie Sommerville were comparative individual successes but it is a sad commentary on Scottish cross-country running when the first Scotsman home is only 15th.

Who will be the first Scottish Champion of the post-war era? Resumption of the 10 miles track championship takes place on Saturday, April 27th, at Helenvale Park and should provide a yard-stick of comparison with pre-war form. As most of the contenders will be found from the ranks of the ill-fated International cross-country team it would indeed be difficult to forecast a probable winner . . . Favourites prior to the International would undoubtedly have been Harry Howard and J. E. Farrell . . . but if Jim Flockart elects to start he has shown that in the mood he is still a menace to the best of Scotland's distance experts . . .

The choice of Helenvale Park as venue may be open to criticism. For while the cinder track is excellent the short track may provide time-keepers with a number of headaches, but with Fred Evans in charge of his own track, arrangements should go smoothly.

Quite a number of marathon aspirants are expected to participate in the 10 miles championship as it affords an opportunity of testing their speed before they settle down to the heavier grinds . . . and speaking of the marathon I learn that the first Scottish

Marathon Championship will take place on June 8th in conjunction with the Scottish Junior Track and Field Championships at Meadowbank, Edinburgh.

This championship will fill a much needed gap. It seems strange that marathon experts Duncan Wright and Donald Robertson having for years proved themselves the best in Britain should have no opportunity of acquiring the status of Scottish champion at this distance.

Much of the credit for the enthusiasm for road running at present is due to the personality and example of the famous "Dunkirk." Equally proficient as an athlete and an organiser he has literally put Scotland on the map in a road running sense. This was especially noticeable during the difficult war years . . . The plethora of road races affords a great opportunity for budding marathon talent and with the Olympic games due in London 2 years hence—who knows but Scotland will provide at least one marathon contender for Britain in the Olympic series . . . apart from racing, training on the road is admirable for reaching a high state of fitness and well-being . . .

Donald Robertson who was home on leave recently is not due for demobilisation till Autumn but expects to get a home posting soon. He looks very fit, is getting an opportunity for training and hopes to make a determined bid to win the title he last won in 1939. At 40 years of age, Donald, a careful liver and keep-fit "faddist," still rates as probable Olympic competitor for Britain in the great long-distance classic . . . If Donald and Dunkirk go for the A.A.A. Marathon the sparks will fly. Tom Richards recognised as England's best marathon man goes for the Polytechnic marathon in June.

. . . In conversation with Bobby Reid after the International he could not account for his indifferent display but offered no excuses. Bobby expects to be in Scotland as a member of the Birchfield team in a 2 mile event later on in the season. Bobby has beaten (9 m. 25 s.) all the way. Let's hope he does not over-race this season as some critics have explained his recent display in terms of staleness.



## AROUND DUNDEE RELAY

The relay race around Dundee was held on Saturday, 6th April, 1946. Maryhill Harriers, the holders were unable to send a team. This took some of the spice from an otherwise successful race. Shettleston Harriers with three internationals in their team were too good for the main opposition of Garscube Harriers and Auchmountain Harriers and won easily.

Though run in brilliant weather, the very high wind must account for the slowness of the times in comparison with the existing lap-records shown. Shettleston "B" team dropped out at the 2nd lap after a fine effort by Paterson in the 1st leg. No doubt he was carefully coached by his clubmate,

Willie Connor, but Paterson, just a young lad, shows distinct possibilities.

Alex. McDonald, Auchmountain, pulled his club well up in the 3rd leg and was 3 seconds faster than Harry Howard.

Here are the full results:—

### RIVERSIDE TO BROUGHTY FERRY

Record	H. Seoles (M.H.)	—	21.36
1.	Shettleston H. (Connor)	—	24.58
2.	Shettleston H. "B" (Patterson)	—	21.59
3.	Auchmountain H. (McKinven)	—	22.13
4.	H.M.S. Condor "B" (Wright)	—	22.17
5.	Garscube H. (Gold)	—	22.21
6.	Dundee Thistle (Donaheie)	—	22.28
7.	Dundee Hawkhill (Kieller)	—	23.15
8.	Garscube "B" (Ross)	—	23.40
9.	Condor (Whalley)	—	23.41
10.	Condor "C" (Mooring)	—	24.8
11.	Hawkhill "B" (McMahon)	—	25.3

C. Melville in 23.20 and looks good for winning the Scottish title again.

## THE EAST FIX MARATHON

F.P. Clubs will play an important part in the revival of Edinburgh Athletics this season. Already Watsonians and Trinity Academicals are concentrating on coaching, whilst Stewart's F.P.s and Heriot's F.P.s are planning to restart.

