

SPORTS REPORTS & TALKS

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The Week's **MOST COMPLETE**
SURVEY OF ALL SPORTS

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SCOTTISH AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

SUMMER TRAINING AND COACHING SCHEME

Courses.	Evenings.	Venue.
Road Running	Mondays	Clydebank
Track & Jumping	Mondays	Ibrox
Track & Jumping	Thursdays	Ibrox
Track (Distance)	Tuesdays	Helenvale
Field Events	Weds.	Westerlands

Coaches are available to visit other
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be arranged.

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MARCH, 1948

Vol. 2 No. 12

THE SCOTS ATHLETE

PRICE
6^p



THE FIRST THREE in the Midland District 7 miles Junior Championship.
(Centre) Robert Boyd (Clydesdale H.) the winner. (L) Walter Lennie (Vale
of Leven) 2nd. (R) George B. Craig (Shettleston H.) 3rd.

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LEAGUE.
CHAMPION, 1938 and 1948.
SPORTS DIARY.
ACTION PHOTOGRAPHS.

THE SCOTS ATHLETE

TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN
SCOTTISH AND WORLD ATHLETICS

EDITED BY - WALTER J. ROSS

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MARCH.

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Annual Subscription 6/6.

Scottish Cross-Country Championships

By GEORGE DALLAS

(Hon. Secy. N.C.C.U. of Scotland)

THE Fifty-First Annual Cross-Country Championship decided over the Ayr Racecourse, and the lands beyond, a measured course of mixed meadow, in all a lap of three miles 300 yards, traversed thrice, attracted a field of 185 starters including 37 individuals. The only team absent was H.M.S. Caledonia (Rosyth) and Motherwell Y.M.C.A. unable to field a side, ran four individuals including Internationalist Willie Sommerville. Sixteen teams faced starter Fred Evans who succeeded in getting the eager field of runners away to a splendid start among whom were former Champions, Jim Flockhart, Shettleston Harriers, John Emmet Farrell, Maryhill Harriers, and District Junior Champions, R. Boyd, Clydesdale Harriers (Midlands), J. Fisher, Ayr A.A.C. (South-Western), and T. H. Braid, Edinburgh University (Eastern), all keen to figure as Individual Champion, Scottish Junior Champion, or for a place in the select, destined for Reading on April 3rd, when Scotland meets the representatives of England, Ireland, France, Belgium and Wales.

Andrew Forbes, Victoria Park holder of the title, fit and well, was a spectator, preferring to take the long view that with Olympic commitments, care has to be exercised and restraint imposed for the next couple of months.

The race therefore bore a most oper. aspect although, the knowledgeable folk in the movement could not dismiss the feeling that one or other of the veterans would come out on top. That is exactly what happened.

Great faith was pinned by the local folk in the appearance of 24-year-old J. Fisher who was strongly fancied to win. He was certainly away with the leaders in the burst at the start and when the runners reappeared out of the haze it was seen that the Ayr lad was on the heels of the 10 miles' track champion Alex. McLean. The time of the first lap being 17 mins. 5 secs. Mile champion Frank Sinclair, Wellpark, at present resident in Newcastle, was third, G. B. Craig, C. D. Robertson, Dundee Thistle, J. E. Farrell, Irish Scot F. G. V. Bathgate, J. C. Ross, Shettleston, and Jim Flockhart, were running in that order at this stage. During the next lap George Craig went into the lead closely followed by McLean, the time being 34 mins. 22' secs., then followed at intervals F. Sinclair, J. E. Farrell, who was only five yards behind the leaders, C. D. Robertson, J. Fisher, evidently not happy, retired. Jim Flockhart was about 80 yards behind Craig. W. McLean, Glenpark, showing commendable pluck in such company, F. V. Bathgate who dropped a couple of places but still running steadily, A. Gibson, Hamilton, running surprisingly well, and behind him G. Anderson, Bellahouston, and veteran Jim Ross were running in that order.

THE "NATIONAL" 1948.

(Top) Massed Start. (Centre L.) Going on to last lap with G. Craig (186) and A. McLean leading F. Sinclair and J. E. Farrell. (R) In a fighting finish F. Sinclair beats G. Craig for 2nd place. (Bot.) J. E. Farrell approaching the tape to win.



About sixty-five seconds, or approximately 390 yards would cover the first twelve at the end of the second and penultimate lap.

That Emmet Farrell was running well within himself was amplified when in the eighth mile he shot ahead of the field and quickly opened up a lead. He would probably have more than 60 yards in hand when he entered the long home straight. In the meantime Geo. Craig was having a battle royal with the on-coming Frank Sinclair who was finding pace on the finishing stretch of the race-course. It was now clear, bar accident, that the race was all over bar the shouting, for Emmet was far enough in front to amble to the finish fully 70 yards to the good, clocking the fine time of 51 mins. 27 secs. for the nine miles 900 yards—a really great achievement for one who won the same event over much the same course 10 years ago. There is no parallel to this in the whole history of the Championship, the nearest being G. C. L. Wallach's first win in 1914 and last eight years later.

Sinclair in the great duel with Craig just managed to pip his rival on the post, and this must be regarded a splendid feat for one who is particularly good from half mile upwards. Craig by reaching third place certainly atoned for his shortcomings in the recent Midland race, and incidentally won the Scottish Junior Championship only fourteen seasons behind the winner. Having won the Youths' Championship twice and later the National Novice title with a glorious failure in the Midland race has thus established a record that may stand unequalled for many a long day.

