

with the Eastern representative taking the Vice-Presidency. Thereafter the District Associations will meet and elect their office-bearers and their representatives to the General Committee who control the sport between A.G.M.'s, it is highly probable that there will be many changes forthcoming. However that may be, undoubtedly this is the opportunity given to the clubs to see to it that they elect office-bearers who will be capable of harmonising the forces of the present generation and giving the requisite degree of leadership which is absolutely necessary to the continuous development of the sport, and let us not overlook the fact that the Cross-Country clubs do make a substantial contribution to the happiness and well-being of an active element of the community.

After the A.G.M. the elected office-bearers of the Cross-Country world are entitled to expect the whole-hearted

support of all the clubs and recriminations are not merely useless but unhealthy. Clubs should therefore take their responsibilities seriously by ensuring that they send their best advocates to attend. Past-President George Grant of the Edinburgh Northern will be sadly missed as he was one of the most popular legislators.

I must confess, also, that I am looking forward keenly to the renewal of the various championships with the fresh blood they bring; the Novices, the District Relays, the Junior Championships and the National Championships, all leading up to the supreme competition in Cross-Country circles, the International, which is being held in France in 1947.

So, best of luck, to the boys who will take part in the season's activities and who, I am sure, will keep Auld Scotia to the fore.

## Scottish Cross-Country Association

The Scottish Cross-Country Association met for the last time on Friday, 23rd August, 1946. By general agreement the body decided to dissolve, as it had fulfilled its work of emergency nature.

It is not our intention to raise the dead but we are moved to pay our respect.

Through war conditions, some Harrier clubs that managed to carry on, were collectively left without vital leadership and cohesive organisation.

The S.C.C.A. sprung up naturally as an emergency organisation. It was born of necessity in difficult circumstances. It became articulate, its power grew and in later years of the war carried the banner of Scottish Athletics.

It was in many ways a unique organisation promoting huge muster runs and popular races. The greatness of the association was in its simplicity and because democracy was its working method.

We received this letter from the S.C.C.A. on the 27th August, 1946:—

The Scottish Cross-Country Association  
Port Glasgow.

My Dear Walter,

As you are aware the S.C.C.A.'s last general meeting has been held and

this might well be the very last letter written under its head.

Before closing the doors the Association expressed further satisfaction about *The Scots Athlete* and wish it every success in the winter months ahead and in the years to come.

Enclosed is the remains of the S.C.C.A. Treasury which I have been instructed to pass on to you. Unfortunately the estate residue only amounts to 10s, but you may regard this as something in the nature of the Widow's Mite.

Again with all good wishes;

For the S.C.C.A.,

Yours in Sport,

Alex. K. MacDonald,

*Hon. Secy.*

The contents of the letter give an insight to the simplicity of the S.C.C.A. With the influence the body had, it could have been built up financially. This its members refused to allow though it was always kept free of debt. Not at all, "unfortunately only ten shillings." Congratulations on the smallness of the amount and may the spirit of enthusiasm, of service and Industry be carried forward into the new era!

# THE SCOTS ATHLETE

To Stimulate Interest, to Develop Enthusiasm  
and to Encourage Sportsmanship in Scotland  
Edited by WALTER J. ROSS

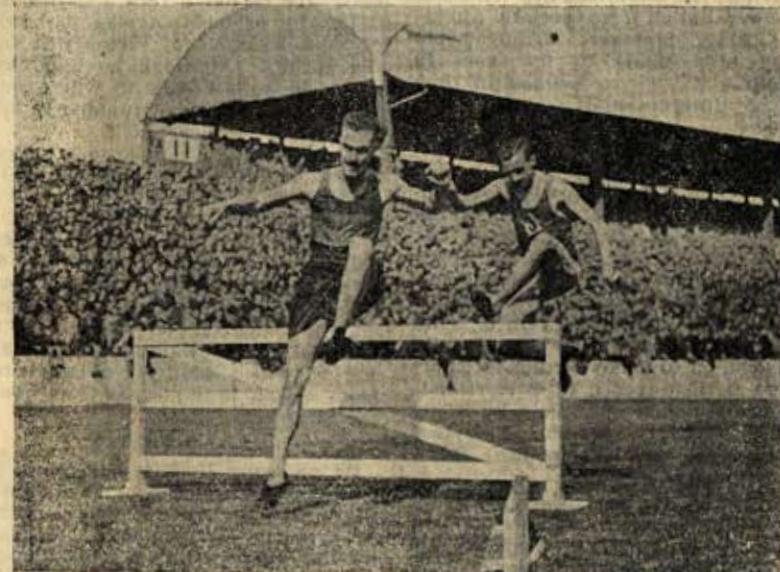
SEPTEMBER 1946

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## CLUBMATES TAKING THE HURDLE



J. C. Ross (Shettleston H.), winner of the two miles' Steeplechase Handicap at Rangers Sports, about to overtake his clubmate and runner-up, J. McC. Burns. "Jim" Ross is a former Scottish Champion and Cross-Country Internationalist.