The Scottish Marathon Championship, which will form part of the Edinburgh sports programme on Saturday, June 8, will be run from Falkirk to Edinburgh, a distance of 26 miles, 385 yards.

This was decided at a meeting of the S.A.A.A. Eastern District Committee and the route will be by Lauriston, Polmont, Maybury Road, Ferry Road, Pilrig, Easter Road, and thence into Meadowbank.

In addition to the usual events in the Scottish Junior Championships, two open events—120 yards and one mile handicaps—will be included. The Edinburgh Corporation "Holidays at Home" meeting will now be held on July 27, a week after the British title events at London. In addition to the English team expected, several Continental stars may also appear.

There is some word of Mr. T. Jack retiring from his handicapping post, and efforts are being made to persuade a well-known Edinburgh Northern man to take over in his stead. Mr. Quaskley, the St. Andrews coach, has been appointed starter.

## DUNDEE ACTIVE

The war-time union of Dundee Thistle and Dundee Hawkhill has dissolved, each club now looks after its own affairs. With the interest in Dundee there is ample room for two clubs.

During the war Dundee has served the sport well and have done much to keep running in Scotland alive.

The Dundee clubs were keen to organise the S.A.A.A. Marathon Championship. In many respects they should have been allowed to sponsor it. The Perth to Dundee (22 miles) race which was ably organised by them was surely the first step to a championship over the full distance.

Enthusiasts will be glad to know that J. Sutty Smith and his not quite so famous brother Charlie of Hawkhill have started training.

The club's walking section is going well. In a recent three miles race A. M. Jamieson (Scottish Champion) beat

## FOOTBALLERS' TREBLE

St. Andrews University Athletic Club opened their season on Saturday, 13th April, at University Park. A triple winner was A. Kiddie, the Aberdeen F.C. outside right, who was successful in the 100 yards, 220 yards, and broad jump. Results:

100 YARDS—1. A. Kiddie; 2. F. Bell; 3. A. Bean. Time, 10 8-10 sec.

220 YARDS—1. A. Kiddie; 2. A. Cohen; 3. C. G. Martin. Time, 23 5-10 secs.

880 YARDS—1. A. Lindsay; 2. G. Pride; 3. A. Young. Time, 2 min, 16 sec.

ONE MILE—1. A. Lindsay; 2. A. Peacock; 3. A. Campbell Meakin. Time 5 min, 8 5-10 sec.

BROAD JUMP—1. A. Kiddie; 2. T. S. White. Distance, 18ft. 3in.

THROWING THE DISCUS—1. J. D. Halley; 2 (equal), C. G. Martin and G. Ingh. Distance, 82ft. 4in.

## MY FIRST SIX MILES CROSS-COUNTRY RACE

By D. G. CAUSON

*This article first appeared in a works paper, "The Rangefinder." Its simplicity and quiet humour, which harriers will appreciate, makes the reproduction worth while.—Editor.*

I started off with a 4 minute start from scratch man, but I lost half-a-minute looking for the trail and this was a disconcerting psychological fact so early in the race.

However, I caught up, and we ploughed through fields (in not too bad condition) and clambered over fences; and as we had travelled about 1½ miles, I had hopes that my new pants and singlet would remain in a respectable condition. However, this illusion was almost immediately shattered.

With a bound, the boys and I crossed a burn, and I had my head half-way through the next fence, or I would have assuredly staggered back into the burn at the sight that met my eyes. Picture the worst muddy field you ever saw, and imagine that a herd of Clydesdales had stampeded over it. I immediately thought of those inestimable horses as my feet sank nine inches into a glutinous hoofprint. It did not help in the least being over five stone in weight (well over). Fortunately (?) the patch further on resembled the Lake District, but I was unappreciative of the fact that clean water would take the mud off, and striving vainly for a dry bit, I struggled on, thinking, "the convoy must go through."