The team race was expected to provide a narrow tussle between the holders, Bellahouston and Shettleston Harriers. Since Shettleston failed at Lanark last year they have added more power, but having failed to get such stalwarts as Charlie McLennan and E. McAllister to their marks in time few expected them to offer any serious challenge to the holders. They did, and to such good purpose that their winning six were placed in the first sixteen, and so we must heartily congratulate G. Craig, J. Flockhart, J. C. Ross, J. Clark, H. Howard

and A. Hill in recapturing honours last won 10 years ago, and by two points more margin than Bellahouston won from them last year. The old firm, Garscube and Maryhill Harriers, occupied third and fourth places.

As a result of the race here is the first six to be augmented to nine on March 18th for the International at Reading on April 3rd:—J. E. Farrell, F. Sinclair, G. Craig, A. McLean, C. D. Robertson, and Jim Flockhart. The newcomers to the team are Craig, McLean, Robertson. The old heads, Flockhart and Farrell, should give that elixir which may inspire their colleagues in the classic race on third proximo. I am pleased that at last Alex. McLean makes the grade for with a little ordinary good fortune he ought to have "sailed" in last year. Would it be asking too much to expect this team to break the French, Belgium, England monopoly?

THE YOUTHS' RACE.

The story of the Youths' race of three miles 300 yards is more simply told because the shorter course does not allow for the packing of incident, and especially when little more than a mile of the course was visible.

Among the favourites in a field of 137 starters, made up of 26 individuals, 22 teams, quite a satisfactory response for the tenth of the series, was H. Fenion, Lochwinnoch A.A.C. who startled a field of youngsters and the Officials in the Clydesdale Harriers' Open Youths' Race early in the season by racing home in the easiest of fashion and hardly turning a hair. Others being freely named as potential champions were C. Hoggan, St. Modan's A.C., who won the Midlands Youths' race, E. Bannion, Shettleston, who on more than one occasion demonstrated his worth, and R. F. McLean, Springburn Harriers.

As events proved, the compact little man of 17 years of age—Harry Fenion—showed them all the way and made light of the few obstacles encountered to arrive on the course with a winning lead. How many believed that G. Adamson, West Kilbride, would be the next youngster in the race, and fewer still thought of the prospects of W. Grieve, Kirkcaldy, being in the first three. Fenion's time for the

Scottish Cross-Country Champion 1938 — Ayr Racecourse — 1948



THE photo on the left shows 28 years-old J. E. Farrell (Maryhill H.) being chaired after winning the Individual and leading his victorious team in the Scottish Cross-Country Championship held at Ayr Racecourse in 1938.

The famous Scottish club were particularly proud of this double victory since it was gained on the year of their Silver Jubilee.

Exactly ten years later, when the race was held at Ayr for the first time since, 38 years-old Farrell again won the Individual title. After the race he said that he was glad to have won "seeing that 1948 marked the Diamond Jubilee of the Club."

Since 1937 Farrell has always been one of the "first three" in this annual event (no races held during war-years). A grand record!

course was 17 mins. 12 secs.—having 70 yards to spare from Adamson. Grieve being another 50 years behind Adamson.

Kirkcaldy, St. Modan's A.C. and Edinburgh Rover Scouts were the first three clubs, a cheerful result to clubs seldom given an opportunity to adequately test their paces against the stronger City combinations.

There are still a few vacant seats in special coaches for READING, leaving Glasgow (St. Enoch Square), FRIDAY, 2nd APRIL, 7 p.m. Join a grand party to see a great race. Contact "S.A." offices immediately.

* * * * *

Sports Organisers should forward advertisement copy as early as possible to ensure publication. Advertisement Rate, 10/- per single column inch. Fuller information on enquiry.

INDIVIDUAL PLACINGS.

	Min.	Secs.
1. J. E. Farrell (Maryhill H.)	51	27
2. F. Sinclair (Greenock W'park H.)	51	40
3. G. B. Craig (Shettleston H.)	51	41
4. A. MacLean (Bellahouston H.)	51	57
5. C. D. Robertson (Dundee Thistle.)	52	23
6. J. C. Flockhart (Shettleston H.)	52	49

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP.

- 1.—Shettleston Harriers. (G. Craig 2, J. C. Flockhart 4, J. C. Ross 9, J. Clark 12, H. Howard 14, A. Hill 16), 57 pts.; D. Morrison 31, W. Connor 35, H. Mills 39, W. Laing 44, G. H. Taylor 57.
- 2.—Bellahouston Harriers. (A. MacLean 3, G. Anderson 8, A. McGregor 11, T. Gibson 20, R. Clunie 21, H. B. O'neil 27), 90 pts.; W. J. McKinlay 38, J. M. Lindsay 48, A. Dunwoody 65, W. Chalmers 101.
- 3.—Garscube Harriers. (A. Kidd 10, R. J. Mulgrew 13, A. W. Warton 19, T. McGinlay 24, D. Murray 28, J. Croall 56), 150 pts.; W. J. Ross 64, D. Causon 74.
- 4.—Maryhill Harriers. (J. E. Farrell 1, R. Mathieson 18, G. Porteous 29, J. Wilkie 34, H. Scoles 36, H. B. Morrison 40, 158 pts.; A. Stevenson 50, J. Bissell 59, J. Nelson 63, T. Harrison 66, D. Tate 80.