## CONTENTS INCLUDE

RUNNING COMMENTARY by J. E. FARRELL, on Scottish Sport and the European Games at Oslo.

SPECIALISATION SHOULD BEGIN AT SCHOOL.

SYDNEY WOODERSON—Prince of Pace!

THE CROSS-COUNTRY SEASON.

EDITOR'S CHAT.

SCOTTISH CROSS-COUNTRY ASSOCIATION.

## RUNNING COMMENTARY

by J. E. FARRELL.

To Rangers' F.C. fell the honour of opening the August programme of meetings and while on occasion there have been classier meetings, notably in Olympic Games' years when Finnish and American athletes graced the Ibrox sward, nevertheless there was keen sport in both invitation and open events.

Then of course the close proximity of the August Bank Holiday meeting precluded any chance of Wooderson and certain other stars from the South appearing; the coloured stars Wint and McDonald Bailey were specially attractive guests however, arrangements having been made to fly them to Glasgow and back to London in time for the International match versus France.

### Paterson Makes History

However, this meeting will be remembered chiefly for the record-breaking achievements of Alan Paterson who with a jump of 6 ft. 6½ ins. broke his own native record by 3 ins. and also H. M. Osborne's (U.S.A.) all-comers' record by the narrow margin of ¼ in. Paterson was in great form and could have gone on to make further attempts on the British record of 6 ft. 7 ins. with every chance of success, but team manager, Jack Crump, advised "enough" in view of Monday's International match.

In the medley relay the tall, loose-limbed Wint fascinated the large crowd with a loping ¼ mile to make things easy for team-mate Dove, who ran the final half-mile sector. However, later in the special ¼-mile handicap Wint, after catching his breath to whom he gave useful starts, just failed to produce enough steam in his finish to hold his English colleagues, Lewis and Collier. Winning time was 48.2. Wint's time, 48.6.

McDonald Bailey streaked over the Ibrox grass in the special 120, but despite breaking even he failed to catch Wigham of Victoria Park (off 8½ yards) by inches in his heat. In the final of this event, Scottish sprint champion, Hugh Broadley of Glasgow Y.M.C.A., off the low mark of 3½ yards, finished a gallant second to Cambridge student, J. Fairgrieve.

### J. S. Petty Again

By his forward running in the heats of the open half-mile, the Stirling youth, J. S. Petty, who has been so much in the public eye in recent weeks, installed himself a hot favourite for the final of this event. Off 38 yards, he was always nicely placed, and his well-timed devastating finish left his field standing. His winning of the Rangers' half-mile sets the seal on his recent successes. It is to be hoped he will not be asked to do too much too early, for he has a future in athletics.

Worthy of mention was the double of D. J. Nicolson, of Victoria Park, in the sprints. Although he had useful starts in both events to win through represents a power of running in heats and finals.

A grand race was the open mile, J. Miller of Shettleston (off 120 yards) holding off A. Forbes of Victoria Park (95 yards) in 4 mins. 16.9 secs.

The eight-lap steeplechase, always a feature of Rangers' Sports was won by ex-champion, J. C. Ross, of Shettleston but the unexpected rule of jumping the hedge without tipping the bar was not to the liking of competitors one of whom received a bad scrape from spikes in a "melee" at one of the jumps.

### Lively Veteran

At an Army Meet at Aldershot, just prior to Rangers' Sports, Don Findlay, the famous British Olympic runner at 37 years of age, startled the experts with a faultless display of hurdling in the last leg of the 4 x 120 yards hurdles relay to win for the R.A.F.

Coming out of semi-retirement he again demonstrated what an artist he was, and is, over the sticks. Some critics have averred that he is the greatest hurdler of all for style. In any case he rates very high and many potential hurdlers could do with the benefits of his experience and skill.

### Britain Reverses Last Year's Debacle

The British team of athletes had a grand victory over France by 72 pts. to 57 at the White City on Bank Holiday Monday, thus reversing last year's crushing defeat. There were many noteworthy performances. Undoubtedly the finest individual feat was that of

McDonald Bailey's in winning the 100 yards sprint in 9.7 secs. to equal Eric Liddell's 23-year-old British record. Actually Bailey has equalled this record on more than one occasion but this is his first official recognition.

Wooderson's finish proved too much for Pujazon, the French cross-country star, in the 3 miles and again in doing 13.57 he entered the select few who have beaten 14 mins. for this distance. Pujazon, although 35 yards behind, must have himself covered the course in less than 14 mins. 4 secs. which is also terrific running. Nigerian student, A. F. Adedoyin, had a splendid double in the high jump and broad jump in the course of which he beat two A.A.A. champions, namely, Paterson and Watts, leaping respectively 6 ft. 4 ins. and 24 ft. 0½ ins. Paterson's defeat, however, was purely a technical one; he cleared the same height as his opponent but Adedoyin had fewer failures and thus received the verdict. As it was essentially a team contest, however, the main thing from Britain's point of view was the fact that the most points in this event went to their credit.