I lost a bit of ground at the railway listening to the directions of a well-meaning civilian, but nothing of much moment occurred for a while. The boys were beginning to string out, and I was feeling strung up. After 4 miles (I did not know the distance then) I was thinking of making a noise like an eruption outside of the farmhouse and then lying down for a rest, when the club champion came up.

When I said, "How far have I to go," in gasping breath, he replied nonchalantly, "Two miles." After a terrific struggle, I took fresh heart and crashed downhill, with all the brakes off, almost shattering my Axis on the gate at the bottom.

It was one of those Z affairs and I'll remember to ask the boys why they were *so careful* to shut *every one* of the gates behind them. We next came to the village, and it struck me that

a few more small boys along the route might have hastened my pace. I heard the poor chap in front being called a "skinnymallaky" or some other derogatory remark, and feeling acutely self-conscious, I picked up my legs like a 100 yards champion for a bit; to ease up only when danger had past. I must have left them singing, "Smoke gets in your eyes."

For the sake of non-runners, I will explain that it is a habit of good runners to run past the line, and then gradually to ease up. In my case, I started to ease up about half-a-mile from the line. The amount I eased up at the end, is shown when I beat a couple of snails in transit. Then my sponsor "Big Bill," bawled out, "Come on, Dave." It took me some time to realise I had still 100 yards to cover, before they took the finishing time for the race. It was an unforgettable experience.

I had a hot bath and shower, and was putting on my togs when the chairman, Mr. Chalmers, made his remarks, about a fine field, ideal conditions, etc. I clapped with the rest, only to discover I had to wait till blackout to ride my bike home; as I had worn my only good socks in the race, and had to put my bare feet into my shoes. Still it has a humorous side, and I hope you can find it.

### GARSCUBE HARRIERS CLUB.

The annual whist drive and presentation of prizes was held on the 12th April in the Partick Burgh Hall. The evening was a great success. Prizes were presented by the Hon. President's wife, Mrs. McMorran.

Garscube Harriers Social Club meets in the Partick Burgh Hall (Lesser) every Wednesday and Saturday.

Subscription, 1/3, Wednesday, and 2/6, Saturday.

Ask for Roddy Mulgrew.

The greatest of all follies is to sacrifice health for any other kind of happiness, whether it be for gain, advancement, learning or fame. Everything should rather be made secondary to health.

—Schopenhauer:

## AYR AFTERMATH

By A. D. McDONALD

"They were better fed than our men during the war."

The Germans permitted and even encouraged them to continue their athletic activities during the Occupation."

"The trail suited them better."

You, too, must have overheard similar criticisms after the recent Cross Country International — mebbe even thought so yourself?

My opinion is that class and general fitness for the task alone carried the Continental teams to success.

Their tactics—they proved the old adage that it is much easier to go to the front at the start, and stay there, than to make up ground in the latter stages of such a contest.

At a mark roughly 1000 yards from the winning post, I noted the position of all teams, and the Continentals were alone in holding their placings, and, indeed, in five cases they bettered their positions over the final stretch.

At the first point where they left the racecourse for the country, Pujazon and Vande Wattyne gave a wonderful display of steeplechase technique. Every lap, they rose in the air like birds and merely topping the bar in their flight, cleared the hedge and carried on their way without breaking step.

Wonder if they were well fed? Italy, reckoned to be in cahoots with the Nazis, didn't do exceptionally well.

And surely the Germans knew that a healthy body is a healthy mind and that a healthy mind thinks more and gets into action oftener. I have seen marvellous stadiums in Italy and Austria lying in disuse. They had been like that for years and very often all forms of athletics had been banned by the Germans.

I think if we say that they are at the most, one year or eighteen months ahead of us in training, we shall be nearer the mark.

If the class is there, it will come up in a race like this. Our own Jimmie Flockhart is an example. Short of training, his own natural ability carried him through.

Scotland must not despair, but rather pursue a long-term policy and build up a fresh team around young Charlie MacLennan and Bobby Reid. We can hope but cannot expect that Flockhart and E. Farrel will come to our assistance for many more seasons, whilst the others at Ayr that day were just not up to standard, although Howard, who will require very careful nursing for a long time, may strike it and go further ahead next season.

But for spectators it was a grand day's outing, and the number attracted to the Racecourse by the event foreshadows a welcome boom in our sport.