- 5.—Victoria Park A.A.C. (D. McFarlane 25, C. Forbes 26, F. Dobbie 30, A. Johnston 46, D. Shuttleworth 49, A. Jenkins 54), 230 pts.; J. Simpson 95, J. McClure 107, R. Blackstock 108.
- 6.—Clydesdale Harriers. (G. White 15, R. Boyd 33, W. Howie 41, J. Higginson 42, D. Scott 69, D. Bowman 76), 276 pts.; T. Brackenridge 85, A. Hylam 109.
- 7.—Springburn Harriers. (J. C. Morton 7, D. Fyffe 32, H. Haughe 55, T. Tracey 67, H. Frith 92, J. McKay 94), 347 pts.; G. M. Wanless 116.
- 8.—Edin. St. Harriers. (W. L. Brown 22, W. S. Wilson 45, T. J. Logan 61, G. Forrest 72, E. B. Carr 77, J. Wilson 87), 364 pts.; H. C. Lawrence 112.
- 9.—Greenock Glenpark H. (W. McLean 5, D. Turner 17, W. Elder 81, B. Leitch 82, D. Berry 90, W. Fullerton 97), 372 pts.; T. Mearns 105, D. Murphy 114.
- 10.—Doon Harriers. (J. Munro 23, T. Wilson 52, G. Mowat 53, N. Robertson 71, J. Gray 88, W. McEwan 99), 386 pts.; J. Wilson 100, N. Hainey 110.
- 11.—Hamilton Harriers. (A. Gibson 6, G. Craig 58, G. McGill 62, T. Symington 78, W. Brownlie 79, J. Stewart 118), 401 pts.; T. McLennan 122, J. McShane 123.
- 12.—Auchmountain Harriers. (J. Mc Kinven 43, W. Lindsay 51, J. Bownes 60, J. MacLean 91, W. Carson 96, I. Graham 111), 452 pts.; D. McNaughton 120, D. Livingstone 121, W. More 124.
- 13.—Hillington Harriers. (J. Kerr 37, J. Lavan 93, J. Gillin 103, H. Wilkie 104, F. Kerr 106, T. Monaghan 117), 560 pts.

INCOMPLETE TEAMS.

- West Kilbride A.A.C. (R. Paton 68, G. Houston 70, A. Wentworth 73, T. Reid 89, T. Houston 113, —).
- Dumbarton A.A.C. (J. Walker 47, H. Burns 83, J. Malcolm 98, R. Johnstone 118, A. Muir 119, —).
- Plebeian Harriers. (E. Latham 75, J. Latham 84, A. C. Robertson 86, T. Moffat 102, —).

INDIVIDUAL ENTRANTS.

- F. G. V. Bathgate (Ballydrain) 8; W. S. Sommerville (Motherwell Y.M.C.A.) 19; J. Sanderson (Gala) 20; W. Kennedy (Kilbarchan A.A.C.) 23; W. Morton (Kilmarnock H.) 35; T. H. Braid (Edin Univ. H. & H.) 44; G. Rennie (Kirkcaldy Y.M.) 49; D. Brown (Larkhall Y.M.) 50; W. Hannah (Larkhall Y.M.) 62; R. McCormick (Lochwinnoch A.A.C.) 69; F. Lacey (V. of L.) 70; D. Clelland (St. Modan's) 77; R. H. Kendall (Aberdeen Univ. H. & H.) 91; T. Wilson (V. of L.) 101; I. Manning (Glas. Univ.) 106; D. Smith (Edin. R. & S.) 107; J. Stuart (Larkhall Y.M.) 108; C. McGlinchey (So. Glas. A.A.C.) 121; A. McNeil (Shotts M.W.) 128; R. Donald (Glas. Y.M.) 129; B. Young (Motherwell Y.M.) 140; A. McDonald (Larkhall Y.M.) 144; M. Connell (V. of L.) 146; R. Devon (Motherwell Y.M.) 148; J. Boyd (Larkhall Y.M.) 153.

YOUTHS' RACE

INDIVIDUAL PLACINGS.

- | | Mins. | Secs. |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| 1. H. Fenion (Lochwinnoch A.A.C.) | 17 | 12 |
| 2. G. Adamson (W. K'bride A.A.C.) | 17 | 26 |
| 3. W. Grieve (Kirkcaldy YMCA H.) | 17 | 35 |
| 4. J. Stevenson (G'nock W'park H.) | 17 | 45 |

TEAM PLACINGS.

- 1.—Kirkcaldy Y.M.C.A. H. (W. Grieve 2, J. Duncan 15, A. Motion 17, J. Beaton 19), 53 pts.; A. Miller 45, J. Dewar 88.

