

## ROUND THE CLUBHOUSES

**Beith Harriers** have elected the following officials for the ensuing season:—President, A. F. Neilson; Hon. Secretary, M. Barr, 13 Reform Street, Beith; Hon. Treasurer, L. P. Martin. The activities of this club have been extended to incorporate weight-lifting, and a fair number of recruits have been enrolled.

\* \* \*

**Dunbartonshire A.A.A.** on Friday, 26th September, in Central Halls, Glasgow, held their first A.G.M., when the following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing season:—President—Mr. J. Gardner, Vale of Leven A.A.C.; Vice-President—Mr. D. B. Brooke, Garscube Harriers; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—Mr. W. Stevenson, Vale of Leven A.A.C.; with a Committee of two members from Garscube Harriers, Milngavie A.A.C., Helensburgh A.A.C., Vale of Leven A.A.C., Cumbernauld A.A.C., Dunbarton A.A.C. The following fixtures were arranged for cross-country season:—Relay Championship, 10 miles (Nov. 29th) at Brock Baths, Dunbarton; 7-miles Senior and 3-miles Youth Championship at Milngavie (January 10th).

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**Garscube Harriers** are heartened by the large turn-out of members for training at Westerton and are confident of good achievement in the coming Novice and Midland Championships.

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**Kirkcaldy Y.M.C.A. Harriers** send the gratifying news that Alex. Dow of international fame has donned his running strip to be out with the club members.

If the enthusiasm of this club's young members is maintained, their presence will be known in open championship events during the incoming cross-country season.

They send to harriers everywhere a hearty invitation to call at their club-rooms when in Fife. All will be warmly welcomed.

\* \* \*

**Shettleston Harriers**, keeping up to date with modern trends, have acquired a set of official standard starting blocks.

Members, old and new, are reminded that the Annual Dance takes place on 1st January, 1948, at Wellshot Road Hall as usual. Requests for tickets should be made to the Social Convener, R. L. Cannon, 47 Walnut Crescent, Glasgow, N.

The club magazine is being revived, and the Convener, D. P. Ferguson, will be glad to hear from old members who wish copies and also from those who care to write anything for publication about the past activities of the club.

\* \* \*

**Hillington Harriers** are maintaining a spirited enthusiasm and invite interested youths in the district to join. Note the new honorary secretary's address:—James Burns, Esq., 253 Glasgow Road, Ralston, Paisley.

\* \* \*

**Newcastle Harriers** are once again holding their great open road race from Morpeth to Newcastle (13 miles approximately) on Thursday, January 1st, 1948, for the Journal and North Mail Cup (last year's winner, J. Holden), also the Newcastle Harriers Team Trophy and Sunday Sun prizes.

The programme for the event is as follows:—Buses will be at Newcastle Central Station to take runners to their stripping accommodation at Morpeth. The event will be started by the Mayor of Morpeth, and the presentation of prizes by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle.

There will be refreshments for all competitors, followed by a visit to the pantomime in Newcastle.

Those who are interested in this event please get in touch with Mr. W. J. Scott, Hon. Secretary, Newcastle Harriers, 254 Sutton Dwellings, Benwell, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

\* \* \*

**Glasgow Y.M.C.A. A.C.** have now two training quarters and are having a grand turn-out of members at the Southern Institute, Eglinton Toll, and at the Western Institute, Peel Street.

The club will be looking after arrangements for the Y.M.C.A. Relay Championship, which will be run from the Great Western Laundry, Broomhill, on Saturday, 29th November.

# THE SCOTS ATHLETE

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Six Miles Track Champion, GEORGE CRAIG (Shettleston Har.), leading a group of runners in the Victoria Park Road Relay.

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BECAUSE WE LIKE IT  
PERTH-DUNDEE ROAD RACE  
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EDINBURGH SOUTHERN HARRIERS, 1897-1947



# The Scots Athlete

TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN  
SCOTTISH AND WORLD ATHLETICS

EDITED BY - WALTER J. ROSS

Editorial Offices—69 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, C.2 Tel.-CENTral 8443

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER Vol. 2 Nos. 7 & 8 Annual Subscription 6/6

## RUNNING COMMENTARY

by J. E. FARRELL

**A** LONG and most interesting season of track and field events has now concluded, and we have the usual brief, almost imperceptible lull, before the cross-country season gets into its stride.

Under present living conditions it is very difficult for athletes to retain their peak for any length of time, and I am sure a rest from competition will be welcome in most cases.

Yet, behind the scenes, those with possible chances of representing Great Britain at the Olympic Games next year will endeavour to take advantage of the "lull in hostilities" by quietly adopting a building-up programme.

Olympic training schemes are now announced, and with coaches appointed for specified events, physical culture courses scheduled, and film shots to be shown, the sport should take an upward trend.

I feel that the selectors must be quietly pleased with the outcome of the season's activities, not only by reason of actual performances, but also by future promise indicated, and it must be a pleasant though difficult task to make out a list of probables from such an embarrassment of riches.

### Wint shows Olympic Class

In the International field there was the test between the British Amateur Athletic Board and the Combined

Services on August 16th at the White City where a close match resulted in the former winning narrowly by 137 points to 134.

With all due respect to the many other splendid performances the highlight of the meeting was Wint's great victory in the 800 metres, with the brilliant time of 1min. 50sec., only .2sec. outside Tommy Hampson's Olympic record. Despite a gallant attempt up the back straight, A.A.A. Champion Tom White could not hold Wint when the giant cut loose and was pegged back to third place by that improving runner, H. J. Parlett. These three, along with H. I. Tarraway of Southampton, compose a formidable quartette at this distance; and with the possibility of Wint representing Great Britain, the country's reputation in this particular event is undoubtedly in good hands.

### Scots also Excel

From the Scottish point of view, D. McD. Clark's victory in the hammer with a mighty throw of 171ft. 3in., which outclassed his opponents, and Alan Paterson's winning jump of 6ft. 4in. were eminently satisfactory.

### France Reverses Last Year's Result

Largely by reason of points scored in the minor places, France defeated Britain in Paris on 7th September by 74 points to 55.



VICTORIA PARK A.A.C. ROAD RELAY

Top—The Start.

Bottom Left—Alec Kidd (Garscube H.), leader at the end of first leg, leading from D. Jackson (Shettleston H.) and G. White (Clydesdale).

Bottom Right—Arthur W. Warton (Garscube H.), putting in his effort in the second leg.



After such a hectic and brilliant season, and in view of recent events, McDonald Bailey's break-down in the 100 metres was not entirely unexpected, and a rest will do him a power of good. It would be too bad if a muscular condition developed to make this potential world-beater prone to a break-down.

Right nobly did that brilliant and promising young sprinter, J. C. Wilkinson, step into the breach, scoring a personal triumph as well as valuable points by taking second place in the 100 metres and winning the 200 metres in 21.3 seconds with a dashing display.

Notable victories for Britain were obtained by Finlay in the hurdles; Moody in the weight; Prince Adedoyin in the long jump; while Six Miles A.A.A. Champion Chivers turned the tables on colleague Olney in a brisk 5000 metres run. This pair seem certain candidates for Wembley next year at either 5000 or 10,000 metres. Paterson and Clark again justified their International selection with notable victories. The former's winning jump of 6ft. 5½in. was a specially fine effort.

Tom White in the 800 metres could finish no better than fourth, and seemed to have passed his peak for the season.

In the special 10,000 metres walking match not included in the team contest, H. G. Churcher, in winning, confirmed the excellent form he has shown throughout the season.

#### Miss Shivas Takes the Eye

At the World's University Games held at Paris, Wilkinson won both sprints, in which the Edinburgh University student, E. Cofie, figured prominently. He was third in both the 100 metres and 200 metres. Perhaps the most pleasing performance for Scottish enthusiasts was that of Miss Shivas of Aberdeen University who was runner-up in the women's 210 metres and fourth in the 100 metres. If she shows improving form next year, a Scottish woman may represent Great Britain at the Olympics after all.

#### McNab Robertson Breaks Record

In winning the 22 miles Perth to Dundee road race with a brilliant record-breaking performance of 2 hours 3 minutes 25 seconds, Donald Robertson proved that he is running as fast as ever.

The course is flat and essentially one for the speed merchant, yet Robertson beat my record time of last year (which many thought would last for some time) by fully 1 min. 18 sec., and was nearly 2½ minutes faster than his previous best in 1942.

This augurs well for his claims to selection in the Olympic Marathon next year, and on this form he would make his presence felt in this classic race.

#### Olympic Candidate from Dundee?

Charlie Robertson of Dundee Thistle, better known as a cross-country runner, made a sensational debut in this race by holding his more famous namesake to the last three miles of this gruelling event, and finished runner-up in the magnificent time of 2 hours 5 minutes 17 seconds, only 34 seconds outside the old record.

He is being urged to concentrate on the Marathon event next year, for possible Olympic selection by some experts who believe he may be Scotland's best prospect in this event.

W. Kennedy of Kilbarchan ran his usual steady race to finish third; but running perhaps my worst ever race, I finished a poor fourth.

A fortnight later, in the 17 mile road race from Stewarton to Pollokshaws, promoted by Bellahouston Harriers, I made amends by narrowly beating colleague Robertson after a neck-and-neck race, and just managed inside Dunky Wright's record of 1945.

#### Cross-Country Prospects

There is something about the spirit of cross-country running which gladdens the heart of every enthusiast. The essentially amateur spirit which pervades the sport; the exhilaration of running in cold and even wintry weather; the camaraderie of pack-

running; the cultivation of team spirit rather than individual distinction, are all characteristic of this great winter sport.

Experience and judgment help the athlete to reach his best form for a specific time or event, and, in this form of building up condition, one attains something of the joy of the artist, of the painter who completes a picture, or the sculptor who creates the finished statue from the crude beginnings. The keep-fit and the racing enthusiast are both catered for.

The blue riband of cross-country racing, the International, is this season to be held at Reading, and Scotland should show improving form. It is good news to hear that our star performer at Paris last year, Jim Flockhart, has not lost his interest in the sport, and is keeping fit. While it may be too much to regard him as a starter in the International again, it is not outside the bounds of probability that he may make yet another bid.

#### Novice Championship Races

Although the season has just started, most novices will be endeavouring to tune up to concert pitch as their National Championship takes place very early in the season—Saturday, 22nd November, to be exact. Prior to that, the novice club championships of the clubs will be run off, and then we may have a clearer indication of individual and team prospects. It is rather early to discuss these, but among the favourites for the individual

title must be those two more than useful milers, R. Smith of Garscube and unattached novice R. Garry who showed extraordinary form during the season in open handicaps. In his club's novice championship, Smith finished runner-up, and in the National Championship he secured fourth position with a grand display of running, but retains his novice status through being just outside the prize-list. Garry must be a danger to any contender in this race should be elect to go forward as one who can run such an excellent mile is certain to have the necessary ingredients of speed and stamina, but studies may preclude him.