### Result

1st France—1, 3, 4, 5, 14, 16—43 points.
2nd Belgium—2, 8, 9, 13, 17, 28—77 points.
3rd England—6, 7, 10, 20, 21, 32—96 points.
4th Ireland—11, 12, 18, 19, 23, 30—113 points.
5th Scotland—(J. C. Flockhart—5, J. E. Farrell 25, R. Reid 26, W. Somerville 33, H. Howard 36, G. Porteous 43)—178 points.
6th Wales—31, 35, 40, 42, 48, 50—246 points.

### Individuals

1. R. R. Pujazon, France; time 51 min. 51 1/5 sec.
2. M. Vande Wattyne, Belgium; 52 min. 24 sec.
3. P. Messner, France; 52 min. 49 sec.
4. A. Presset, France; 52 min. 52 sec.
5. P. Cousin, France; 52 min. 55 sec.
6. J. Holden, England (holder); 52 min. 58 sec.

T. Gibson, A. McLennan and E. McAllister did not count for Scotland.

G. Anderson (Bellahouston H.) was unable to run, through stomach trouble. His loss was clubmate Tommy Gibson's gain.

Perhaps "Gaby" will see Paris next year.

Shettleston Harriers have had a remarkable season. They have won every senior relay and team race on the programme. They provided four of Scotland's international team. Had individual in the unofficial national and first man home for Scotland in the International. With George Craig running with his old power in Belgium, it will be a struggle for class men getting a place in Shettleston's team when he comes home.

## SPORTS DIARY

April

James

1—**Monkland Harriers** ..... Coatbridge.  
 Singer's A.A.C. ..... Dalmuir.  
 Allan Glen's School.  
 Shawlands Secondary School.

7—**Glasgow Union of Boys' Clubs**..Helenvale.

8—**S.A.A.A. Junior Champ'ship** Meadowbank  
 S.A.A.A. Marathon Championship ...  
 Falkirk to Meadowbank.  
 Motherwell and Wishaw Police..Fir Park.  
 Babcock and Wilcox ..... Renfrew.

10—**British Games** ..... White City.

11—**Bellahouston Harriers' Jubilee Sports**.

15—**Scottish Schoolboys' Championships (inter-scholastic)** ..... Westerlands.  
 Larkhall Committee.

22—**Scottish A.A.A. Championships**..Hampden.  
 Larkhall Committee.

### June—Continued

25—Atlanta v. S.A.A.A. West. Dist....Glasgow.  
 29—Shotts A.A.C.  
 Kilbarchan ex-Home Guards.  
 Youths' Panel Service (inter-county contests) ..... Troon.

July

**6—Hamilton Harriers Jubilee Sports ...  
Douglas Park.**

13—Glasgow Police ... ... ... ... Hampden.  
 A.A.A. Junior Championship ... Birmingham.  
 15—Maryhill Harriers Sports ... ... ... ... Dunoon.  
 19-20—A.A.A. Championships ... ... ... ... London.  
 20—Dumbarton Town Council.

27—Mo

August	
3—Rangers F.C.	Ibrox
5—B.H. International Meeting	White City.
10—Cumbernauld A.A.C. Carlisle Sports.	
17—Milngavie Games.	
23-25—European Championship	Oslo.
26-31—Cowal Gathering	

## THE EDITOR APPEALS

You would like to see this Bulletin every month. It's continuance will be determined by how much it is circulated. We are out of pocket with this first copy. We do not object to that, but our means are very limited. Do not let the paper be knocked out through lack of finance. If each reader were to make a small contribution it would take a financial burden from our shoulders. Profit is not our motive; any balance will be put to the improvement of the paper, possibly by increasing its size.

We will not take any paid advertisements from harrier clubs. If your sports or your cause needs boosting, we will only be too pleased to do it. The space is free. Publicity will be particularly given to old clubs trying to revive or to new clubs springing up.

Club secretaries should send us reports of their respective programmes. Get your club to appoint a Literary Secretary, your Club Secretary has enough to do already. We have held that position and know the work involved.

Arrange with us to send a copy to your members overseas. It will keep the contact. Have it sent with the good wishes of your club. Send us letters of criticism, opinion and help. We can learn from each other. Please respond to our appeal at once. An initial response would guarantee the paper for several months.

Every donation will be gratefully acknowledged.

Will you recognise our enthusiasm by giving us moral and financial support?

Send all communications to the publisher:—

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