- 2.—St. Modan's A.A.C. (C. Hoggan 9, C. Girvan 20, J. Quinn 29, G. Pollok 30), 88 pts.; J. Malloy 32, M. Kanev 56.
- 3.—Edin. R. & S. A.A.C. (C. R. Jones 5, R. Pearson 10, W. Henderson 35, E. Gray 52), 102 pts.; D. Hall 68, I. Milton 89.
- 4.—Garscube H. (W. Munro 11, H. Hatrick 12, E. Murray 26, J. Linn 59), 108 pts.; W. Murray 80.
- 5.—Springburn H. (R. F. McLean 3, W. M. Laird 8, W. J. McCamont 18, R. Ferguson 84), 113 pts.; J. Dury 85, J. Carmichael 91.
- 6.—Greenock Glenpark H. (J. W. Armstrong 6, S. Williamson 24, J. Aitchison 42, H. Beaton 48), 120 pts.
- 7.—Shettleston H. (E. Bannon 13, M. Birt 16, W. Scoular 31, A. Aitkenhead 63), 123 pts.; A. Henderson 85, R. Chisholm 9.
- 8.—Auchmountain H. (J. Wilson 4, P. McIntosh 36, A. Smith 38, C. Flacherty 53), 131 pts.; A. Mills 76.
- 9.—Bellahouston H. (D. Muir 14, G. M. Calder 28, A. G. Calder 51, R. Graham 57), 150 pts.; C. L. Sorrell 95, J. W. Carmichael 98.
- 10.—Edin. St. H. (T. J. Henderson 21, I. Ferguson 34, I. White 50, D. L. Gowans 58), 163 pts.
- 11.—H. M. S. Caledonia. (C. Howarth 25, M. W. Hill 41, P. L. Bennison 43, R. Wilde 60), 169 pts.; A. Wilkinson 61, J. Dyer 72.
- 12.—Edin. Eastern H. (R. Stark 7, J. Rollo 47, R. Gillies 54, T. Jardine 70), 178 pts.; M. Johnstone 83, J. H. Dyball 94.
- 13.—Lochwinnoch A.A.C. (H. Fenion 1, J. Johnstone 39, W. C. Lawrie 67, J. McManus 77), 184 pts.; D. Gray 82.
- 14.—Clydesdale H. (D. McCallum 33, J. Hume 37, W. Bannatyne 55, H. King 62), 187 pts.; W. Andrew 65, J. Gray 74.
- 15.—Kilbarchan A.A.C. (T. Millar 23, R. McCallum 40, I. McFadyen 66, W. Douglas 73), 202 pts.
- 16.—Ayr A.A.C. (J. Andrew 27, T. McDonald 44, A. Gordon 64, W. Johnstone 69), 204 pts.; D. Neil 71, D. Wilson 75.
- 17.—Plebeian H. (J. Robertson 45, J. Girvan 49, C. S. Heaney 78, W. L. Cook 79), 252 pts.; J. Kemp 87, H. Glasgow 92.
- 18.—Irvine Y.M.C.H., H. (A. Hollas 22, A. McLeod 81, G. Raeisd 90, W. Ward 93), 286 pts.; D. Closs 97.

INDIVIDUAL ENTRANTS.

- R. Doig (Glasgow Univ.) 10; G. Bowes (Glasgow Univ.) 12; D. Reid (Larkhall Y.M.) 18; W. Ferrie (St. Machan's) 20; J. McLaren Beith 27; A. Clifford (Dumbarton A.A.C.) 31; A. Bell (Victoria Park) 41; E. Kearney (St. Machan's) 60; J. Hancock (Gala) 62; G. Craig (Hamilton) 64; D. Orr (Victoria Park) 67; A. McDougall (Vale of Leven) 73; C. Brownlie (Larkhall Y.M.) 81; J. Jordan (Victoria Park) 86; S. Boyle (Gala) 100; J. Meek (Larkhall Y.M.) 103; G. Ferrie (St. Machan's) 112; D. Aiton (Beith) 113; A. Cameron (Greenock Wellpark) 114; I. Steel (Green. Wellpark) 114.

AYRSHIRE CHAMPIONSHIP.

Details:—

INDIVIDUAL.

- 1.—J. Fisher (Ayr A.A.C.)—48 mins. 20 secs.
2.—J. Wyllie (Kilmarnock H.)—48 mins. 55 secs.
3.—J. Munro (Doon H.)—49 mins.

TEAMS.

- 1.—Doon Harriers—J. Munro 3, G. Mowat 4, N. Robertson 5, W. McEwan—23 Points.
2.—Kilmarnock H. & A.C.—J. Wyllie 2, W. Morton 6, D. C. Wark 9, T. Tod 10—27 Points.

PHOTOFLASH No. 12.

ROBERT BOYD
(CLYDESDALE HARRIERS)

The 1947-48 cross-country season has seen the rise of another distance runner of outstanding promise, in Robert Boyd of Clydesdale Harriers. He has come right into the picture with a most impressive season which suggests that he will be a challenge to the best in Britain in the future.

His rise in the athletics world makes grand reading. It tells a story of patience, courage and perseverance. Bobby joined Clydesdale in 1940 and quickly showed signs of reaching the top. However, service in the R.A.F. then interrupted his running career.

Demobbed early in 1946 he was forced to undergo an operation for cartilage trouble on both knees and was never expected to run again. But Bobby began a slow grind back to athletic fitness. For many weeks he confined himself to exercises for strengthening his legs, then for a good period tried slow canter on the track. In the summer of 1947 he gradually found himself fit enough for racing and figured in open mile handicaps. He captured the Dumbartonshire A.A.A. mile title, and later won the same event for his county in an Inter-Counties' match.

Over to cross-country work Bobby made many people doubt the timekeepers when he returned fastest lap-time in a class field in the Midland District Relay Championship. This doubt was soon dispelled by the manner of his winning the Dumbartonshire 7 miles and the Midland District Junior Championships. He had a disappointing off-day in the National but it is only a matter of time before he gains International honours.

He is tall but strongly built and has a low action suited to distance running. I am looking forward to seeing him on the track again, I think he will take some beating over three miles.

ROY ROBINSON.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

By J. E. FARRELL

ALTHOUGH the cross-country season is still to be climaxed by the International at Reading on 3rd April, and track and field athletics do not normally commence till May, Scotland's Olympic possibilities are thus early quietly preparing for their bid to take part for Britain in the great August festival.