J. Jackson, the Shettleston novice, impressed me as a likely lad at the MacAndrew relay. He is strongly built, and the fact that he earned his place in such a strong Shettleston relay team speaks for itself. The Novice Championship has always been a difficult race to assess, as the form is little known; and perhaps in some village hamlet or some obscure wayside place there will emerge a runner to upset all calculations.

Of team prospects I am in the dark. In Vale of Leven's great victory last year I believe that their infectious zeal was not the least ingredient in their triumph.

#### The "Come-back" Trail

Down at Loughborough in August 1 I met many well known athletes, including Alec Burns, 6-miles record-holder; Olympic quarter-miler A. G. K. Brown, and J. Alford of Wales who won the British Empire mile championship at Australia in 1938.

I was informed that it is quite true that both Brown and Alford are attempting a come-back next year to big-time athletics, with Olympic selection in view, but with a lengthening of their distances to respectively half-mile and three miles.

Alford was not seen to much advantage this year owing to muscle trouble. Apparently it is Brown's considered opinion that it takes fully two years to make a come-back. Certainly the man

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who at Berlin in the 400 metres final chased the coloured American Williams to the breadth of a tram ticket after being drawn in the worst lane, and played such a notable part in Britain's great victory in the 1600 metres relay is not taking lightly his attempt to recover championship form. It will be interesting to watch developments in both cases.

#### Staleness—the Lesson of Lovelock

When Jack Lovelock of New Zealand broke the tape to win the 1500 metres Olympic final at Berlin in 1936 in the then world record of 3 minutes 47.8 seconds he was a human dynamo super-charged with energy. Lovelock was of the school that believed that an athlete reached his peak once in a season, and all critics agreed that Lovelock, matching practice to theory, had timed his preparation to perfection on that August afternoon in 1936.

Yet exactly one year before, in the summer of 1935, Lovelock seemed to be on the slide. Not only had he been eclipsed by the rising new star, Wooderson, both at the White City and at Ibrox, but he failed to produce his famous finishing kick; he appeared

tired, jaded, stale. To quote a well-known critic: "I thought Lovelock did not look very well at the finish. He is certainly not the man we saw on the tracks last year. He has probably run too many fast miles and now requires a rest. It makes me wonder how long an athlete can continue racing at such a very high standard."

Nothing daunted, Lovelock settled down to a judicious programme of graduated training calculated to bring him to his peak at a given time. He ran several races at the half-mile distance and several over 2 and 3 miles, making certain of both speed and stamina. As he himself admitted, there were two things in his favour. Firstly, he had the leisure time to carry out his programme; and, secondly, at the White City on the eve of the Olympics, when the British athletes were racing for selection, Lovelock was assured of his place in the New Zealand team.

Yet Lovelock's example can be a lesson to all. To some of our athletes on both sides of the Border who have struck a stubborn period of staleness it can be a heartening tonic.

## S.A.A.A. NOTES

A Meeting of the General Committee of the S.A.A.A. was held in Edinburgh on Wednesday, 15th October, 1947, when the following were the principal items of business transacted:—

Reports were submitted on the Junior Championships, the Triangular Match, the Scottish Marathon Championship, the A.A.A. Junior, Senior and Marathon Championships. In connection with the Scottish Junior Championships, full credit was given to the able work of the local Harrier Club and Officials in Kilmarnock, but the suggestion was made that future Junior Championships, both from the point of view of facilities in field and travel, should be confined to either Edinburgh or Glasgow.

A statement was submitted regarding equipment purchased, and it was reported that three sets of starting blocks had been made available by the Association at Ibrox Park for the use of athletes.

A change-over from medals to plaques for Championship Awards had been carried into effect for the season's events, and, according to all reports, the plaques had proved very acceptable.

The Olympic Appeal Fund was reported by the Hon. Treasurer to have reached £633 4s 1d.

Mr. D. McL. Wright set out the coaching scheme now in operation in the Western District, and referred to the arrangements being made for a similar scheme to be set in operation in the East. In view of the limits imposed by the relatively small response to the Appeal Fund, the appointment of a full-time coach was considered not feasible, but the Secretary was empowered to make tentative enquiries for obtaining the services of Mr. Dyson (the A.A.A. Official Coach), for a short period during the winter.

The following Clubs were affiliated:—St. Modan's High School A.A.C., Johnstone Y.M.C.A., Bonnyrigg A.A.C.

The following Records were approved:—

Scottish Native Hammer Throw—D. McD. Clark, 168 ft. 9½ in. (28/6/47).

Scottish Native Three Miles—A. Forbes, 14 min. 32.2 sec. (5/7/47).

\*Scottish All-Comers' High Jump—W. Vessie and A. Paterson (joint), 6 ft. 7½ in. (2/8/47).

\*Subject to acceptance by B.A.A.B. as British Record.

(The High Jump performances have now been recognised as British Records.)

Continued on Page 16.

## PHOTOFLASH NO. 9.

### CHARLES D. ROBERTSON

(DUNDEE THISTLE HARRIERS)



Seldom indeed does a long distance runner make a name for himself without serving a long and hard apprenticeship, but this has happened in the case of "Chick" Robertson of Dundee Thistle.

Previous to 1945 Chick's whole interest lay in cycling, but while in Germany with the 7th Black Watch he did so well with his Battalion's cross-country team (which won its Brigade, Divisional, and Corps Championships) he was chosen to captain the B.A.O.R. Team against the Belgians and Americans at Brussels in March, 1946. In this race he finished tenth. Against the Home Army he captained the Rhine Army Team and in this race finished sixth.

By the time he was demobbed the sport had made another convert and he joined Dundee Thistle. Since then he has won the Eastern District Junior Championship, but had a setback in the National when he had to retire through injury. Fully recovered by May 10, he won the Brechin 12-mile road race. In his best yet, the Perth to Dundee 22-mile road race, he finished second to Marathon Champion Donald Robertson, beating some of the best distance runners in the country.

Notwithstanding this brilliant showing, I should like to see Chick limit himself to ten and twelve miles for a year or so and not risk the longer distances meantime. This season I would like to see him concentrating on an all-out cross-country programme, gaining the necessary background of racing stamina and building up his confidence and the will to win through the testing experience of cross-country racing which will stand him in good stead for future full marathon efforts. I am looking forward to seeing Chick leading a strong Northern challenge in the Scottish National, doing battle for Individual honours, and winning a place for himself in the International team.

ROY ROBINSON.



# MY IMPRESSIONS AT LOUGHBOROUGH

by ROY M. SMITH

Scottish Broad Jump Champion and Lecturer in Physical Education, Emergency Physical Training College, Aberdeen.

Towards the end of August, the A.A.A. organised a new venture in athletics by holding courses for athletes at Loughborough College.

Three courses were run:—

Course A.—August 4th to 16th inclusive. This was intended for schoolmasters, youth leaders, club coaches, and others who wished to become efficient coaches in athletics.

Courses B and C.—August 18th to 23rd, and August 25th to 30th (inclusive) respectively, to enable active athletes to improve their own personal performances. Students were given as free a hand as possible. They could attach themselves permanently to the coach of their particular event or, if they were interested in several events, to divide their time as they desired. The athlete was under no obligation to study events in which he was not interested.

We were very fortunate in having an excellent athletics stadium in which to work. The weather, also, was excellent; in fact, at times it was just too warm.

Students were accommodated in nearby hostels where living conditions were first class. Fees were very moderate—board and lodging cost £2 12s 6d and tuition fees were 30s—so it was possible to obtain a week's holiday with instruction in one's favourite sport for a total cost of £4 2s 6d.

This resume of the organisation of the Loughborough course would not be complete without adequate reference to the magnificent array of coaches whose names are highlights of British athletics, both past and present:—Senior Tutor, M. C. Nokes, M.C.; Assistant Tutor, R. St. G. T. Harper; Chief Coach, G. H. Dyson.

The Senior Tutor and the Chief Coach were assisted by leading coaches and champions appointed by A.A.A. These included S. C. Wooderson, A. G. K. Brown, J. H. Dodd, K. S. Duncan, T. Hampson, G. J. Pallett, D. C. V. Watts, J. Alford, and A. Burns. Lectures, in addition, by A.A.A. officials and other specialists were arranged. Films of the 1936 Olympic games were shown, and Guy Butler showed his own films of recent athletic competitions, including the remarkable high jumping of Alan Paterson and Bill Vessie.

These coaches were full of enthusiasm and many of them gave up part of their summer holidays to assist in raising the standard of British athletics. They spared no pains to demonstrate correct technique and point out, correct, and eliminate small but vital errors which make all the difference between a good athlete and a champion. Their advice was invaluable, and it was the unanimous opinion of all that the course was worth while.

But one such course is not enough; more are needed, not only in England but also in Scotland.

## The Decathlon Championships

On the Friday and Saturday the British Decathlon Championships were held at Loughborough Stadium.

On Friday afternoon the following events were held:—100 metres, long jump, shot, high jump, and 400 metres. On Saturday—110 metres hurdles, discus, pole vault, javelin, 1500 metres.

To those who know little about this particular championship, I will explain briefly. The competitor competes against times and distances. A competitor may not win a single event but

may win the championship. When a certain standard of time and distance is achieved, a certain number of points are allotted. These points are in accordance with the I.A.A.F. as used in the Olympic Games.

For example, Whittle, who was first in the long jump with 22ft. 11in., gained 804 points. I, second with 22ft. 4in., gained 739 points; while 18ft. 7½in. gained 414 points. Approximately 1000 points is the maximum for an event.

It was a hard day, and most eyes and attention were focussed on Moesgaard Kjeldsen (Polytechnic) a Swede of grand all-round ability; also Captain Whittle who made quite a name for himself at the A.A.A. Championships.

Whittle did well the first day and led the field. The best results were:—400 m., Whittle, 50.9; Shot, Barratt, 41ft. 11in.

Results at the end of the first day:—

1—Capt. Whittle	3410 points
2—H. Moesgaard Kjeldsen	3096
3—D. Vanhegan	3036
4—A. M. Willis	2976
5—R. M. Smith	2971
6—R. Collett	2863

Most of the 15 competitors were feeling the strain the second day, which began with the hurdles. Fine hurdling was seen by the Swede who clocked 16.6 against a strong wind. This race proved disastrous for me at the third flight when I crash landed. I collected 247 points, taking 22.4 seconds, this putting me well out of the running for a place.

Highlights of the afternoon were as follows:—

Moesgaard Kjeldsen—Hurdles, 16.6; high jump, 5ft 10½ in; javelin, 178ft. 10in. Pole vault, 10ft. 9in. J. Dodd—Pole vault, 11ft.