Veteran "Bill" Roberts won the 440 in 49.2, showing that he can still consistently break 50 secs. for this distance by a useful margin.

### Clash of Fixtures

There was an unfortunate clash of fixtures on August 10th, namely, Carlisle Infirmary's Sports, now an established meeting and Cumbernauld A.A.C.'s first venture.

A record crowd and glorious weather graced Carlisle's gala day. Paterson in his last public appearance before leaving to represent Britain in the European Games at Oslo cleared 6 ft. 4½ ins. which under far from ideal conditions was indeed a splendid jump.

Victoria Park again held off Garscube in the relay but Sharpe's effort for the latter club was the "highlight" of this event.

The 12-miles road race to Lanark and back is now a feature of this meeting and resulted as follows:—1. J. E. Farrell (Maryhill Harriers); 2. W. Connor (Shettleston); 3. J. Park (Maryhill). The time of 69.26 was somewhat behind Harry Howard's and Dunky Wright's winning times. The improving A. Gold, of Garscube, won the handicap.

Apparently the feature of Cumbernauld Sports was the duel between

back-markers F. Sinclair (Greenock Wellpark) and W. N. Ritchie (V.P.), the latter just managing to hold off the former in a keen half-mile finish. Gordon Porteous (Maryhill) won the road race and J. Stuart of Shettleston the 2 miles in moderate time. Geo. Mitchell had an excellent hammer throw of 114 ft. 6 ins.

Glasgow Eastern C.C. and Shettleston Harriers' joint promotion at Henevale Park, on Tuesday, 14th August, was brimful of good sport and attracted a good attendance.

T. Miller of Shettleston Harriers the sprinting member of the Miller family, clocked even time off his mark, to win the open "100." A robust well-built type of sprinter, he seems to improve each time out. Jack Corfield, our mile champion won the individual award in the 1½-mile team race, beating the up and coming J. Stuart of Shettleston in the grand time of 6 mins. 53.6 secs.

Packing nicely, 3, 4, 5, Maryhill won the team race. G. E. Mitchell of Glasgow Police had a double in the heavy events and that consistent prize-winner A. Forbes of Victoria Park won the open mile handicap in 4 mins 19 secs.

Before a record crowd and "holding" weather, Milngavie Highland Games took place in its usual picturesque setting.

The half-mile open handicap proved a thrilling race and Arthur Warton of Garscube produced a storming finish to break the tape in front of his opponents.

The relay race was also an exciting affair and Victoria Park had only a three-yard margin at the finish over a dangerous Garscube team.

J. Stuart of Shettleston and A. Forbes of Victoria Park fought out a keen duel in the mile, the former timing his finish well to break the tape a clear winner.

Not content with winning the youth's half-mile at Henevale, on the previous Tuesday, W. C. O'Kane, of Garscube Harriers, won the 220 yards open handicap.

Hastie of Hillhead High School showed himself an artistic performer in the pole vault.

In the 10-miles road race, Alex McLean of Bellahouston, an old rival of mine, looked as if he might bring off a win as he was leading at half-distance and running strongly. However an excessively fast start and a course which was hilly in parts told its

inevitable tale and I was the fresher of two tired runners over the later stages of the race. The fact that the time was a mere 12 secs. outside the course record set up two years ago, when colleague "Dunk" Wright and myself raced throughout, demonstrates that the first sector of the race was travelled in record just as the latter part was definitely much slower.

If McLean can adapt himself to the heavier conditions of cross-country trials he may be a cert for inclusion in the Scottish team for Paris.

There was general criticism of lack of washing and other facilities for runners and although it must be admitted that there are difficulties in out-lying places we hope to have improved conditions next year and if we put in a special plea for road racers it is merely because of the arduous nature of their event.

#### A. Warton in Form

Helevale was the venue of another week-day meeting, on Tuesday, 20th August. The attendance was smallish, perhaps owing to a lack of advertisement. Still there was plenty of good sport on show.

Arthur Warton of Garscube who has struck splendid form thus late in the season followed up his Milngavie success by another splendid win, this time in the open mile. After an interesting race A. Forbes (Victoria Park), who gives every indication of developing into a first-class runner, beat another promising candidate, J. Stuart of Shettleston after a stern dual in 9 mins. 40 secs.—very good time indeed for 2 miles.

Maryhill Harriers and Victoria Park dead-heated in the team race, but the former received the verdict by finishing their three men home first.

Willie Nelson, one of Maryhill Harrier's best-ever club-men, ran a gritty race for one of his long service and if he can get back his form, should run well over country. The heavier the going the better. Willie enjoys it and ploughs have no terrors for him.

Victoria Park's distance men are showing improved form and will soon be a force to be reckoned with, in this department.

#### Return of Alan Watt.

A grand race was the relay; only a splendid last lap effort by George McDonald, 220 yards champion, bringing Victoria Park through the tape.

Particularly interesting was Alan Watt's debut after a long spell in the

Forces. Looking bronzed and fit and very strong. He is in good physical shape but is short of a gallop. He has plenty of time to rub off the rough edges and next season we should see fireworks with Alan, Hugh Broadley and George McDonald all around.