Alan Prepares.

For example, Alan Paterson, one of Britain's greatest hopes for an Olympic title, is busy at the Ibrox indoor track perfecting his technique and jumping heights of around 6 ft. 4½ ins. which are worth even more from a better take-off.

Alan has the student's approach to his jumping. He has not only fixed his technique but he has mapped out a plan of campaign aimed to bring him right to his peak for the Games in August.

This is the general conception of his plan. In March and April he intends to work for his best heights. Having got within striking distance of his maximum, Alan will have a month of complete relaxation during which he will indulge only in suppling exercises.

For the next two months he will aim at a programme of increasing his heights gradually, taking part in the competitions available and holding back that little something which the inspiration of the big occasion and the accumulation of bottled-up nervous energy might give him.

Although Alan Paterson has the greatest responsibility of the Scots' Athletes in that most is expected of him he has the compensating advantage of knowing that his selection being virtually assured he can concentrate specifically for his Olympic event and take the A.A.A. championship (likely to be the official selection test) in his stride.

Our Other Hopes.

The other Scots' possibilities are not so fortunate. Some have excellent chances of selection; others just outside chances, but one and all must aim to be at their peak at the A.A.A. championships, the

main test for selection. For the marathon men, this is 19th June, for the others, 2nd and 3rd July.

Like the other Alan, Allan Watt, our best sprinter, is training hard at the moment, though curiously enough he is doing very little running. Enthusiastic and willing to try new ideas, Allan has also a plan of campaign. He has adopted some of the American sprinting ideas. Like McDonald Bailey he is indulging in a programme of gym. work to tone up his whole muscular system to take the strain of these all-out volcanic efforts and especially developing these powerful shoulders for the arm action which is so vital a part in the sprints. He gives A.A.A. coach Dyson credit for noting and correcting certain flaws in his arm action.

Allan also feels he has learned much from last year's experience. Just back from the forces and burning with enthusiasm he trained very hard, got rid of some superfluous weight but found he had reached his peak too early, and when the big events were due, he was somewhat jaded and stale.

This year Allan will keep an eye on his weight. He wants that extra pound or two for strength and with the aid of mentor Alan Scally, who understands his colleague's requirements, will aim at a graduated programme calculated to bring him to peak condition for a determined bid to sport the British singlet at Wembley.

Controversy of Cross-Country and Olympic Training.

In England, I understand there are two distinct schools of thought regarding this subject. One camp takes the view that Olympic possibilities should not indulge in cross-country racing, the other side sees no harm in it. Certain English athletes have been advised not to race over country, but, so far as I know, the Scottish "possibles" have not received any specific advice on this subject.

Andrew Forbes, Scottish 3 miles champion and record holder, though indulging in cross-country racing for club events up to 7 or 8 miles, has now decided to give up this side of the sport for the season and thus did not defend his Scottish cross-country title. "Andy" is making a bid for selection in either 5,000 or 10,000 metres track events at the Games and perhaps feels that races over 10 miles of gruelling country might blunt the speed needed for the shorter track tests.

Scottish 6 miles track champion, George Craig of Shettleston Harriers, is listed as a "possible" for the 10,000 metres. After trying for cross-country honours George is likely to have a short rest and then in his own words "have a go" at the 6 miles event. Sharp 2 miles for speed are likely to figure in his track schedule. When I last spoke to Jimmy Fleming of Motherwell at the turn of the year, Scotland's 1,500 metre hope said he was just keeping fit but expressed little love for cross-country running. It therefore was with some surprise that I learned of him winning the Scottish Y.M.C.A. 7 miles cross-country championship. Fleming will be keenly watched during the track season as his sponsors feel that he has great potentialities over distances approximating to the mile.

Coming to the longer stretches we have first and foremost Donald Robertson in the marathon. Donald's recent programme has been somewhat interrupted due to domestic illness and to a slight nasal operation. Used to a long and arduous preparation Donald expressed himself as being less confident than he would have been had his programme been uninterrupted. However, he is now back in harness breaking himself in prior to getting down to the more intensive part of his training. With his background of stamina and vast experience Donald must and will aim specially for speed.

Charlie Robertson, of Dundee Thistle, and myself, considered as the other Scottish contenders for the marathon, are taking the cross-country in our stride without interrupting our programme to any great extent. Frankly I feel that the weekly cross-country runs give a tone and a variety to training and help appreciably to avoid mental staleness.



Mr. Duncan McSwein has been re-elected Hon. Treasurer of the S.A.A.A. Mr. McSwein is also Hon. Treasurer of the N.C.C.U. He will officiate as Deputy Chief Timekeeper at the Olympic Games

The East Under a Cloud.

The fact that Charlie Robertson is the sole entrant from Dundee Thistle in the National prompts one to wonder whence have departed the glory and strength of this distinguished club and others of the Eastern district. Pre-war, Dundee Thistle were a force to be reckoned with in the National Championship and in the famous Edinburgh to Glasgow relays. Now their new star lacks the support of distinguished colleagues.

Pre-war the East could boast of such a galaxy of stars as Suttie Smith, J. F. Woods, Jim Petrie, J. Laidlaw, W. Hinde and Alec Dow. Where are the men to replace these stars of the East? Yet apart from C. Robertson, there are smart youngsters in the Edinburgh Southern pair, J. Smart and W. Brown, as well as varsity student T. H. Braid, whose recent victories in the inter-varsity and Eastern district championships have proved him a runner of calibre.