Final placings were:—

1—Moesgaard Kjeldsen	5965 points
2—Capt. Whittle	5650
3—N. Dear	4962

It is interesting to compare our puny efforts with that of Glenn Morris, U.S.A., who, at Berlin 1936 Olympic Games set up a new world's record of 7900 points. His times and distances were:—

	Points
100 Metres, 11.1 seconds	814
Long Jump, 22ft. 10½in.	796
Shot, 46ft. 3in.	826
High Jump, 6ft. 3½in.	846
400 Metres, 49.4 seconds	910
110 Hurdles, 14.9 seconds	946
Discus, 141ft. 1½in.	803
Pole Vault, 11ft. 5½in.	692
Javelin, 178ft. 10½in.	672
1500 Metres, 4 m. 33.2 sec.	595

7900

Truly an amazing feat and a remarkable athlete. We have a long way to go yet.

It was a tired but relieved Decathlon crowd who finished after the last gruelling event—the 1500 metres—and, as we left the track, we were in time to hear the cheering as that grand runner, Jack Holden, came on the track to finish the marathon. I had not long to wait until Donald Robertson and Emmet Farrell appeared. It was a heartening sight to see our worthy Scottish long-distance men finish the gruelling course in such grand style.

And so ended a memorable week of sport among Britain's finest athletes who on the field showed the highest form of sportsmanship, and in the social sphere were jolly good comrades.

Again, the query—What about a similar course in Scotland officially sponsored by the S.A.A.A.? I am sure a ready response would be forthcoming from Scottish athletes.

We thank all those individuals and clubs who helped to make our stance at the Youth and Recreation Exhibition such a great publicity success.

We particularly thank Johnny Cutbert, Donald Robertson and "Dunky" Wright, whose personal collections formed the main display. We admired their co-operative spirit.



# THIRTY-MILES ROAD RACE

## JACK HOLDEN WINS IN RECORD TIME

by H. W. NEALE



Photo by H. W. Neale of Jack Holden in his record-breaking 30 miles race.

[Because of the intense interest in Marathon racing in Scotland, and interest of readers in the career of Jack Holden, we are grateful to H. W. Neale of Highgate Harriers for his account of this race. Holden's time is phenomenal.—Editor.]

**W**ITH conditions far from ideal, the famous South London Harriers "30" attracted an entry of 58 runners, 40 of whom started on the first of four laps of 7½ miles each. After a normal start, the field began to break up into fast, medium, and slow packs, with J. Holden (Tipton H.), G. Fox (Mitcham A.C.), T. Richards (S. London H.), L. H. Griffiths (Reading A.C.), and F. Gratton (Macclesfield A.C.) prominent early on. At the finish of the first lap Fox was leading Holden and Richards, with Griffiths and Gratton close up. When Fox

retired at the beginning of the second lap, it looked to be the penalty of too much pace at the start.

In the second lap, Holden, increasing his pace, drew slowly away from the rest, and at 15 miles was leading Richards by 150-200 yards; Griffiths by a half-mile; and Morgan with Gratton, a further half-mile behind him. The rest were dropping rapidly behind, with the last man 38 minutes in arrears.

With Holden maintaining his speed, he increased his lead still farther over the third lap, Richards being 3½ min. behind, Morgan 10 min., and Gratton 16 min. behind, and most of the field had just completed the second lap, while a few were retiring.

During the last lap Holden, with apparently effortless action and beautiful style, increased his lead still more and, actually sprinting to the finish, won in the new course and

distance record of 2 hours 59 minutes 47 seconds, which is a minute better than the track record he set up in October, 1946. If he can do this after a bad week (colds and loss of appetite), with his wife forecasting for the first time in his athletic career that he would be beaten, what will he do next year at the Olympics, perfectly fit and against opposition which will make him do even better? After this last effort, I believe Jack Holden will always do what he says he can, and unless there is a freak or a superman, Holden will win the Olympic Marathon of 1948.

Compared with Holden, the remainder tend to be ordinary and mediocre, but even then Richards beat his previous record standing till 1945, and Morgan and Gratton put up excellent performances.

The first six were:—

	1st lap	2nd lap	3rd lap	4th lap	Total Time.
1—J. T. Holden, Tipton H. ....	43.26	43.13	44.59	48.09	2 59 47
2—T. Richards, S. London H. ....	43.58	43.30	47.39	52.20	3 7 27
3—D. E. Morgan, Mitcham A.C. ....	46.46	46.52	47.35	51.39	3 12 52
4—F. Gratton, Macclesfield H. ....	46.43	48.21	51.59	55.12	3 22 15
5—L. H. Griffiths, Reading A.C. ....	43.55	47.00	56.04	60.55	3 27 54
6—S. F. Jones, Poly. H. ....	47.54	48.00	51.41	67.25	3 35 09

In F. Gratton of Macclesfield Harriers, I would like to say, we have a very good runner, and it augurs well for future northern athletics. This youngster of 23 (rather young for Marathon stuff!) is already a first-class athlete, and in the S.L.H. "30" beat older and more experienced runners by correct paced running. If he is patient and continues to be carefully nursed by his father, I am predicting he will be among the Marathon possibles of the 1952 Olympics. Next year A. E. Tyrer of Sutton Harriers will have to be careful in his training if he is to retain his Northern Marathon title.

58 entered, 40 started, 20 finished. The first six achieved standard, and the next nine received time certificates.

Team Race:—South London H., 2.10.19—31 points; Herne Hill H., 7.9.17—33 points.

# STEWARTON-POLLOKSHAWS RACE

Fifteen faced the starter at Stewarton, and we were again honoured by the presence of the Provost to act in this capacity. Before reaching Dunlop (2½ miles), four runners had stretched a gap between themselves and the rest of the field, and these were Robertson, J. E. Farrell, W. Kennedy, and J. Walker (Dumbarton). At Lugton (5½ miles), Robertson was 8 yards in front of Farrell, with Kennedy 60 yards behind, and Walker a further 50 away. Robertson led by 5 yards at Caldwell (6½ miles), but the other two had dropped behind, Kennedy being about 180 yards away, and Walker a further 200 off. At half-distance the leaders were about two minutes inside "Dunky" Wright's 1945 record, but lost ground in the next stages, and by Thornliebank the leading pair, with about three yards separating them, were just 19 seconds

inside Wright's record time. Kennedy was now about ½ mile behind, while Walker was a further ¼ mile after Kennedy; and J. Martin of Maryhill and George Taylor of Shettleston had crept nearer Walker and were now inside two minutes behind him.

On Donald and Emmett raced until the bridge about a quarter of a mile to go, and here Farrell tried Robertson and raced ahead to run out winner by 9 seconds or about 50 yards, in a new course record of 1 hour 36 minutes 2 seconds, thus beating "Dunky's" 1945 figures by 3 seconds. Full times are as follows:—

- 1—J. E. Farrell, Maryhill Harriers, 1 hour 36 minutes 2 seconds.
- 2—D. McN. Robertson, Maryhill H., 1 hour 36 minutes 11 seconds.
- 3—W. Kennedy, Kilbarchan Harriers, 1 hour 41 minutes 46 seconds.



## RAISE YOUR SIGHTS

by JAMES L. LOGAN

**D**URING the past season there were some high grade performances by several juniors, notable among them being the consistent jumping of A. G. Ramsay and W. Bisland, the 1.56 half by J. S. Petty, off 20 yards, and the sprinting of A. Y. Monahan.

A season of good performances by juniors always raises hopes that we are at last producing a generation of athletes who will pull up our general standards nearer International levels.

The argument always runs: "If these lads can accomplish such feats at seventeen they should be approaching International class when they attain full manhood." But it seldom works out like that. Once or twice in a decade we have an Eric Liddell, an F. P. Reid, a Bobby Graham, or an Alan Paterson. What happens to the others who promised much?

Too much stress, I think, if often put on early "burning out." Certainly this condition, which can be roughly interpreted as a kind of permanent staleness, brought about by too frequent competition, does occasionally show itself in youths whose enthusiasm leads them to ignore the advice of their older and more experienced friends and advisers. But the condition is invariably confined to those competing in the gruelling middle-distance events and, even then, the improved standard of club coach and the deference shown to him by most of the youngsters keeps the number of "burned out" athletes at a negligible figure.

Again, with others, the intrusion of other interests, studies, and the demands of ordinary life often take the edge off enthusiasm for training and practice.

Nevertheless, we cannot ignore the fact that many of our youthful stars who are assiduous in training and practice and mindful of the coach's advice, attain a certain standard in their teens and never go much higher

thereafter. Offhand I can name half-a-dozen half-milers who beat 2min. 4sec. for the distance as youths, and yet who never subsequently came near 2min. I submit that any 17-year-old boy who can beat 2min. 4sec. and who retains his normal health is capable of getting under 2 minutes when he has reached full manhood.

The answer to this problem of our youthful athletes who fail to show any appreciable improvement after a certain stage, lies, I consider, in the mental approach to the sport.

As our example let us take the lad who competes in what I shall have the temerity to describe as the simplest athletic event, the 100 yards sprint. Now, it is the easiest thing in the world for a healthy boy to run as hard as he can over a short distance such as 100 yards. Our lad discovers, probably at his school sports, that, without any extensive practice, he can cover the distance in 11 or even 10 4-5 seconds. This natural ability engenders an enthusiasm which lead him to a club where elementary lessons on sprinting technique quickly improve his time by one-fifth or two-fifths seconds. But anyone can learn starting technique or eliminate easily corrected faults such as wrong arm action. The club coach, however, observes that the lad has a fundamental fault, perhaps a slight splay of the foot or a tendency to crouch.

This is when our lad comes to the athletic cross-roads. By this time he is competing in handicap events and picking up an odd prize now and again. The correction of a fundamental fault in his natural action, the taking of his style to pieces and building it up again, is a long and tedious process. During this difficult period he will have to set aside any thoughts of competition. Which road will he take? The easy one (to comparative mediocrity), where he can have a lot of fun without

too much effort, picking up the odd prize off a longish handicap, perhaps even occasionally "making" the club relay team; or the hard way, sweating at tedious practice, refraining from competition, for long feeling that he is getting nowhere until he emerges a better athlete than ever before.

Most lads take the former road; for competition, especially when attended by occasional success, is the wine of the sport. With the jumpers and the field events boys it is a similar story; perhaps seen in its crudest form with the high-jumper who goes on season after season with the out-moded scissors style or a rough and ready Western Roll when a few months' sacrifice of intensive competition, used in gaining better technique, would assuredly result in definite improvement.

All the evidence proves that the great athlete is the product of a policy of gradual improvement. Olympic victors H. M. Abrahams and Jack Lovelock set themselves a four-year plan of preparation, all intermediate activities being merely milestones on the road to Olympic glory. Tom Hampson, whose training plan for his 1932 Olympic 800 metres triumph was recently published in this magazine, also had a long range target, while the great Sydney Wooderson, baulked by circumstances from Olympic heights, was another who regarded the achievements of each season as rungs in a ladder which ended at two world records.