T. Miller of Shettleston again took the eye, going off like a bullet in the first leg to give his club an initial lead and thus ensure a good race.

#### European Games at Oslo.

Apart from the sport itself two interesting factors emerge from the European Games. Firstly, Russia's debut in international sport after a long lapse of time, and secondly, the controversial question of amateurism and broken time.

Russia is not yet a member of the International Federation and on technical grounds could have been precluded from the Games but were allowed to compete as an act of courtesy. We welcome the entry of Russian athletes to the International arena and voice the hope that before the Olympic Games of 1948, they will have joined the Federation. Apart from the important question of good fellowship—the more nations included—the higher the status of the Games.

The thorny question of payment of broken time is not a question that can be dealt with in a word, but I feel that there is a strong argument for the Swedish point of view—that an athlete should be compensated for loss of wages if engaged in an International representative contest. Certainly a line has to be drawn and I am leaving out entirely the alleged payment of bonus awards, by the State, to athletes in Russia and the appearance money said to have been demanded by Swedish and other athletes.

But let us leave out the academic and take the bald concrete case. Is it fair that an athlete who by his ability, hard training, and rigid code of living, has reached a standard allowing him to represent his country in an international contest should be precluded from accepting such a coveted honour because of the accident of economic considerations. To do so would make international representation undemocratic. At least the position should be regularised in this respect and we should not have the spectacle of one set or nation of athletes getting privileges and advantages denied to another.

#### Britain Far From Disgraced

Britain with a small team of representatives did very well at Oslo to gain two first, 4 seconds and three thirds.

From a British point of view, Wooderson's victory in the 5,000 metres and Archer's winning burst in the 100 metres, were the highlights although I would not quarrel with those who claim that Captain "Bill" Roberts' epic bid in the 400 metre relay should also be included. Paterson's unsuccessful duel with the Swede, Bolinder, was also worthy of high praise, as was Harry Forbes's second place in the 50,000 metres walk.

#### Sydney Wooderson

Wooderson, in what is reckoned to be his last big International race, ran with exceptional judgment against a field of world-class as unlike some other events. The greatest long-distance runners definitely belong to the Scandinavian countries and to beat their best representatives is tantamount to beating the world. The race was closely parallel to the White City race except that the field was classier and the pace even warmer. At the finish, Slykhuis was again his chief opponent in a thrilling finish, but this time he left the Dutchman standing with his last well-sustained finish—a finish closely similar to Lovelock's effort at Berlin in the 1,500 metres of 1936. No praise is too great for Wooderson's effort. He ran from behind, lying handy all the time and at the crucial moment he gamely gave everything he had.

Nevertheless, had not Heino won the 10,000 metres in a cracking race the day previous, I am convinced that he and not Slykhuis would have been the chief danger. Wooderson's time of 14 mins. 8.6 secs. is a European Games record and is only ten seconds outside Gundar Haegg's world record of 13 mins. 58.2 secs. made in 1942 which sets the seal on a great career and somewhat compensates him for his unfortunate experience in the Berlin Olympics when he competed an obviously unfit man.

Archer's victory in the 100 metres was all the more gratifying because it was somewhat unexpected. Getting off to a good start (unlike his experience in the 200 metres) he finished in his usual strong manner.

The high jump developed into a duel between Bolinder, the Swede, and our

Alan Paterson. Evidently Bolinder is nearing the veteran stage, as he was of International class away back in 1938, but there was nothing of the veteran in his performance, as he cleared the bar at 6 ft. 6 ins., his own best to date, against Paterson's 6 ft. 5½ ins.

The latter has the consolation of knowing that he has beaten the Swede's leap at Ibrox with 6 ft. 6½ ins. and at Antwerp with 6 ft. 6½ ins.

Heino's victory in the 10,000 metres was as expected as was Pujazon's in the 3,000 metres steeplechase.

D. G. Wilson and C. T. White, though failing to get placed in their respective events, still bettered their own previous bests which shows the class they faced.

D. C. Pugh did well to gain third place in the 400 metres, won by the Dane, Holst-Sorensen, in 47.9. Pugh's time was 48.9.

Scottish champion and Britain's representative in the hammer event, H. McD. Clarke, did well to gain third place, with 168 ft. 4½ ins. against 185 ft. by Ericson of Sweden.

#### The Marathon

The marathon was the opening event of the Games; unlike the Olympics in which it is usually the culminating event. It was run in great heat and was won by the Finn, Hietanen, with a Finn also second. Yarrow, although back in seventh place did very well. The times were exceptional, but evidently it was freely admitted that the course was short.

The positions of the first six with their respective times gives a comparison and tells the story of the race:—

1, Hietanen (Finland) 2 hrs. 24 mins. 55 secs.; 2, Mulininen (Finland) 2 hrs. 26 mins. 8 secs.; 3, Punjko (Russia) 2 hrs. 26 mins. 21 secs.; 4, Cousin (France) 2 hrs. 27 mins. 5 secs.; 5, Leandersson (Sweden) 2 hrs. 28 mins. 30 secs.; Johnsson (Sweden) 2 hrs. 30 mins. 8 secs.