Edinburgh Southern to the Fore.

Up to the present there is no doubt that Edinburgh Southern has been the outstanding club in the East this season having capped their year of Jubilee celebration by winning in turn the Eastern Districts' Relay Championship, Junior Championship and Cross-Country League.

Whilst other clubs have not reached their pre-war strength and are in some instances struggling to survive, Edinburgh Southern seem to be stronger than ever. Their present power is claimed to be brought about with a grand team spirit with every member pulling his weight.

Although speaking generally the clubs themselves could do with more athletic recruits, there is a great public for the sport in Edinburgh. This was shown by the excellent "gates" at the outstanding galas held last summer, such as the Corporation Lighting and Cleansing Welfare Dept. Sports; the first Edinburgh Highland Games held at Murrayfield (claimed by those who attended to be one of the finest, genuine athletic meetings ever held in Scotland); and the Triangular meeting at Meadowbank.

Despite first-class meetings in this district entries were surprisingly poor. Greater entries will be looked for this season and should be encouraged by the clubs. More activity means more enthusiasm, the building up of clubs and the sport.

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Other Coming Stars.

In the Midland and South-Western districts there are some up-and-coming runners almost ready to take their place beside and perhaps even surpass the established stars. Apart from such as R. Boyd of Clydesdale and A. Kidd of Garscube, whom we already know, there are such youngsters as Lennie of Vale of Leven and J. Robb of Maryhill, Williamson of Greenock Glenpark and J. Fisher of Ayr A.C.

The small but neatly built Lennie is perhaps the most colourful newcomer of the season and looks one of the greatest prospects. Improving each time out no one knows his full capabilities and even at the present moment he is within striking distance of International class. He looks like becoming a Scottish champion in the near future.

Diametrically opposed to Lennie in build, Ian Robb is a stalwart Rothesay farmer, standing 6 ft. and weighing 13 stone. He too is improving each time out though not so rapidly as the Vale of Leven lad. Inspired by the deeds of another Ayrshire farmer of the past, Watty Calderwood, well known to Mr. Robb, Sen., young Ian was attracted to the ranks of Maryhill Harriers, and despite having to do most of his training on his own, is making great strides as an athlete. He is very strong and revels in the heavy going, and recently in the Maryhill club championship made me go all out to win.

In the South-West, young W. Williamson showed up well in defeating the Bellahouston stars in the Renfrewshire championship, while J. Fisher of Ayr A.C. has shown outstanding form and marked consistency by taking both the South-Western Junior Championship and the Ayrshire Championship.

Also worthy of mention this season is the improved form over the country of Arthur Warton of Garscube and George White of Clydesdale hitherto regarded as essentially track runners.

Coming Back!

Due to the long break occasioned by the war many well-known clubs have become defunct, while others have had an uphill struggle to survive. Among



Reg. Gosney (Eastleigh H.) finishing 2nd to Syd. Wooderson in the Southern Counties 7 miles cross-country race.

the latter are such as Springburn, Glasgow Y.M.C.A., and Plebeian. Perhaps the former are making most headway in running strength, but Glasgow Y.M.C.A., under the enthusiastic secretaryship of Jimmy Scott, are not far behind, while Plebeian retain at least their old qualities of zeal and sportsmanship. A recent gesture in postponing their club championship because of an accident to their best runner, Andrew Robertson, is typical of them.

Springburn have temporarily lost the services of W. McMillan through indisposition. It will be remembered that he finished first novice home in the Midland District Junior Championship at Hamilton last year finishing 5th against very hot opposition.

Dominion Athletes Continue to Excel.

Burly Jack Treloar, Australia's crack sprinter, continues to show brilliant form, his latest achievement being 100 yards in 9.5 secs. in the New South Wales Championship. This is 1/10th of a sec. inside the Australian record, but as he was aided by a slight following wind this is unlikely to be recognised. Australia

is also well off for quarter milers with John Bartram, recent conqueror of Herb. McKenley and 18-year-old Maurice Curotta who has just lowered the 440 yards' record by 4/10th secs. to 47.6 secs.

I make no apologies for again mentioning the brilliant exploits of South Africa's versatile sprinter Denis Shore. Now in his 33rd year Shore seems to improve with age. His latest achievement in covering 600 yards in 69.5 secs., a mere .3 secs. outside world record is amazing for a man who can also beat even time for the 100 yards. His previous best for the distance was made 10 years ago in New York with a time of 70.1 secs.

Shore is likely to go for the 400 metres at the Olympic Games. Can the veteran again trouble the world's best at this distance? In some ways there seems an analogy between the methods of Jack Lovelock and the South African. One recalls how the former tackled races over half mile and 2 or 3 miles to make certain of both speed and stamina. Similarly, Shore, by racing over distances as far apart as 100 and 600 yards might be trying to attain a combination of superb speed and stamina for the 400 metres. This colourful personality will be closely watched at Wembley in August as he is regarded as an almost certain starter for South Africa.

29-year-old Gil Dodds, America's "Iron Deacon," who recently won the Wanamaker mile in 4 mins. 5.3 secs., breaking his own indoor world record by over a second, claims that his religious background helps and sustains him in his athletic activities, gives him confidence. Regarded as America's chief 1,500 metres Olympic hope, latest news about Dodds is disquieting. This is to the effect that he has contracted a serious illness which may jeopardise his future athletic career. His colourful personality would be missed at the Olympic festival.

