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**WEEKLY ATHLETIC NOTES BY
JOE BINKS**

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THE SCOTS ATHLETE

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Photo by H. W. Neale.
Some of Britain's best marathon men in the S.L.H. "30." W. Kelly (51) leading, Tom Richards (behind), Jack Holden, F. Gratton, H. W. Dennis and Jack Paterson (4).

**JOHN EMMET FARRELL'S
RUNNING COMMENTARY.**

**AUSTRALIAN ATHLETICS. CONFIDENTIALLY.
A.A.A. DECATHLON.**

RACE DETAILS.

British record and previous world's best figures of 2 mins. 59.6 secs., finishing in 3 mins. 1 sec. or 1.4 secs. outside. Nankeville's pace-judgment was faulty. After a too-fast first lap of 56.6 secs., he did a too-slow 2nd lap of 62.9 secs. leaving himself too much to do in the final lap. Still it was a brave and courageous effort.

The 9,000 spectators at the Perry Barr stadium found the flood-light meeting a thoroughly enjoyable spectacle. Apparently the artificial lighting conveys an impression of speed by the athletes and cyclists not apparent under natural conditions, and though illusionary this enhances the spectacle.

On their part the athletes themselves admit to a strange feeling of exhilaration while in action under the arc-lights which adds to their personal enjoyment, especially as they too feel themselves travelling faster than normal though this is also an illusion not substantiated by the stopwatch.

Zatopek on the War-path.

Zatopek, recently deprived of his 10,000 metres world record by the narrow margin of one second by Finnish rival Viljo Heino, is not content to take this erosion of his name from the record-books lying down. Doubtless the "Iron Man" of the track, as Olympic champion over this distance, feels that the prestige of his position is enhanced by being world record-holder also, and if recent reports are correct, intends to try to recapture the record as soon as possible. To this end he has invited some of the cream of track distance experts to assist him in his bid, including A. Mimoun of France, his runner-up in the Olympic 10,000 metres and winner of last year's cross-country International in Dublin. Perhaps before this appears in print Zatopek may have made his attempt.

It would have been even more intriguing had Zatopek invited his arch-rival Heino for a joint attempt! Yet on second thoughts this might have been unfair to Heino whose recent successful bid may have temporarily deprived him of the "sting" required for these super-efforts.

Gailly Running Gaily Again.

Mention of Zatopek reminds one of the annual cross-country race for the

Britannia Shield, competed for by allied service athletes, which the Czech has himself won on more than one occasion.

This time France won both the individual race and team event, Corporal Abdullah Ben Said breaking the tape in 29 mins. 43 secs.

It was interesting to find Etienne Gailly running prominently in 4th place. The gallant Belgian whose heroic failure in the Olympic marathon at Wembley has made him almost a household name and a world figure, perhaps better known than the winner Delfo Cabrera himself, has recovered well from the gruelling he received in that exhausting event.

He has since kept away from marathon work, but has set up Belgian records around the 12 miles mark, and has a victory to his credit over the Finn, Mikko Hietannen (present holder of the European Marathon Championship), at 20,000 metres (just under 12½ miles). Nevertheless I believe that Gailly still has marathon aspirations. I would not be in the least surprised to find him out next year over the marathon distance, especially as the European championships are to be held in Brussels next August.

Story of 7 Feet High Jumpers Recalled.

A few weeks ago a North African athlete under French jurisdiction, Phiam Papalla, cleared 6 ft. 6½ ins. for a new French National record. This is itself a superb jump, but recalls the story put out by an explorer some years ago—"that he had seen raw natives in North Africa who could leap 7 feet with ease." Unfortunately none of these talented natives were spirited into civilisation where their performances could be checked and 7 feet still remains futuristic, "a consummation devoutly to be wished," but so far unattained.

Scots Earn British Rankings.

It is most gratifying to find several Scots performing well enough during the season to entitle them to rank among the best in Britain. In the high jump, Alan Paterson leads with his 6 ft. 7 ins., while Duncan Clark's magnificent record throw of 178 ft. 1½ ins. naturally puts him well ahead in the hammer event, as did Scottish champion S. O. Williams' 24 ft. 2 ins. in the long jump. J. G. M.

Hart's best time in the high hurdles of 15 secs. dead gave him 2nd place to Don Finlay's record 14.4 secs. Similarly Andy Forbes' 14 mins. 18.4 secs. effort in the S.A.A.A. 3 miles championship with John Joe Barry, not only provided him with a new native record, but gave him a position in British rankings second only to A. H. Chivers of Reading who clocked 14 mins. 12.6 secs. in his best effort.

Scottish pole-vault champion, N. Gregor of Herne Hill, soared 12 ft. 6 ins. or just 4 inches short of Britain's best, T. D. Anderson, while E. C. K. Douglas of Edinburgh Varsity tossed the hammer 163 ft. 4½ ins., a most promising effort which put him second only to brilliant compatriot Duncan Clark.