And, right in front of us, our own Alan Paterson is demonstrating the pattern with his 1944-5-6-7 "bests" of 5ft. 10in., 6ft. 3in., 6ft. 6½in., and 6ft. 7½in.

Look back on your own activities in the past season (and this is also addressed to those who have long since said good-bye to their teens). Did you improve on your best performance? If the answer is "No," you have a worthwhile job for next season or, better still, during the winter months if facilities are available then for practice.

Unless, of course, you are satisfied that you have reached your peak; that is, that you have added to your natural ability the maximum of technical efficiency. And I doubt if there are half-a-dozen athletes in Scotland who can lay an honest claim to that.

Set yourself a target. Or, better, ask your coach to set it for you. And, if you are a teen-ager, make your target a modest one. For, in addition to your target for next season, you must have a better one for the season after that, and again—and again.



Dear Editor,

Your enterprise with the Athletics stand at the Youth and Recreation Exhibition should give a fillip to the sport and to the magazine.

I liked the "souvenir" issue, and you appear to have tickled the clubs into a timely reminder to the public of their existence. I have always thought that, to the more shy type of boy, harrier clubs appear to be a kind of exclusive institution requiring a personal introduction. In fact, as I suggested in the magazine some time ago, most recruits to clubs do actually join up under the persuasion of an existing member. The "hearty welcomes" in *The Scots Athlete* should help to correct matters considerably.

Yours in sport,

JIM LOGAN.

Dear Sir,

On behalf of Clydesdale Harriers, I wish to extend to you our warmest thanks and congratulations on your magnificent display at the Youth and Recreation Exhibition. Great credit is due you for having our sport represented. We sincerely hope your efforts met with the success they so richly deserve.

Yours sincerely,

J. MORGAN, Hon. Secy.



## SCANDINAVIAN ATHLETICS

by M. S. BROOKE

AT the Stadium, Stockholm, there took place on September 6th, 7th, and 8th, a contest between Swenden (S) and a combined Nordic team representing Denmark (D), Finland (F), Iceland (I), and Norway (N). The meeting consisted of the twenty Olympic events, Decathlon and Marathon. Each team had three representatives in each event. Weather conditions were ideal, and the wildly enthusiastic crowds were treated to brilliant performances. Ten European champions competed, but only four succeeded in winning the events at which they are European champions.

The programme commenced with the 100 metres which Strandberg (S), who was lying second at 60 metres, won with his customary powerful finish. Thorvaldsson (I) was second, and Nilsson (S) third. All three clocked 10.9 seconds.

Both Strandberg and Lidman (S) (who won the 110 metres hurdles effortlessly) are veterans, having run in the 1936 Olympic finals. Both are European record holders—Lidman the hurdles in 14.3 seconds, and Strandberg the 100 metres in 10.3 seconds.

The most eagerly awaited event of the first day was the 800 metres. Holst-Sorenson (D), European 400 metres champion, who is undecided whether to concentrate on the 400 or 800 metres, and Storskrubb (F), European 400 metres hurdles champion, were opposed by Ljunggren, Swedish 800 metres champion and Bengtsson (S). All these men are capable of beating 1.51 for the distance. Stark tragedy befell Sweden and robbed the race of much of its glamour when on the second bend Jorgensen (D) accidentally bowled over Ljunggren who finished the race in one shoe. Meanwhile, Storskrubb, against his will, was forced to make the pace, and the first lap was run in the slow time of 55.3 secs. 200 metres from the tape,

Holst-Sorenson sprinted past, closely followed by Bengtsson. However, Holst-Sorenson maintained his lead, and Bengtsson, flinging himself at the tape, managed to finish second, inches ahead of Storskrubb. Time was 1.49.8.

The 5000 metres was won by Nyberg (S). After ten laps the race developed into a duel between Nyberg, Durkfeldt (S) and Perala (F), but Nyberg with an amazing turn of speed over the last 600 metres won by seven metres from Perala with Durkfeldt third. Time was 14.24.6.

### SECOND DAY

The best performance of the second day, and possibly of the meeting, was the magnificent steeplechase victory of Sjostrand (S) in 9.02.4. No official world record exists for this distance, but this time must rank as one of the best ever recorded. Sweden, out to break Finnish dominancy in this event, packed tightly all the way, and it was only the intervention of Siltalooppi (F) that prevented Sweden occupying the first three positions. Siltalooppi, who was second, returned a time of 9.04.0, which is eight seconds better than his previous best for the distance. On this performance Sjostrand is practically certain to win next year's Olympic steeplechase.

An attempt was then made on the 4 x 880 yards relay record, and the Swedish team of Liljekvist, Bengtsson, Linden and Gustavsson returned a time of 7 mins. 29 secs. to break by 5.6 seconds the record held by the University of California.

In pole vault, hop step and jump, and javelin, European champions were concerned, and only in the pole vault did the European champion win. In this event Kataja (F) only won by virtue of fewer faults than Lindberg (S). The hop, step and jump brought roars from the crowd time and again. Four men cleared over 49 feet, and

Rautio (F), the European champion, lost by the narrow margin of 0.3 inches. Competition was as keen in the javelin, where Attervall (S), the European champion, who was fourth in the 1936 Olympics, was beaten by Hyytiainen (F). All six throwers exceeded 210 feet.

The 400 metres again had Holst-Sorenson and Storskrubb representing the Nordic team, and they were opposed by Lunkvist, Swedish 200 metre champion, and Larsson, Swedish 400 metres champion. Ahlénvik, the Swedish third string, made most of the running, but Lundkvist, with a powerful finish, unexpectedly proved too strong for the Nordic representatives and won in 47.9 seconds.

Previously to this the 200 metres had been a personal triumph for 18-year-old Icelander Clausen who, in clocking 21.9 seconds, bettered his previous best time by 0.2 seconds.

The conclusion of the Decathlon saw Epa Andersson (S) winning with the

magnificent aggregate of 7045 points. Special mention must be made of Andersson's 110 metres hurdles in 15.5 and a high jump of 6 feet. In fact, his performances in quarter-mile, putt, long and high jumps, and 110 metres hurdles would have won him Scottish championship titles this year.

The day finished in wild excitement with Hietanen (F), the European champion, winning the marathon in the remarkable time of 2 hours 30 minutes 58 seconds. Considering that the day was hot and the distance was 26 miles 281 yards, Hietanen must be considered a potential Olympic winner. Hietanen won the trophy presented by the Crown Prince of Sweden for the best performance of the meeting.

### THIRD DAY

Bjork (S) won the high jump with a leap of 6ft. 6in. He then attempted a new Swedish native record of 6ft. 7½in., and only failed narrowly to establish this figure. European champion Bolinder (S) could do no better than fifth place with a jump of 6ft. 0½in.

Bo Ericsson (S) won the hammer with a wonderful effort of 182ft. 1½in. This ranks as one of the best performances of the meet, and is probably the best distance thrown in Europe this year.

In the 400 metres hurdles, Storskrubb and Larsson renewed their rivalry of the previous day. Both men approached the last hurdle together, and it was only in the run in that Larsson pulled ahead to win in 52.6 seconds, which is only 0.2 seconds outside the Swedish record. Storskrubb and Larsson should be prominent in next year's Olympics.

There was great disappointment when World-record-holder Strand (S) did not run in the 1500 metres. However, Eriksson (S) proved a worthy deputy and won in 3.50.2. Jorgensen (D) was second, and 19-year-old Johansson (F) ran a great race to finish fourth in 3.52.8, which is 8 seconds better than his previous best. He will be heard of again.

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The "Flying Finns" were beaten in the 10,000 metres by the brilliant running of Albertsson (S). This was Albertsson's debut as a 10,000 metre



T. MAKI.

runner, and he proved himself to be of world championship class. Former World-record holder Maki (F), whom readers will recall having seen at Ibrox in 1940 when he made a new Scottish All-comers three-mile record, and Heinström (F) led Albertsson until the last lap when Albertsson sprinted strongly to win by six metres from Heinström. Maki, although running gallantly, lacked the finishing speed and could do no better than third position. Faster opening laps would have probably given the Finns victory. Time was 30.29.6.

A wonderful meeting finished with the two relays which Sweden won, giving her a final points victory of 248-213.

## OTHER RESULTS

110 metres hurdles—(1) Lidman (S); (2) Suvivuo (F); (3) Kristoffersson (S). 14.6 seconds.  
Long Jump—(1) G. Strand (S), 24ft. 0½in.; (2) Laessker (S), 23ft. 8¾in.; (3) Tranberg (N), 23ft. 4in.  
Discus—(1) Nykvist (F) 160ft. 4in.; (2) Ramstad (N) 159ft. 1½in.; (3) Huutoniemi (F) 155ft. 8¾in.  
Pole Vault—(1) Kataja (F), 13ft. 9¾in.; (2) Lindberg (S), 13ft. 9¾in.; (3) Ohlsson (S), 13ft. 7¾in.  
200 Metres—(1) Clausen (I), (2) Tranberg (N); (3) Lundkvist (S). 1min. 21.9 sec.  
Hop, Step and Jump—(1) Moberg (S), 49ft. 8½in.; (2) Rautio (F), 49ft. 8½in.; (3) Hallgren (S) 49ft. 3¾in.  
Javelin—(1) Hyyteainen (F) 231ft. 6½in.; (2) Attervall (S), 223ft. 7in.; (3) Pettersson (S), 222ft. 8¾in.  
Marathon—(1) Heitanen (F), 2.30.58; (2) Larsson (S), 2.36.08; (3) Ostling (S), 2.41.10.  
Hammer—(1) Ericsson (S), 182ft. 1¾in.; (2) Kuivamaki (F), 177ft. 4½in.; (3) Tamminen (F) 167. 4in.  
Weight—(1) Nilsson (S) 50ft. 4½in.; (2) Lehtila (F), 49ft. 6½in.; (3) Petersson (S), 49ft. 4¾in.

## S.A.A.A. NOTES.—Continued from Page 6.

Re-instatements.—The following were approved: D. Agnew (Stewarton), J. M. Greer (Glasgow), J. Fisher (Ayr), and Five Members of Denny A.A.C.

The suggestion that the Annual Triangular Match be taken over by the B.A.A.B. was considered, when the S.A.A.A. delegates were authorised to support the proposal.

In view of the forthcoming Olympic Games, consideration was given to the question of Sports Dates for 1948. The following dates were approved:—

S.A.A.A. Championships—June, 11th and 12th, 1948.

Triangular Match (England)—July 17th, 1948.