Wooderson's Winning Way.

Sydney Wooderson is still news despite his semi-retirement, if that is the right term to apply to one of the fittest athletes in the country. His latest feat in winning the Southern Counties individual title by 60 yards from gallant R. Gosney of Eastleigh is an indication of his versatility, and one feels that he is

as capable of reaching the heights in this branch of the sport as on the track. Should he feel disposed to make a bid one feels that he is capable of winning even the International individual title.

The fact that Wooderson, despite his brilliant track achievements and perhaps because of the intense ferocity of modern competition has turned to cross-country running with evident enjoyment seems to me a splendid advertisement for the latter pastime.

Even cross-country running has its moments of intense competition, when specialists race in first class competition in such as the International event, but in the main the variety and general atmosphere of cross-country running has a most soothing influence. Green fields, wide horizons compare more than favourably with the flat monotony of the track.

Bobby Reid's Smashing Come-Back.

All the more welcome after his recent disappointing form is the victory of Bobby Reid of Birchfield in the Midland cross-country championship at Great Barr on Saturday, 28th February. To finish 75th, 26th and now first in successive races indicates the extent to which his form has improved, especially as he included amongst his victims such as Herbert Swindells, the Inter-Counties champion and runners of International repute like Carrick, Froggatt and Reg. Draper.

JACK CRUMP WRITES—

My Dear Ross,

I was exceedingly pleased to have the copies of "The Scots Athlete," and have read with very great interest the correspondence on the subject of food for athletes.

I think perhaps the time has arrived when I might put in my little piece and I have therefore written an article which you might care to use.

One thing I do enjoy about "The Scots Athlete" is the very well informed and extremely well written "Running Commentary" of J. E. Farrell. His views are most balanced and I do not think anyone that I have read covers the subject so well and so adequately as Farrell does.

It was an exceptionally close race, 24 secs. covering the first 4 runners, and only 1 sec. between Reid and the up-and-coming A. Shorrocks of Halesowen, 57 mins. 7 secs. against 57 mins. 8 secs. The following descriptive paragraph culled from a local paper may be of interest. "The final lap was a real thriller. Try as he would Reid could not shake off the Halesowen man, but just when it seemed that a cross-country rarity—a dead heat—would obtain, Reid jumped, Shorrocks flagged, and the race was won and lost on the tape."

International at Reading.

This year's race to be held at Reading should be no less great than any of the series, though some of each country's leading athletes, like Alec Olney of England and our own Andrew Forbes, through holding up with the Olympics in view, will not take the field.

Without knowing the composition of the various teams it is hard to consider their various prospects. A united team from Ireland should make strong opposition, whilst England have many promising stars and should give France and Belgium a sterner test.

Should Sydney Wooderson, gain and accept selection for England as I think he will, his presence alone would give extra colour and interest to the event as well as providing more than a spot of bother for the continental stars.

Some of the Scots boys will have by this time received food parcels. I ought to tell you that the majority have been obtained from business friends in Canada, and although everyone cannot just now receive them, I do not despair of the time when all athletes on the list of 'possibles' will receive parcels.

I hope that I may have the pleasure of meeting you on the great occasion of the International at Reading.

Yours sincerely,

J. C. G. CRUMP,

Hon. Secy. & Team Manager,
B.A.A.B.

London.

[We regret having to hold over Jack Crump's contribution to our "Food for Athletes" discussion. Readers can look forward to this being published next month.—EDITOR.]

SOUTH AFRICAN ATHLETICS

By ALBERT du PREEZ.

ATHLETES out here are busy preparing themselves for the National Championships which will be held in Port Elizabeth over the Easter holidays. Port Elizabeth also served as the venue for the Championships prior to the Olympic team selection in 1936.

Last time I wrote something about our "evergreen" quarter-mile champion, 32-year-old Denis Shore. This month yet another veteran hit the highlights. At a meeting, held at Brakpan, Tim Lavery showed outstanding form when he strode over the 120 yards' high hurdles in the splendid time of 14.7 secs. Lavery captured world athletic headlines when, in 1938, at Sydney, Australia, he annexed the British Empire title in 14 secs. dead. His effort at Brakpan reminded me very much of his Empire Games' triumph and must bring him into line for Olympic representation.

In the past South Africans have always performed creditably in International marathon races. Our representatives, Hefferon, Richardson, McArthur, Gitsham, Coleman and Gibson, have all figured prominently in Olympic competition. This year we will most probably be represented by Sid Luyt, the 21-year-old Springs carpenter. After a very successful cross-country season Luyt entered for his first marathon, at the end of November, and scored an easy triumph: winning on his own in 2 hrs. 39 mins. 27 secs. He has all the qualities that go to make a great distance runner and it is the general opinion of athletic followers here that he may develop into one of the greatest marathon runners this country has ever produced.

South Africa is likely to be represented in the Olympic 10,000 metres' walk if Kalie Reyneke retains his present form. During January this Cape Town "heel-and-toe" expert walked over the distance in 43 mins. 6.3 secs. This time is only some 26.7 secs. slower than the world's record and must represent the outstanding world performance for this event for some time.



Tim Lavery, famous South African hurdler.

Young Ellis West, the Cape Town all-round athlete is, I understand, training hard for the decathlon event. West is the present South African long jump (23 ft. 2½ ins.) and hop-step and jump (46 ft. 4½ ins.) champion. If keenness counts he should go far.