Yarrow in seventh place showed 2 hrs. 30 mins. 40 secs. which shows him not to be far behind the Swedes.

Oliver, Britain's other candidate in this event had an unfortunate race, dropping out at three-quarter distance. The fact that he was suffering from a carbuncle, added to the great heat, proved too much for him.

### Clearing Any Misunderstanding

Without retarding criticism of the unfortunate circumstances concerning the recent A.A.A. Marathon it is only fair to mention that I learn through Mr. Crump and the Editor that the selectors of the British team for Oslo were tied down to two candidates only for the marathon event. Oliver was placed as first choice and, of course, Yarrow as reigning British champion could hardly have been overlooked. Obviously the question of cost did not arise in the case of Robertson or Holden.

After the completion of the Oslo Games the various athletes competed at various meetings in Malmö, Bergen and Gothenburg. McDonald Bailey and A. Wint, the coloured stars, ineligible to compete in the European Games, were specially invited over and showed their class. The former won the 100 metres in magnificent time of 10.3, with Archer, fresh from his European laurels, second.

Wint although finishing second in the 800 metres beat 1 min. 51 secs.—very first time indeed.

There was little activity in Scotland on Saturday, 24th August. However, there was a confined meeting held at Port Glasgow, a special feature being the 14 miles road race run over a very hilly course and resulted as follows:—

L. J. E. Farrell (Maryhill); 2, Wm. Connor (Shettleston); 3, Wm. Kennedy (Kilbarchan). Time, 1 hr. 22 mins. E. Paton (Clydesdale) won the hand-clap.

Feature of the Rolls Royce Sports at Renfrew was a triple victory in the quarter-mile, half-mile and one mile by D. McHarg.

### Cowal Games Revival

The last Saturday of August saw a revival of the Cowal Games; the first since the start of the war.

Hopeless scenes marked the effort of patrons first of all to get across to Dunoon, and secondly, to gain admission. A record attendance of approximately 30,000, but from all accounts this was the main successful feature. The lack of transport facilities, plus a lack of co-ordination at the meeting itself was the chief topic and unless there be a guarantee of all-round improvements for next year, I'm afraid that there will be a marked decline in keenness to support this venture. Apparently there was some good

sport, however, e.g., Parton's effort in

the special quarter on a loose waterlogged track is among his brightest of the season; especially with athletes of the type of Connacher and Sharpe. V. Felix of Maryhill reaped the reward of perseverance by narrowly winning the open "100," and G. E. Mitchell, the well-known Glasgow athlete, took the lion's share of the heavy events; G. Kordas, the Polish star, put up a ground record for the short putt, covering a distance of 46 ft. 3 ins.

There was a triple "jinx" at Blackheath Sports at Motsprin on the same day. Wooderson, Wint and McDonald Bailey all suffering muscle injuries in the course of their attempts on records. A thigh injury caused Wint to retire after covering less than a third of his special quarter, and McDonald Bailey, after winning his heat in the 100 in 9.8, failed to face the starter in the final, owing to a pulled muscle.

In the two-mile event Sydney Wooderson, cheered on by a 15,000 crowd, failed to do better than 9.12 due to a pulled Achilles tendon which developed in the later stages of his run. It must have been very disappointing to Sydney, as well as the crowd, for his time at half-distance, before the trouble developed, showed that the British 2-mile record was well within his compass.

The first really important event of the track season was, undoubtedly, the Three Miles British Championship; here we had Sydney Wooderson competing in what was, for him, a comparatively new distance. After a terrific dust-up with Slykinis, the Dutchman, over the last 440 yards, he eventually triumphed, and set up a new British record in the process: 13 min. 53/100 sec. Exactly 16 days later, when representing the Home Country in the International Contest versus France, at the same venue (White City Stadium, London). He won more easily, again over 3 miles, in 13 min. 57 sec.

Afterwards, I devoted quite a time to study very closely the lap and intermediate mile times as furnished by Harold Abrahams during the broadcast. He was the chief topic and unless there be a guarantee of all-round improvements for next year, I'm afraid that there will be a marked decline in keenness to support this venture. Apparently there was some good

## SIDNEY WOODERSON— Prince of Pace

By GEORGE ANDREWS

CHAMPIONSHIP			G. BRITAIN v. FRANCE		
1st Lap ...	m. s.	m. s.	1st mile	4 39.6	1st mile
2nd Lap ...	1. 12.2		4 40.6	1. 10.2	2nd mile
3rd Lap ...	1. 8.4			1. 11.6	
4th Lap ...	1. 10.2				
5th Lap ...	1. 10.0				
6th Lap ...	1. 10.0				
7th Lap ...	1. 11.2				
8th Lap ...	1. 11.8		2nd mile		
9th Lap ...	1. 9.6		1. 10.4		
10th Lap ...	1. 13.0		1. 11.9		
10th Lap ...	1. 8.6		1. 11.4		
12th Lap ...	0. 39.0		3rd mile		
Total Time Distance	.		4 29.6	1. 1.0	4 39.8
			13. 53.2	13. 57	

Excepting the final times, all figures are, of course, approximate, but they are near enough to serve the purpose. In hand. Unfortunately, in the French stadium, we did not go over to the stadium until after one mile had been covered. However, I think it can be safely presumed that the first four-lap times would be pretty much the same as those of the championship race. In view of the fact that the respective times, at this stage, were practically similar.