It was agreed to recommend to the A.G.M. that the S.A.A.A. Marathon Championship be held in September, 1948.

The following dates were noted:—

A.A.A. Championships—July 2nd and 3rd, 1948.

British Empire v. U.S.A.—August 12th, 1948 (evening).

The Hon. Secretary reported that he had issued application forms for Olympic Tickets (Athletics) to all Clubs, Associations, etc., affiliated to the Association. Such applications fell to be completed by the Clubs concerned and forwarded direct to London, the Association having no control or say in the matter of allocations. Applications required to be submitted before 15th November, 1947.

In connection with the S.A.A.A. High Jump Championship, C. H. Steele (St. Andrews University) was credited with joint third place.

Regarding Rangers F.C. Sports, it was reported that action had been taken by the Association on the reported intention of the organisers to restrict entries of novices and for the open mile event, and that the organisers had withdrawn the published restrictions.

With the British Police Championships due for decision in Scotland next year, and the necessity of setting arrangements in motion for this event, the General Committee approved the allocation of the date, 27th July, 1948, for this event. (Hampden Park is the probable venue.)

It was reported that a team of Scottish University students had proceeded to Paris and taken part in the World Students' Games without the necessary permission having been obtained from the S.A.A.A. After considering the correspondence in this connection, it was agreed to accept the explanation and apology submitted on behalf of the athletes concerned.



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## THE "FIERY CROSS"

### EDINBURGH TO LONDON RELAY RUN



By W. CARMICHAEL  
(Team Manager)

As a member, and on behalf of the "Fiery Cross" team, the Editor expresses appreciation of Mr. Carmichael as Team Manager. He had the most difficult physical task of all—looking after the team's welfare and keeping runners to the schedule. He was most courteous and capable, and we all enjoyed his company.

A better means of focussing world-wide attention on the "Enterprise Scotland" Exhibition, which opened in Edinburgh on 25th August, and was designed to foster Scottish industry, could not have been conceived, than that of reviving the 200 years dormant "Fiery Cross," and sending it forth of Scotland. The idea was sound and the cause worthy, and Mr. J. Gilbert, Hon. Secretary, S.A.A.A., when first approached by the Exhibition authorities about the feasibility of Scots runners carrying the cross to London, first lap of its round-the-world journey, immediately intimated the willingness of the S.A.A.A. to co-operate and arrange for the runners. Time was not liberal but Mr. Gilbert, in his customary whole-hearted way, quickly got down to bed-rock with arrangements. Invitations to clubs to nominate athletes, preparation of provisional schedule, and the many other things which required to be done for such a large undertaking, he did speedily and efficiently. Much correspondence and meetings resulted before the day of

"embarkation" — Wednesday, 6th August—had dawned and the 26 chosen runners assembled at Minto House, Edinburgh, at 5 p.m., where, after tea and speeches of good luck from Sir Steven Bilsland, Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Barker, P.R.O. of the Exhibition, and my introduction as Team Manager, the team stripped and donned blue vests bearing the lion rampant, and track suits boldly lettered "Scotland," proceeding thereafter to Edinburgh Castle.

Thousands thronged the Castle Esplanade to witness the ceremony of lighting the crosses and extinguishing them in goats' blood according to ancient usage. As Mr. D. H. Clive, organiser of the run on behalf of the Exhibition later said, the ancient castle towering behind and the skirling of the pipes of the massed bands, provided a background of medieval and barbaric splendour. Donald McNab Robertson received the first cross from the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Sir John Falconer, and when the remaining members of the teams had received theirs, they moved off to a pistol shot.

Vociferous cheers, which were echoed at every town en route, sped the runners on their way by High Street and Princes Street. At three miles, all but Donald McNab Robertson, who was running the full 25 miles to Peebles, D. McFarlane and A. McGregor, who accompanied him in a car and joined him for stretches on the road, were taken into the S.M.T. bus, which, bearing banners and driven by Mr. N. J. Blair, was to be with us throughout the trip. The loud-speaker van of Messrs. A. H. Baird, Ltd., driven and operated by Mr. Downie, went ahead of the runners to signify to all the countryside the approach of the runners. The bus went full speed ahead to Peebles, where Provost Clelland was awaiting to offer the hospitality of Peebles. And then followed the ceremony which was to be repeated thirteen times. The Provost was introduced to the runners who were clad in track suits, and who there-

after paraded on either side of him, with the flags of St. Andrew and St. George held aloft and boards indicating that this was a hand-over stage, to await the arrival of the runner. The time was whiled away by pipe music from Piper Dibling, Royal Scots. The signature tune of the run, "Blue Bonnets over the Border," was rendered at every Civic reception.

In 2 hr. 40 min. after leaving Edinburgh Castle, Donald McNab Robertson handed over the "Fiery Cross" and Message of Greeting from the Lord Provost of Edinburgh to Provost Clelland. Then followed the ceremony of reading the message by the Provost, the Provost's expression of good wishes, thanks for the reception by Mr. Clive, and then, led by the piper and flags and the Provost, adjournment to the festive board.

Besides Peebles, Galashiels, Hawick, Newcastle, Darlington, Northallerton, York, Doncaster, East Retford, Newark, Grantham, Stamford, Biggleswade, and City of London civic authorities provided receptions, which were all impressive and dignified.

#### Dunky Wright leads Runners through London

The most stirring part of the journey was the last ten miles through London to the Guildhall, where were awaiting the Deputy Lord Mayor, Mr. Joe Westwood, Secretary of State for Scotland; Mr. Athol Robertson, President of the London Caledonian Societies, and other dignitaries. The runners had been kept to the "wee sma' 'oors" of the preceding night rehearsing their entry to the Guildhall, and as they had been awakened at 6 a.m. for the start of the last 47 miles, the acute state of tension prevailing can be imagined. However, everything went to plan. Led by Dunky Wright, continually consulting his watch, the runners arrived at the entrance to the Guildhall just as one o'clock chimed. This was a feat in itself as none of the London traffic lights had been put off to facilitate the runners' progress.

Dunky had the honour of handing over the message from the Lord Provost of Edinburgh to the Deputy Lord Mayor of London, and the cross for England to Mr. Athol Robertson, who was also the recipient of all the other crosses bearing the flags of the countries for which they were destined. It was, indeed, thrilling, to see each runner step forward, hold aloft his cross, and loudly proclaim the name of the country to which it would be sent by aircraft.

After speeches by the Deputy Lord Mayor and Mr. Joe Westwood, I had the proud honour of introducing to these two notabilities each of the runners, Mr. W. K. Main, St. Andrew's Ambulance Association; Mr. N. J. Blair, our bus driver; Mr. Downie, the announcer, and my two boys, who were privileged members of the official party.

It must be emphasised that the run was performed for a purpose remote from athletics and more important than record times was the adherence to the scheduled time of arrival for each Civic reception. Consequently, on certain stages fast runs had to be made, and on others the runners had to be slowed down considerably. In achieving creditable adherence to time schedule, the team co-operated magnificently despite the fact that the total daily journey lasted between eleven and fourteen hours, and sitting in a bus for long periods does not tend to elasticity of muscle.

The foregoing is only a brief outline of the run. The detailed story may be told in another quarter. Each member of the party will long remember such a memorable event, and each must have his own reminiscences of the many happenings en route. Tales could be told of such incidents as the impromptu Highland flings on English country roads, the songs of Angus Macpherson and Alick Weir, the "awake ambassadors" early morning call, the stolen bathe in attire which was so noticeably missing that the Team Manager almost had heart-failure, the fire next our hostel—not caused by a "Fiery Cross," the droll humour of Mr. Main, who rendered such yeoman medical service,





The "Fiery Cross" team and attendants, in the Bishop of Newark's garden. The Mayor of Newark, who gave a warm reception to the team, is in the centre. Three of the team not in the photo—D. McL. Wright, J. Todd and R. McVey—were carrying on the relay.

the marvellous driving of Mr. Blair, the tireless Peter Hunt, the newsreel photography of Mr. Till, the bus-to-car relays of Mr. Clive, Dunky Wright's early morning arrival from Manchester, and, not the least, the high jinks of the Chinese sailor in Piper Dibling's kilt.

It was a long and strenuous journey, but I speak for all when I say that none of us would have missed it for anything. Personally, I was proud to manage such a splendid cross-section of Scottish athletes, all of whom were proud to have been chosen for such a worthy cause. It is the hope of all that the cause will reap great benefit from the event.

Continued from Page 21

G. Bell (Bellahouston), 16 min. 57 sec., assured his club of third place. Next in order came "veteran" T. Daily (Garscube), 17 min. 07 sec.; A. McGregor (Bellahouston "B"), 16 min. 52 sec.; and R. Boyd (Clydesdale), 16 min. 29 sec.

It is worthy of note that Bellahouston Harriers had three teams in the first eleven placings.

So once again the curtain comes down on this successful "opener" to what we hope will be a grand season.

The thanks of the promoting club are extended to those who competed,

Total distance, 406 miles; Running time, 47 hr. 31 min.; Average miles per hour 8.54; Average time per mile, 7 min; Total aggregate distance run by team, 700 miles.

Total mileage covered by each runner in relays:—D. M. Robertson (Maryhill), 25 miles; D. McL. Wright (Maryhill), 23; C. D. Robertson (Dundee Thistle), 30; A. McGregor (Bellahouston), 25½; A. Macpherson (Monkland), 28; H. McLean (Greenock Glenpark), 33; R. Semple (Shettleston), 28; J. Walker (Dumbarton), 30; J. Gunn (Garscube), 29; W. McLean (Greenock Glenpark), 31; W. D. Slidders (Dundee Thistle), 25; A. Weir (Maryhill), 28; E. Farrell (Garscube), 30; G. C. Mitchell (Edinburgh Southern), 20½; W. J. Ross (Garscube), 29; D. McFarlane (Glasgow Y.M.C.A.), 16; A. Thomson (Kirkcaldy Y.M.C.A.), 21½; R. McCormick (Lochwinnoch), 22½; A. Drennan (Garscube), 23; R. McVey (Airdrie), 22; A. K. McDonald (Auchmountain), 23; R. Donald (Glasgow Y.M.C.A.), 25; J. Malcolm (Dumbarton), 23; J. Todd (Bellahouston), 21; C. Donnett (Dundee Thistle), 27; J. S. McKenzie (Dundee Hawkhill), 26.

officials, and in any way contributed to the success of the race.