South Africa is likely to send only a small athletic team to London. Nevertheless we feel certain that those ultimately selected will be worthy Olympic contenders.

Garscube Harriers will celebrate their Silver Jubilee of the Club in the Grand Hotel, Charing Cross, Glasgow, on Saturday, 10th April, at 7 p.m. Ticket 12/6, from Hon. Secy., J. Gunn, 112 Rogart Street, Glasgow, S.E.

* * * *

Interested in the Olympic Games? Then you should possess "OLYMPIAD 1948" by H. J. OATEN. Obtainable from "The Scots Athlete." Price 2/6 (postage 3d. extra).

Scottish Universities' Cross-Country Championship

That this year's Scottish Universities' Cross-Country Championships held at St. Andrew's, on Saturday, 14th February, 1948, aroused much more interest and speculation than usual in the weeks before the races was largely due to the sudden emergence of the possibility that Edinburgh University might break Glasgow's long run of successes in this event. Individual favourite was undoubtedly Tom Braid of Edinburgh, especially after his success in the Eastern District Championships the week before, but McGhee of Glasgow and Kendall of Aberdeen were expected to give him a tough run.

The weather on the day of the race rather let us down as the afternoon was showery and it was raining when the race started. By this time, however, the course was so waterlogged that another afternoon's rain could hardly matter. At 2.45 sharp the Principal of St. Andrew's University, Sir James C. Irvine, K.B.E., an old cross-country runner himself, dropped his stick and the field of thirty-two runners set off to an impressive start along one of the two principal streets of St. Andrew's.

Considering the nature of the race, the pace was not too fast, and at first the field held pretty well together, but at the end of the first half mile the leaders had drawn slightly ahead and, with a few minor changes among themselves, were to hold these positions till the end of the race. Johnstone and McGhee of Glasgow dominated the first two miles of the race over quite easy-going country but, once the ground began to rise towards the notorious Scoonie Hill, Tom Braid went into the lead and when he came off the hill had about 100 yards over McGhee. Braid evidently has a great liking for hills and would willingly have Scoonie three times its height.

At the half-way mark which Braid reached after 25 minutes, McGhee was running second, followed by Wilby of Edinburgh, a new figure in Scottish University cross-country running, with Johnstone and Kendall fourth and fifth.



T. H. Braid (Edinburgh University H. & H.) Eastern District Junior Champion winning the Scottish Universities cross-country race.

This order remained fixed until the second last mile, a downhill stretch of road leading back into the town. Here Kendall came into third place but did not really shake off Wilby, while Johnstone, who had fought most valiantly all the way, dropped into 6th place, while Buchan of St. Andrew's had now moved into 5th place. Then on the last quarter mile Wilby again took the third place so that the final order was as follows:—

1.—T. H. Braid (Edin.), 44.15; 2.—J. McGhee (Glas.), 44.29; 3.—R. F. Wilby (Edin.), 45.07; 4.—R. H. Kendall (Aber.), 45.15; 5.—J. Buchan (St. And.), 45.16; 6.—D. Johnstone (Glas.), 45.34; 7.—R. J. Sherwin (Edin.), 45.46; 8.—I. W. Laing (Glas.), 46.01.

The above were selected to meet the English and Welsh Universities at Edinburgh on Saturday, 28th February.

The team race was a grand close struggle as the final pointage show:—

1.—Glasgow, 53 Pts.; 2.—Edinburgh, 54 Pts.; 3.—St. Andrew's, 95 Pts.; 4.—Aberdeen, 120 Pts.

A large part of the route was marked by young lady undergraduates whose services we of St. Andrew's are very fortunate in having, and in which we lay claims to being unique.

After the race the four teams had a very pleasant tea together, at which Principal Sir James Irvine congratulated the winning team, but also the "small battalions" for fighting back valiantly. It was, as the Principal said, an outstanding sporting and social success, and all those present will certainly join in stressing the importance of the latter aspect.

ALLAN C. MEAKIN,
Hon. Secretary.

EASTERN DISTRICT CROSS-COUNTRY LEAGUE.

The Eastern District Cross-Country League was formed in Season 1924-1925 under the name of the Edinburgh and District Cross-Country League, the present name being adopted in Season 1936-37. George Sandilands, a former

member of the Edinburgh Harriers, presented a Shield to be known as the "Sandilands" Shield in 1927-1928, to be held by the winning Club.

Edinburgh Southern Harriers winning each successive race have retained the Shield for the present season. Here is the final League table:—

	Reces			
	1st	2nd	3rd	T.
Edinburgh Southern H.	35	60	56	151
Edinburgh Univ. H. & H.	78	55	87	220
Kirkcaldy Y.M.C.A.	103	122	99	324
H.M.S. Caledonia	119	115	95	329
Rover Scouts	166	157	168	491
Edinburgh Eastern H.	208	200	175	583
Edinburgh Harriers	230	204	273	707
Edinburgh Northern H.	237	253	223	713

Individuals—

First Race, 4 miles—J. Smart (E.S.H.), 1; W. Brown (E.S.H.), 2; T. H. Braid (E.U.A.C.), 3;

Second Race, 5 miles—J. Smart (E.S.H.), 1; T. J. Logan (E.S.H.), 2; R. F. Wilby (E.U.A.C.), 3.

Third Race, 6 miles—T. H. Braid (E.U.A.C.), 1; J. Preston (K.Y.M.), 2; E. Lucas (H.M.S. Caledonia), 3.

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