It will be observed that clocking around 70 sec. for each lap must have been the objective, and, as Wooderson took command of both races after about three-quarters of a mile, the subsequent laps (with the big exception of the last one) were reeled off with an almost uncanny precision. As the tables show, the pace for the first three laps was just right, and, it possibly began to lag, so that Sydney decided to direct operations himself to ensure that he went along according to schedule. At a glance, readers can see that the divergencies in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd miles were, respectively, 1 sec., 6/10th sec., and 4 2/10ths sec.; in fact, the only difference of any consequence was in the final three-quarters of a mile as comparative aggregates at two and a quarter miles were 10 min. 32 2/10ths sec., and 10 min. 33 6/10ths sec.

Truly two amazing performances as regards consistency, and I reckon it

Pujazon, the Frenchman, had pushed Wooderson in the last 440 yards we might have had an almost fantastic closeness in the times for the full journey.

The astonishing speed shown by Sydney in the course of "making for home" is something all his own, and the like might not be witnessed for decades to come.

His clockwork running is reminiscent of the great Paavo Nurmi at his best, but the "Flying Finn" never produced sizzling last laps. He (Nurmi), to all accounts, always set himself a schedule before all races, which, he thought, was good enough to win the event. Adhering strictly to the time-table, he ran from start to finish at the same even speed, and he certainly fully justified his method of careful planning.

#### Sydney at Oslo

On August 23rd, at about 6 p.m. British time, we went over to the Bislet Stadium, Oslo, where the European Championships were in progress. Apologising to the many enthusiasts who were fortunate to hear this broadcast, I hope that my impression of the race will prove to be interesting. Harold Abrahams was on the spot as Master of Ceremonies, and it appeared that the air was electric as the competitors were getting ready to line up for the start of the 5,000 Metres (3 miles 188 yds). Harold, himself, could not suppress his excitement, for the field was classic and everything pointed to a thrilling struggle for supremacy.

It came as a great surprise to learn that Heino, the Finn (regarded in many quarters as Wooderson's chief rival), had won the 10,000 Metres (6 miles 376 yds) on the previous evening by 30 sec., in the snappy time of 29 min. 52 sec. He was going to try and land the "double," and it would prove to be stimulating to see if he could achieve what seemed to be a rather impossible task. Incidentally, he is the only man on record who has run 12 miles inside one hour.

The track measured 400 metres, so this meant that the runners had to do 12½ laps, the start being at a point somewhere on the back straight. The field comprised about 15 runners, and the "Big Five" were: Heino (Finland), Slykhuis (Holland), Pujazon (France), Reiff (Belgium), and Wooderson (Great Britain).

At last they were off, and I felt it

would develop into an epic contest. Pujazon cut out a fast pace with Heino lying second and Wooderson in about eighth position. When Harold announced the first lap time as 61 sec. I gasped, and wondered what was to come.

Heino took over the lead in the 2nd lap, which slowed down to the more respectable time of 70 sec.

Coming into the 3rd lap Wooderson moved up slightly and was only 15 yds. in the rear. Pujazon had dropped back and Reiff was now leading. The time was 69 sec.

Entering the 4th lap Heino went to the front again, with Reiff 2nd, Pujazon 3rd, and Wooderson lay in 6th place. Approximately 10 yards covered the first six runners. Another 69 sec. circuit.

Nothing extraordinary occurred in the 5th lap and the order of running was maintained as in the previous lap. The times were regularity itself, and, after the furious initial period, no one was attempting anything just so fast. A 69 7/10th sec. lap.

Heino still led in the 6th lap; Pujazon was immediately behind him, Slykhuis being 3rd, and Wooderson, I think, in 4th position. Time—69 6/10th sec.

Reiff took the spotlight once more in the 7th lap, being followed by Heino—and Wooderson kept in 4th place. Slightly faster in 68 6/10th sec.

Eighth lap—Heino assumed the role of pacemaker once more, Reiff relegated to 2nd position, Slykhuis was a good 3rd, and Wooderson right at his heels. These four had opened a gap from the rest of the field. The time was 68 6/10th sec.

Hereabouts Harold Abrahams became very excited, and would that I could have been borne on a magic carpet across space for the latter stages of this duel promised thrills galore.

Heino was indeed striving valiantly, and had he foregone the 10,000 Metres event on the previous evening there certainly would have been fireworks. On this 10th lap Wooderson moved up into 2nd position, and Slykhuis held the 3rd place. Time—69 sec.