Here are positions and times of the first twelve placings:—

	Min.	Sec.
1—Shettleston .....	66	17
2—Victoria Park .....	66	30
3—Bellahouston .....	66	48
4—Garscube .....	67	14
5—Bellahouston "B" .....	67	53
6—Clydesdale .....	68	33
7—Glasgow University .....	68	43
8—Springburn .....	69	00
9—Shettleston "B" .....	69	06
10—Maryhill .....	69	16
11—Bellahouston "C" .....	69	30
12—Motherwell Y.M.C.A. ....	69	31

## VICTORIA PARK A.A.C. ROAD RELAY

### SHETTLESTON'S GRAND WIN

by WILLIAM C. ARMOUR

This year's tussle for the McAndrew Trophy, held on Saturday, 4th October, resulted in a merited win for Shettleston Harriers, whose four—J. Jackson, G. Craig, A. Hill, and C. McLennan—by steady progress completed the four laps with an aggregate time of 66 min. 17 sec., which was 21 sec. slower than Maryhill's winning time last year.

As was the case last season, Victoria Park A.A.C. finished second, and Bellahouston Harriers third.

The turnout was not up to the 1946 figures, namely, 21 clubs represented by 39 teams, as against 15 clubs and 27 teams this year, but the race lost nothing in keen competition and interest. Here, then, is a brief resume of the race:—

At the end of the first lap, an enthusiastic and fairly large number of spectators saw A. Kidd (Garscube), 16 min. 32 sec., leading by 1 sec. from G. White (Clydesdale). Close up were J. Adam (Victoria Park), 16 min. 40 sec.; W. Somerville (Motherwell Y.M.C.A.), 16 min. 43 sec.; J. Jackson (Shettleston), 16 min. 44 sec.; and D. Macfarlane (Glasgow Y.M.C.A.), 16 min. 46 sec.

Second time round, Scottish 6-Miles Track Champion G. Craig put Shettleston into what appeared to be a promising position by being first home with the time of 16 min. 28 sec. Then followed A. Worton (Garscube), 16 min. 49 sec.; W. Marshall (Motherwell Y.M.C.A.) having gained a place in 16 min. 51 sec.; H. O'Neill (Bellahouston), 16 min. 43 sec., to bring his club into the running; D. Macfarlane (Victoria Park), 17 min. 02 sec.; and T. Lamb (Bellahouston "B"), 16 min. 38 sec.

At the end of the third stage, A. McLean, Scottish 10-mile track champion, with the fastest lap so far, 16 min. 14 sec., had put Bellahouston up



A. McLennan finishes strongly to give Shettleston H. victory.

in front. Now came A. Hill (Shettleston), 16 min. 52 sec.; D. Murray (Garscube), 16 min. 46 sec.; G. Lamont (Victoria Park), 16 min. 56 sec.; and L. McKinlay (Bellahouston "B"), 17 min. 02 sec., both having moved up one place; and T. McGee (Glasgow University), 16 min. 55 sec., bringing the students into the picture.

So they set off for the last lap with everybody keyed up, and officials with difficulty trying to keep cool and "neutral"!

Whose colours would we see first?

In a little over 16 minutes, into view came C. McLennan with a comfortable lead to give Shettleston victory with a fastest lap time of 16 min. 12 sec., but lost this honour to second man home, A. Forbes (Victoria Park), Scottish 10-miles cross-country and 3-miles track champion, whose lap time of 15 min. 52 sec., gained for him the Young Trophy.

Continued on Page 20



## BECAUSE WE LIKE IT

by THOMAS MILLER

[Each year, owing to an ever-expanding programme, club pack runs and inter-club runs are being crushed out of the calendar. This trend has recently come to such dimensions that it is giving rise to a great deal of controversy in official and unofficial circles. However one looks at the question, it will be agreed that the yielding to continual racing is certainly destroying an element of beauty in cross-country running—the joy and spirit of pack running. This essay by Tom Miller is a timely portrayal of that spirit.]

Our contributor is a Clydesdale Harrier now resident in London. For many years he contributed Harrier notes to "The Clydesbank Press," using Clydesdale's motto, "Excelsior," as his pen-name.—Editor.]

IN good humour we file out of the baths and set off down the road.

There are about twenty of us in this pack, and we leave another twenty or so to follow on at a faster pace. There is plenty of talk to begin with, but this gradually ceases and soon only the sound of heavy breathing is heard. The road rises, and almost imperceptibly the pack spreads out. Faint gasps come from the not-so-well-trained and the Pacer slows down when the level is reached again in order to close up the ranks. Now we take to the fields and begin to ascend in earnest. We bend to it and shorten stride. The top—a ploughed field—through the hedge and hill and dale stretch ahead for miles. Breathing becomes easier now, for lungs have been well expanded and can take in large quantities of oxygen comfortably. That is really the mysterious "second wind." The heart and lungs have become accustomed to the extra demands on them and work in conjunction with the motion of the body. We follow a meandering burn, thrill to the music of our feet in the course grass and reeds, splash through pools of rainwater, and note that moles have been active, for the soil is upturned in many places. The trail narrows and we run two abreast. I wonder if we are as thrilling a sight from a distance as a similar scene has appeared to me when an onlooker.

Two and a half miles are covered, and now the going is "heavy." Uneven ground throws us out of gear, as it were, and I begin to tire. The beauty of the countryside, the "far from the

madding crowd" feeling has gone. I find it increasingly difficult to keep up with the Pacer. "Come on, keep it up," says the Whip, and I stare at him with bulging eyes and nod to save my wind. But my trouble is only a temporary one and the machine is working perfectly once more. A chorus of yells is heard, and we know that the fast pack are approaching. They come up and pass on to the accompaniment of much banter and laughter. Home is still some two miles off, but, like the horse with its nose to the stable, feet are confidently placed and a feeling of great content pervades me. It is a wonderful sensation and defies description. I am aglow from top to toe and have such a "good to be alive" feeling that I reaffirm my belief in cross-country running as the greatest of all outdoor exercises. We come on to the hard road again about a mile from home. The music of the grass fields now gives place to the crowning symphony of all, the steady pad-pad-pad of rubber shod feet on the highway and the easy breathing of lads whose eyes dance to the intoxicating rhythm. Involuntarily chests are thrown out and flagging footsteps quicken to the measure.

And so we pass on to splash and laugh our way through tubs of hot water and a cold shower.

But my words are mere words at best. Behind them are the humorous incidents of the trail, the jokes, the jests, the funny situations, such as a herd of young bulls with no sense of rhythm whatsoever, sending a pack scurrying over the fence much faster than ever they imagined possible. I remember, too, one wet Saturday afternoon, when roads and fields held generous sheets of water. As we emerged from a ploughed field heavily shod with a coating of soil, we came to a burn in spate. To jump across without getting wet was just possible but, as the bank on the other side was higher, it was risky. A few of us commenced to wade across and found the water knee deep. "Come on," we shouted to the others, but one lad who had no fancy to get wet took a short

run and jumped. He got both feet on the banking but, unable to throw himself forward, fell backwards and sat down in the burn. We howled with laughter and so did our wet chum.

Once we were visiting a club with whom we were particularly friendly. It was customary to have tea and a sing-song following the run. We always had a variety of musical instruments with us, and on this day our performer on the mouth organ had an adventure. He was slightly ahead of us playing manfully when a hand descended on his shoulder. The music trailed away and a startled lad whisked round. The Law in all its majesty stood there. "Where's your licence?" was the query, and only our timely arrival prevented our companion from being charged as an unlicensed street musician.

A question which is often asked by the critic is "Why do you do it?" but the poet Sorley supplied the best answer when he wrote: "They run because they like it, through the broad, bright land."

### THE PAPER TRAIL

*Though callous litter-makers should not live,*

*One type of paper flinger I forgive;*

*Tossed scraps across the country's brown and green,*

*Show (yet I do not shudder) where he's been.*

*They are not dropped by heedless accident,*

*As common litter is, but with intent,*

*And when with eager eyes I note them—now*

*Along the road, anon by grass or plough,*

*A line athwart the landscape, that will turn*

*For neither height nor hollow, dyke nor burn,*

*Bright in the sun or blown by rainy blast—*

*All my goodwill goes after those who've passed,*

*And I would follow once again that lure,*

*Rejoicing to endeavour and endure.*

*This paper is not litter. Hill and dale wear as an ornament the harriers' trail.*

—EXCELSIOR.

## TO A HARRIER

[This poem was sent some years ago by an anonymous well-wisher to the veteran Scottish runner, Maryhill Harrier Jimmy Macnamara. Jimmy is at present captain of the Scottish Marathon Club.—Editor.]

*Some fellow-men seem lucky, yet I yearn to change with few,  
But from my heart this afternoon I needs must envy you,  
Mud-spattered runners, light of foot,  
who on this dismal day  
With rhythmic stride and heads upheld go swinging on your way.*

*A dismal day? A foolish word; I should not years ago,  
Despite the drizzle and the chill, have ever thought it so;  
For then I might have been with you, your rich reward to gain,  
That glow beneath the freshened skin,  
O runners through the rain.*

*All weather is a friend to you; rain, sunshine, snow or sleet;  
The changing course—road, grass or plough—you pass on flying feet;  
No crowds you need to urge you on; no cheers your efforts wake;  
Yours is the sportsman's purest joy—you run for running's sake.*

*O games are good—manoeuvres shared to make the team's success,  
The practised skill, the guiding brain, the trained unselfishness;  
But there's no game men ever played that gives the zest you find  
In using limbs and heart and lungs to leave long miles behind.*

*I'll dream that I am with you now to win my second wind,  
To feel my fitness like a flame; the pack's already thinned.  
The turf is soft beneath my feet, the drizzles on my face,  
And in my spirit there is pride, for I can stand the pace.*



# PERTH-DUNDEE ROAD RACE

by CHARLES DONNET

I have heard it said that the Perth-Dundee course is the fastest marathon course in the country, being level practically the whole of the 22 miles distance.

It would appear that the eighteen runners had this in mind when they started off from South Inch, Perth, on Saturday, 6th September, 1947, in brilliant sunshine.

At Glencarse, little more than six miles on the road, four men were running together in the lead—D. Robertson and J. E. Farrell (Maryhill), C. D. Robertson (Dundee Thistle), and W. Kennedy (Kilbarchan), their time being 3 seconds outside the record.

When the Halfway House was passed, the leaders were 22 seconds outside the record, and Kennedy was dropping back.

Over the next 5½ miles to Longforgan the pressure was put on to such an extent that the two Robertsons were now 30 seconds inside the record, whilst Farrell was beginning to feel the pace and had dropped a few yards in the rear.

The most difficult part of the course still lay ahead, but there was no let-up in the killing pace. If anything, it intensified over the next 2½ miles to Invergowrie, where D. Robertson was 1 minute 26 seconds inside the course record and had now a one second lead over C. Robertson.

Getting his nose in front, Donald made sure he kept it there, and eventually finished this exciting race 1 minute 52 seconds ahead of Charlie Robertson,

setting up a brilliant new course record of 2 hours 3 minutes 25 seconds—1 minute 18 seconds better than the previous record set up by Emmet Farrell.