Wooderson was obviously using his head and would certainly be a hard man to beat now. The race had been the very essence of steadiness and I felt that his rivals had played into his hands in not employing other tactics. Reiff was not done yet, and now made

what, I sensed, was a last despairing effort. Heino joined him and the pair ran neck and neck for a bit, but Reiff was slightly ahead at the line, with Slykhuis 3rd and the inimitable Sydney just behind him. This was the slowest lap so far, the time being 72 sec.

Two and a half laps to go, and the spectators (including Harold Abrahams) were in a welter of excitement. As for myself—without noticing it I had risen from my comfortable chair and I knew something must happen. Just then it did, for Slykhuis took the lead for the first time in the race, Wooderson was as close as his shadow, and Heino had fallen back into 3rd place and was clearly tiring fast. It was now extremely difficult to jot down even rough notes. I don't know what happened to Reiff, but he must have cracked up. The remainder of the field were absolutely nowhere. Slykhuis was piling it on, and the time for this 11th lap was 67 sec.

The place was in an uproar as these two runners sped on, and Slykhuis tried desperately to shake Wooderson off, but all to no purpose. The time for the intervening half-lap was 33 sec.

One lap to go and Wooderson still did not attempt to pass Slykhuis. With only two hundred yards to go the latter led by two yards and I said to myself: "Any moment now." Sydney suddenly spurted ahead and his adversary offered no challenge. Wooderson forged ahead and entered the home straight with some eight yards in hand. He put in a tremendous last 100 yards, for he gained another 17 or so yards, and finished a clear and convincing winner by about 25 yards. This final lap was covered in about 61 sec., and the official time (as I learned later) for the full distance was 14 min. 8.6 sec.

It is the second fastest time ever recorded, and I understand it only exceeds the existing world's record by about 10 sec.

Harold Abrahams said it was the finest race he had ever seen, and he must have witnessed some "smashers" in his day.

Many people will contend that the race would have taken on a different complexion had Heino been a fresh man. The pace would certainly have been hotter, but it is a moot point as to whether he could have got far enough ahead to withstand Wooderson's dynamic finishing power.

Sydney Wooderson will go down to

posterity as one who always made his opponents know they had been running, and his lion-hearted, devastating finishes will be talked off for many a year to come.

Before I close, I say thanks again, to the B.B.C., Harold Abrahams, and—Sydney Wooderson. They have combined to give athletic enthusiasts thrill upon thrill.

#### Editor's Chat

September marks a half year lifetime of *The Scots Athlete*, and it "is still going strong." We have enjoyed our work in the production of the magazine very much and will gladly continue.

It becomes increasingly hard to keep up with correspondence alone, and if there is some delay in your letters being answered you will understand. Don't despair we will do our best to catch up.

By all means still send your letters, we appreciate them very much. It is interesting to know what you think of the paper and your views as to how it can be improved are most essential. We want to make these columns fountains of ideas.

It must be obvious to each reader that the paper is produced in financial as well as working struggle and on this point we would like to say a word.

With the winter months our access to the general public is withdrawn. Will you make up this loss by taking copies for your friends in the office and in the workshop? We need a greater public interest in our sport. If your friends get copies a double service is being done.

The paper is run at a loss each month and we have had to rely on donations to clear our way. Last month Hamilton Harriers donated £1 5s. which we gratefully acknowledge.

We welcome donations from associates in the sport for essential work, but actually our real desire is to make our good paper clear its own way. This can be done by individual and united effort.

So that we can publish the final Points League we would like to obtain on loan, marked programmes of the Cowal Games and St. Machan's A.A.C. sports.

And a last word to secretaries, please send your winter fixtures before the 28th of this month if possible.

## Specialisation should begin at School

by JAMES L. LOGAN

The Heriot schoolboy St. C. S. Taylor, a Scottish Junior champion, recently won eight events in his school sports meeting. While agreeing that this was an extraordinary feat, especially in view of the high standard achieved in all events, I suggest that it emphasises an unsatisfactory feature in Scottish schools' athletics.

The point of greatest interest in a school sports meeting is, of course, the Championship. This is invariably decided by aggregate of points gained for placings in the eligible events of which there are usually six to ten. This means that, in the course of two or three hours, the keenest lads compete in up to ten, sometimes more, events.

From both the physical and athletic point of view this is a bad system. Those readers who have themselves competed in several events in one afternoon will testify to the severe tax on physique. From the athletic angle, the diffusion of energy and lack of specialisation inevitably results in lower standards of performance.

One famous Scottish school, at least, has made an excellent compromise between specialisation and the traditional necessity of producing an annual Champion.

The customary wide variety of events are eligible for the Championship but each boy is allowed to enter for a maximum of four events only. This ensures that no competitor shall overtax his strength and with a programme of, say, 100 yards, 440 yards, mile, shot putt, discuss, javelin, high and long jump and hurdles, still gives adequate scope to the genuine all-rounder.

An attempt is sometimes made to justify the multiple event Championship with the argument that it is the only way for a boy to test himself at all the events in order to find out his metier.