While all honour is due to Donald Robertson for his magnificent win, the lion's share of the glory on this occasion must go to Charlie Robertson, who is a complete novice to marathon running, and indeed who ran in this race with such a short period of preparation as to make his performance almost incredible. His time is the third fastest ever done over this course.

The complete result was as follows:—

- 1—D. McN. Robertson (Maryhill)—2h. 5m. 25s.
- 2—C. D. Robertson (Thistle)—2h. 10m. 17s.
- 3—W. Kennedy (Kilbarchan)—2h. 10m. 10s.
- 4—J. E. Farrell (Maryhill)—2h. 15m. 20s.
- 5—W. Connor (Shettleston)—2h. 15m. 37s.
- 6—J. Bell (Kirkcaldy Y.M.)—2h. 16m. 39s.
- 7—G. Taylor (Shettleston)—2h. 19m. 48s.
- 8—E. Farrell (Garscube)—2h. 21m. 52s.
- 9—J. Martin (Maryhill)—2h. 28m. 37s.
- 10—J. Walker (St. Modan's)—2h. 29m. 31s.
- 11—A. Weir (Maryhill)—2h. 30m. 26s.
- 12—J. Pandolphi (Maryhill)—2h. 32m. 21s.
- 13—J. Jordan (Glasgow Police)—2h. 37m. 6s.
- 14—A. Drennan (Garscube)—2h. 42m. 34s.
- 15—J. McCallum (Hamilton)—2h. 49m. 17s.

At the tea held after the race, the prizes and certificates were handed over by Lord Provost Powrie, who also passed over the proceeds of the Brannan Memorial Fund to the widow of Jim Brannan, who will long be remembered for his associations with the Perth-Dundee Marathon.

The following chart of official recordings will be of interest to those who like to keep a detailed record of races.

## PREVIOUS RECORD TIMES IN BRACKETS

	Glencarse 6 miles (34m. 32s.)	Halfway House 10 miles (54m. 52s.)	Longforgan 15½ miles (1h. 27m. 38s.)	Invergowrie 18 miles (1h. 43m. 9s.)	Dundee 22 miles (2h. 4m. 43s.)
D. M. Robertson	34m. 35s.	55m. 14s.	1h. 27m. 8s.	1h. 41m. 43s.	2h. 3m. 25s.
C. D. Robertson	34m. 35s.	55m. 14s.	1h. 27m. 8s.	1h. 41m. 44s.	2h. 5m. 17s.
W. Kennedy	34m. 35s.	55m. 48s.	no recording	no recording	2h. 10m. 10s.
J. E. Farrell	34m. 35s.	55m. 14s.	1h. 27m. 14s.	1h. 43m. 33s.	2h. 15m. 20s.

# 1897

# EDINBURGH SOUTHERN HARRIERS

by D. A. JAMIESON, Hon. President

FIFTY years ago! Such a short span seems this period of time in retrospect, yet what a stretch of endless vista it presents when viewed through youthful eyes.

Many notable happenings, alike of historical, social, and sporting interest could be chronicled of the year 1897. In that year Queen Victoria celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of her lengthy reign; Joe Chamberlain as Colonial Secretary of a Salisbury administration occupied an up-stage centre position of the then political scene; Dan Leno, the famous music-hall comedian, was still rocking his audiences to hysterical laughter with his quips and drolleries.

In the world of sport Bob Fitzsimons, the red-polled Cornishman, was sitting on the Heavy-Weight Boxing World's Championship throne; Alfred R. Downer was the acknowledged professional World's Sprint Champion; and in the sphere of amateur athletics Scotland was once again a united nation after being rent in twain by a domestic quarrel which had lasted for two years.

Yet a further item—albeit of minor interest—must also be recorded, for into the household of the Scottish Amateur Athletic Association in this year of grace was born another lusty infant—the Edinburgh Southern Harriers.

So much, then, by way of prologue.

Curiously enough, this youngster was not christened with the name it now bears, since the original title given to it by its young parents—of whom the writer is one, and still retaining, moreover, the first proud flush of parenthood—was the Edinburgh Southern Athletic Club. This designation was adopted at the outset because the objects of the Club were much more diverse in their nature—embracing physical culture, boxing and gymnastics, in addition to cross-country running.

It was not until the autumn of 1898 that the Club's present title was adopted as being in closer conformity with Rule 9 of its new Constitution, which read: "The Club shall be devoted to the promotion of athletics in general and cross-country running in particular." Now definitely purposed as a Harrier Club, and the membership being largely composed of lads domiciled in the southern area of Edinburgh, the obvious step was to add yet another distinction to the City's geographical points by adopting the title: "Edinburgh Southern Harriers."

To digress for a moment it is interesting to observe in this decision the pursuance of a practice in nomenclature by the Harrier Clubs of Edinburgh. Thus the parent Club: "Edinburgh Harriers" (1886); "Edinburgh Northern Harriers" (1889); "Edinburgh Southern Harriers" (1897); and "Edinburgh Eastern Harriers" (1934)—originally the "Canon Athletic Club" (1922).

Flourishing in the south-east area of the City during the 1890s and exercising a beneficent influence upon the youth of its membership was a Bible-class conducted by a well-known business man in the City—Mr. Alexander Tod. Here tribute must be paid to the memory of a truly noble-minded and public-spirited gentleman, to whose teaching and guidance many of his scholars owed so much. It was under such favourable circumstances, then, that the Edinburgh Southern Harriers found its genesis; and it was to a suggestion from the elder lads of his class to form a recreation club that Mr. Tod lent a sympathetic ear and a generous hand. On the walls of the club-rooms at the present day a portrait of the late Alexander Tod occupies a well-deserved place of honour.

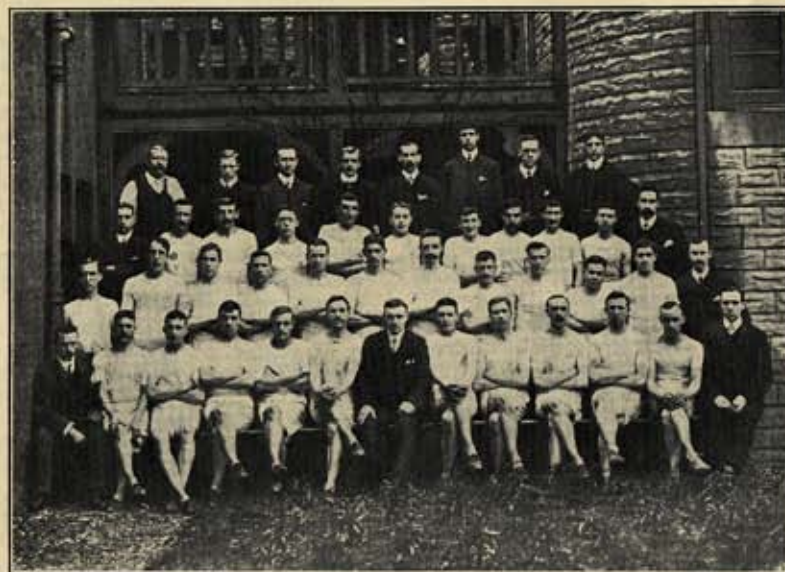
The early years of the Club were uneventful, and marked a period of ideal co-operation among its members.



This excellent spirit still prevails, and the Club's original motto of "Each for All and All for Each," has borne much fruit in its practical application. Memories of these early days and of many exhilarating cross-country runs over the open country then fringing the City—now covered over with multitudes of dwellings—crowd in

through the neighbouring fields and country roads.

It was not until 1907, however, that the E.S.H. began to develop its athletic strength. Minor successes had been gained in local events, and also a winning bracket in the Clydesdale Harriers Open Team Race (1904), in which competition the Club also



At the Sheep-Heid Inn, Duddingston, 1906

upon one. The season's activities began with an Opening Run of the combined Harrier Clubs of Edinburgh—in which some 200 runners took part—at the Portobello Baths. Then followed Saturday afternoon rendezvous at such places as the Sheep-Heid Inn, Duddingston; Fair-a-Far, Davidson's Mains, where Mother Rankine used to provide such wholesome fare with generous helpings of home-baked scones thickly spread with *real* butter, and oatcakes of most satisfying substance; McLaren's Cafe, abutting upon the Musselburgh race-course, the scene of many a hard-won victory in Club cross-country races and also in National events; and the Barnton Hotel, Barnton, which reference induces nostalgic reflections of the gargantuan "ham-and-egg" teas which always awaited the hungry harrier after his energetic exercise

through the neighbouring fields and country roads. The advent of Tom Jack and W. A. M. Watson in 1901 inaugurated a new era in the Club's history, and an initial success was scored in the Eastern District Cross-Country Championship event in 1907. In this race the Club has been successful on five occasions (1907, 1920, 1927, 1930, 1936), whilst they had the honour of supplying the Individual Champion in 1938 in the person of Alec Archer. Other successes have been gained in the Eastern District Relay Championship as winners in 1914, 1920, 1923, and 1924, whilst they were leaders in the seasons 1929-30 and 1937-38 in the Eastern District Cross-Country League competition.

Although never attaining collectively to the heights of athletic greatness the Club has, nevertheless, produced many sterling athletes during

its existence. To the present membership a long list of names would be meaningless, but there springs readily to one's memory such athletes as Tom Jack (10 Miles Flat Champion in 1904, 1906-10, 1912; 4 Miles Champion in 1908 and 1912; National C.C. title in 1907 and 1912; and the Olympic Games of 1908, in which he represented Great Britain in the Marathon Race; W. A. M. Watson, Internationalist in 1903 in the Scotland v. Ireland Contest; Sandy Thomson, George Pert, R. J. Alexander (a quarter-miler of championship class); George Lindsay, who represented Scotland in the old Scoto-Irish contests 1911, 1912, and 1914 in the Putt and Hammer events, and the brothers Ramsay (G. H. and W. A.) distance runners well above the average. Again in succeeding years came W. D. Patterson, an Internationalist in 1923 against Ireland; George Malcolm, who was ever the handicapper's headache; A. A. Bowman, J. A. Henderson, R. Paterson, G. P. Jamieson and J. Wilson (6 Miles S.A.A.A. title-holder in 1934 and Cross-Country Internationalist) who with others helped to maintain the prestige of the Club in cross-country and on the track.

Of the present generation of E.S.H. representatives much could be written in praise of their merit. Sufficient to say that the Club banner has been gallantly borne by J. Smart, W. Ferguson, J. A. Eddison, C. J. Hall, W. Fraser and others of promise, whilst the welcome addition of E. Q. A. Cofie to the membership of the Club has given this speedy athlete many opportunities to form ties of friendship in a more congenial milieu.

Pride of achievement may also be claimed by E.S.H. members in other

spheres of athletic activity. In Rugby football Carl Ogilvie was capped for Scotland against England (1911) and Ireland (1911, 1912); Jimmy Gilbert has gained similar distinction in the Association code as an amateur against Ireland (1929, 1931), Wales (1931), and England (1931); whilst J. Campbell held the Scottish A.B.A. Lightweight Championship in 1914.

It is perhaps, however, on the administrative side that the Club has occupied a distinctive place in Scottish athletic history. In its own domestic affairs it has been well served by succeeding relays of whole-hearted and enthusiastic officials. Among past Presidents figure the names of Jimmy Ross, whose histrionic powers on social occasions used to hold his audiences in thrall with renderings of narrative verse delivered with all the verve and action of the dramatic art; Matthew Dewar, one of the staunchest of



Tom Jack

club-men, who had a deep-rooted contempt for the pot-hunter and the multiple-club athlete, and who would have willingly suffered the ordeal of crucifixion in maintenance of the first-claim rule. Matt in the course of his life-long services to amateur athletics also occupied the Presidential Chair of the National Cross-Country Union (1914-1920); Dan Holland, ever zealous in the Club's interests and still active in the administration of its affairs; Jimmy Gilbert, now bearing much heavier responsibilities as Hon. General Secretary of the S.A.A.A. in addition to representing his country on the British Amateur Athletic Board; and the ubiquitous Jimmy Henderson, a whole hearted worker, and as keen as the Club's youngest member. It has also been the writer's privilege to serve as President and Secretary





Ian Ross (President)

throughout his association with the Club.

The office of President is held at present by Ian Ross, who has served the E.S.H. so well in cross-country and track racing, and is now exercising his Presidential duties for a second term of office with great acceptance. With him as his Vice-President is Alec Fraser, who is probably the keenest "talent-spotter" of all his contemporaries.

It is interesting also to record that throughout the years of its existence three of the Club members have been honoured with election to the Presidency of the S.A.A.A., namely:—T. Jack (1912-13); J. Gilbert (1932-33); and D. A. Jamieson (1934-35).

In the wider sphere of municipal administration members of the E.S.H. have also played a prominent part. Four of its number have served on the Town Council of the City of Edinburgh, all in their turn attaining to the dignity of the Magistracy. Moreover, the Club may claim to be pioneers of the present practice of enlisting the support of the Municipality in providing athletic enter-

tainment for the citizens. It was largely due to E.S.H. activities that a public park in the City — The Meadows — was made available not only for sports meetings but also for athletes to practise there. Meadowbank Park is also a present testimony to the public spirited efforts of the E.S.H. executive in securing the co-operation of prominent citizens and other sports organisations as long ago as 1923 in presenting a scheme for the conversion of what was then derelict ground into the present athletic stadium.

In its secretariat the Club has always enjoyed the benefit of competent officials, whose first principles in the discharge of their duties have always been loyalty and service either in times of adversity or success. In the exercise of these virtues honourable mention must be paid to Alec Bowman, who for over twenty years has given faithful service as Club Secretary. "Steve"—as he is affectionately styled by his club-mates—has been one of the Club's gilded securities, and its firmly established position in present-day Scottish

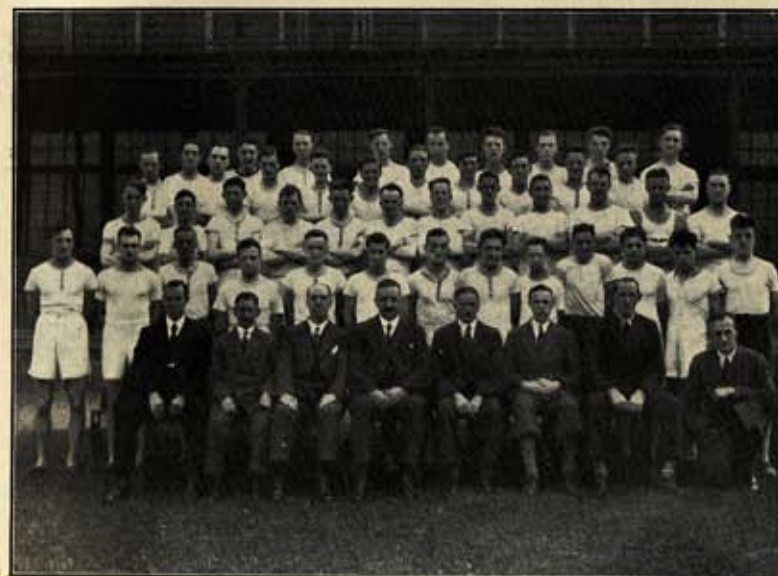


A. A. Bowman (Hon. Secretary)

athletics is largely owing to his sagacious management.

At the outset of its existence the Club occupied an excellent club-house nearby to the Meadows—already referred to—and here they were housed for nearly seventeen years. Circumstances, however, compelled removal to other quarters situated, fortunately, in the same vicinity. The close of the 1939-45 war found the members faced again with the

problem of securing new premises. The acquisition of a new club-house has been one of the Committee's prime post-war achievements, and to-day the members rejoice in the possession of a comfortable and convenient home in which to house and equip an ever-growing membership. From the walls of this club-room the images of its progenitors look down upon the scene with looks of mingled pleasure and pride. Yes, truly, they builded better than they knew.



Edinburgh Southern Harriers, 1929



## DUNDEE KINGSWAY ROAD RELAY

### A. FORBES SMASHES RECORD

The above annual event (4 by 2½ miles approximately), promoted by Dundee Hawkhill Harriers, was held on Saturday, 18th October, 1947. This was the seventh of the series. Weather conditions were fine when the signal to start was given by Councillor Adams.

The runners set off at a very fast pace and were soon out of sight, reappearing on the other carriage-way with a small bunch contesting the lead. Down to the turn and then back to a point opposite the start is approximately two miles. The leaders—Smart (Edinburgh Southern), Robertson (Dundee Thistle), Jackson (Shettleston), Wright (H.M.S. Condor)—passed this point together, with the rest of the field stretched out.

Watching the runners taking the top turn and coming down the finishing straight, it was seen that Smart was establishing a lead for his club, and he finished in 14 minutes 18 seconds, followed by Robertson, Wright, and Jackson, Warton (Garscube) and Adams (Victoria Park). This was the fastest-ever first lap and a personal improvement by Smart of 56 seconds from last year.

In the next lap, G. Craig (Shettleston) ran into first place at the 2-miles mark, but was passed before the finish by the "Southern" man, Mitchell, who thus retained the lead, with Victoria Park having moved up from 6th to 3rd place, and Garscube to 4th. These positions remained the same during the third lap. The "Southern" were certainly proving a surprise packet, and we wondered if the "West" would have to bow the knee to the "East" for the first time in this event. The last lap started with "Southern" leading by 11 seconds from Shettleston, who in turn had 25 seconds in hand from Victoria Park. Andrew Forbes, Victoria Park's stalwart, it seemed had a tremendous task to overtake the leaders, but he set about it in a most thorough and gallant fashion. Charlie McLennan, Shettleston, who made a great effort to stay away, certainly tested him to the fullest. In crossing the line 5 seconds ahead of the Shettleston man,

Forbes smashed J. E. Farrell's 1944 record by 20 seconds. J. Logan, Edinburgh Southern's last man ran gamely but just could not match the pace of his two rivals when finishing a most creditable third.

It was a splendid race, matched by the hospitality of our Dundee hosts; and, writing for the teams from the West, a most enjoyable trip.

T. A. GOURLAY (Garscube H.).

#### DETAILS

- 1st—Victoria Park—J. Adam 14-46; D. McFarlane 14-51; G. Lamont 15-0; A. Forbes 13-49. 58m. 26s.  
2nd—Shettleston Harriers—J. Jackson, 14-38; G. Craig 14-30; J. C. Ross 15-04; C. McLennan 14-19. 58m. 31s.  
3rd—Edinburgh Southern—J. Smart, 14-18; G. Mitchell 14-49; W. Brown 14-54; J. Logan 15-8. 59m. 9s.  
4th—Garscube—59m. 51s.  
5th—Kirkcaldy Y.M.C.A.—61m. 39s.  
6th—H.M.S. Condor—62m. 14s.  
7th—R.N.A.T.E. Rosyth—62m. 20s.  
8th—Garscube "B"—62m. 28s.  
9th—H.M.S. Condor "B"—63m. 58s.  
10th—H.M.S. Condor "C"—64m. 1s.  
11th—R.N.A.T.E. Rosyth—64m. 2s.  
12th—Dundee Thistle—64m. 20s.  
13th—Dundee Hawkhill—64m. 52s.  
14th—H.M.S. Condor "D"—65m. 19s.  
15th—R.N.A.T.E. Rosyth "B"—65m. 27s.

#### FASTEST LAP TIMES

- 1st—Andrew Forbes, V.P.A.C.—13 minutes 49 seconds (record).  
2nd—J. Smart, Edinburgh S.—14m. 18s.  
3rd—C. McLennan, Shettleston—14m. 19s.

#### FASTEST FORCES INDIVIDUAL

- G. Wright, H.M.S. Condor—14m. 35s.

### OCTOBER-NOVEMBER ISSUE

With the hope of enjoying his first holiday break this year, the Editor meant to cycle-tour Arran at the September holiday week-end. He was only one hour on the island when he was involved in a cycling accident, causing concussion and an enforced "rest" in Lamlash Hospital for over a week. Under "doctor's orders" he was not allowed to work for the following two weeks. Rather than spoil the sequence by dropping the October issue, we have felt that it would be to the readers' advantage to have it combined with the November issue.



This reproduced photograph of our Stand was taken on the Opening Day of the Youth and Recreation Exhibition, Kelvin Hall, Glasgow. Afterwards, the background was draped by the colours of the various City Clubs and displayed photograph enlargements depicting the famous "Dorando" race.

Congratulations go from all Scottish enthusiasts to Bellahouston Harriers on their magnificent display in the great "News of the World" Manchester-Blackpool Relay, held on 18th September, 1947. Finishing runners-up to the famous English club, Birchfield Harriers, only 71 sec. behind, over the 54 miles divided into 11 legs, in a field which contained many prominent English clubs, was certainly keeping Scottish athletics to the forefront.

In the third leg, Alex. McGregor brought his club from fifth position to first, gaining a two seconds lead over the Coventry Godiva team. At the end of the fourth leg Bellahouston had actually a lead of 51 seconds over Birchfield, who had pulled to second place through the grand running of "Gaby" Anderson.

There was a fine Scottish note struck at the end of the race. Starting on the last leg of the race, Alex. McLean, of "Bella," then third, had a fine tussle with a fellow-Scot, Dargie, running for Coventry Godiva, and just crossed the finishing line 21 seconds ahead. The well-known Scottish Internationalist, Bobby Reid, ran "home" to give Birchfield victory. So "Auld Scotia" was well to the fore.

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