This argument only serves to bring out a further fault in schools' athletics: that is, that, in the majority of schools, the jumping stands and hurdles are brought out, and the jumping pit dug, once only in the year. The idea is that the fostering of athletics, as far as schools are concerned, begins and ends with Sports Day with perhaps a

week or a fortnight allowed for some haphazard training.

As a result, the ordinary schoolboy is given no facilities to develop a sustained interest in athletics nor to find, or be shown, the events which suit him best.

Just as October sees the soccer or rugby ball being brought into play for a recognised season, March or April should see the jumping stands and hurdles coming forth for *their* season. Comparatively few Scottish schools feature cricket so that there is not even a rival to athletics as the summer sport.

Sports Day should be the culmination of the athletics season, with each boy competing in the events for which he is most physically equipped and showing a fair degree of technical skill.

To achieve this satisfactory state of affairs, coaching is, of course, essential.

Not every school, however, is fortunate in having a master who is qualified to act as a competent coach. But there must be few schools which do not number one or two athletic enthusiasts among their old boys.

These enthusiasts, I am sure, especially those who are past the age for active competition, would be delighted to pass on their athletics lore to the coming generation. A few hours each week would be a happy sacrifice to such men. To begin with, it would keep them actively engaged in the sport. And those athletes and ex-athletes who have brought on a younger brother will testify that there is something deeply satisfying in passing on hard-won experience to eager youth.

The advantage to the coming generation of sportsmen is too obvious to require stressing.

An experienced eye will speedily seed the boys into categories for which they are physically equipped. Tuition in athletic technique, already proved to be most readily absorbed at a tender age, will eliminate those faults which inevitably arise from self-teaching and which are almost impossible to erase at a later date.

The coaching, of course, would have to be done in the evenings or Saturday afternoons but athletics, properly presented, is an engrossing sport which

will not fail to arouse a boy's natural competitive spirit.

I have long held the opinion that any effective moves for the popularisation of athletics must come from within the sport itself. It therefore lies with the enthusiasts to approach their old schools with the suggestions outlined. I am certain that their ideas would be favourably received, for nothing grati-

fies the schoolmaster more than to find "old boys" showing a continued interest in the welfare of the school.

And what is begun in the school can be extended to the youth organisations and works' welfare clubs. There is, in fact, scope for any enthusiast who feels that he would like to put something back into the sport which has given him so much fun in the past.

## THE CROSS-COUNTRY SEASON

### Appreciation and Anticipation

by A. M. DONNET

The incoming cross-country season should see the resumption of cross-country activities in full, under the aegis of the National Cross-Country Union and its District Associations—the South-West, the Midlands, and the Eastern. I think I am justified in expressing this hope, because of the indication given over the past months of the re-emergence of clubs which have been defunct, in the competition sense, since the 1938-1939 season. That season, was, of course, the last year of the National and District Cross-Country Championships. Since then cross-country has been governed and run on an emergency basis.

Reviewing those past years, one is grateful, beyond words, to those clubs which maintained their virility and their enthusiasm in the face of the consequences of the outbreak of hostilities. One is especially thankful to those centres of activity in Greenock, Glasgow, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire and in Dundee.

To the writer, certain clubs and individuals highlight themselves in retrospect. One recalls the many duels between those two fine runners, Harry Howard and J. E. Farrell; the brilliant 1941-42 season of Jim Brannan; Jimmy Flockhart's come-back to captain and lead in Scotland's International Team; Charlie McLellan's great win in the unofficial championship; the driving personality and outstanding consistency of "Dunkyn" Wright; and the post-presentation oratorical flights of Emmet Farrell. Many happy thoughts also go back to that happy home of sportsmen, the Garscube Harriers Clubrooms at Westerton, which gave sanctuary to Harriers from many other clubs, including the Dundee Harriers, the Vic-

toria Park and the Springburn Harriers. The commendable enterprise shown by the Scottish Cross-Country Association is also recalled, as this Association satisfied a great need and at the same time relieved the Cross-Country Union of any financial commitment.

The experiences of the Dundee Harrier clubs typify the never-say-die spirit inherent in the sport. Early in the war, the Dundee Thistle Harriers' clubrooms were bombed on a club training night, those runners in attendance escaping with scratches and shock. Through the courtesy of the other harrier club, they were allowed to share premises. After a period, the Hawkhill Harriers lost their fine clubrooms which were taken over by the National Fire Service for sleeping quarters, and thus the two clubs found themselves homeless. Despite these set-backs they kept the sport going by using football clubrooms, cyclists' rooms, and even tennis pavilions, and indeed, promoted races which secured support from all over Scotland and England. The hospitality extended by the Dundonians to visiting harriers, I am sure, has ensured a special place for them in the affections of all harriers.

We are starting off this season with at least one immense advantage, namely, the opportunity offered us for the expression of our opinions, the sharing of our ideas, and the encouragement of our fellowship through this publication, which meets at least one aspiration of all harriers.

The incoming season will be preceded by the A.G.M. of the N.C.C.U., in early September, and it appears to be the turn of a Midland's District representative to be nominated for the Presidency