Chasing Rainbows?

Apart from Scotland in particular, the advance of field events in Britain in general is most heartening. In the high jump we have of course in Paterson, Wells and Pavitt a trio of world class, while Duncan Clark, at his best, would grace any International contest.

Perhaps the greatest field event discovery of recent years is that diamond in the rough Corporal J. A. Savidge (R.N. and R.M.) who since receiving expert coaching has made almost phenomenal progress culminating in his recent putt of 49 ft. 2½ ins. Will he be the first Britisher to putt the shot 50 feet?

Yet, even should Savidge reach these mighty figures, we must remember that the world figures themselves do not remain stationary and the gap has to be bridged anew. Recently in Oslo, for example, big Jim Fuchs of U.S.A. heaved the putt the colossal distance of 58 ft. 4½ ins. for a new world record. Similarly Yankee Fortune Gordien also set a new world record for the discus—the almost unbelievable distance of 186 ft. 10½ ins.

Splendid Junior Talent.

We in Britain have some exceptionally promising juniors in the field events, and now that the coaching scheme is well under way who can set a limit on their advance? Apart from the two brilliant Scots, Kane and Piper, we have such as Mark Pharoah and A. G. Wood. The former is a well-built versatile athlete

excelling in the discus and in a lesser degree the putt. Stocky A. G. Wood's forte is undoubtedly the shot putt at which event he is the present A.A.A. junior champion, while M. Denley of Thames Valley, besides being A.A.A. junior champion at his speciality, has hurled the standard javelin 172 ft. 9 ins. which is good enough to give him senior ranking.

Scotland's Selection for Empire Games.

Scotland's selection for the Empire Games in the athletic section is undoubtedly a tiny one. Still within the limits of its numbers it is a team that should give a good account of itself. It is unfortunate that such as Alan Paterson and Andrew Forbes were unable to make the trip, still we wish the very best to the lucky four, Duncan Clark (hammer throw), J. G. M. Hart (120 yds. hurdles), J. Paterson (marathon), and Miss E. Anderson (long jump). Duncan Clark and Miss Anderson have been further honoured by being given the captaincy of respectively the men's and ladies' team.

The selection of Miss Anderson and J. Paterson (Poly.) may occasion some surprise at first sight, yet on second thoughts it must be conceded that Miss Anderson, for a comparative new-comer, has put up some remarkable long-jumps and looks capable of vast improvement, while Scottish marathon champion Jack Paterson is the acme of consistency and also looks capable of improvement.

In addition his spell in the Middle East may prove invaluable should the conditions be on the warm side especially as the marathon event can be so unpredictable.

Victoria Park Break their "Duck."

After bidding for so many years hearty congratulations are due the promoting club Victoria Park on winning their annual Road Relay (4 men at 3½ miles).

In the Kingsway Relay Race, Dundee (4 men at 2½ miles), Victoria Park have found a happier hunting ground. On winning once again after a thrilling race with Shettleston's grand new young team, they set up a series of new records. First of all they equalled Maryhill Harriers' feat of 3 consecutive wins, and secondly

RACE DETAILS

VICTORIA PARK A.A.C. ROAD RELAY RACE

1st October, 1949.

1. Victoria Park A.A.C.—J. D. Stirling, 16.23; I. Walls, 16.29; J. Ellis, 16.07; A. Forbes, 15.47.—64 mins. 46 secs.
2. Shettleston Harriers.—C. Wallace, 16.22; E. Bannon, 16.14; R. Burton, 16.32; B. Bickerton, 16.02.—65 mins. 10 secs.
3. Greenock Glenpark H.—W. Elder, 16.50; A. McLean, 16.03; S. Williamson, 16.32; W. Williamson, 16.20.—65 mins. 45 secs.
4. Springburn Harriers.—R. McLean, 16.18; T. McGill, 17.10; J. Morton, 16.25; T. Tracey, 16.03.—65 mins. 56 secs.
5. Shettleston H. "B."—D. Morrison, 16.45; A. Maxwell, 16.51; J. C. Flockhart, 16.23; T. Clarke, 16.50.—66 mins. 49 secs.
6. Garscube Harriers.—R. Smith, 16.49; R. Black, 16.38; J. J. Duffy, 16.44; A. Kidd, 16.31.—66 mins. 52 secs.
7. St. Modan's A.A.C.—A. Crawford, 16.25; A. McHugh, 16.51; T. McGhee, 17.09; D. Clelland, 16.35.—67 mins.
8. Vale of Leven A.A.C.—D. McPherson, 16.47; W. Gallacher, 16.37; W. Crowe, 17.07; A. McDougall, 16.35.—67 mins. 06 secs.
9. Bellahouston Harriers.—J. Kelly, 17.06; W. McAslan, 16.46; H. O'Neill, 16.45; R. Climie, 16.36.—67 mins. 13 secs.
10. Greenock Wellpark H.—G. King, 16.44; R. Beaton, 17.55; J. Stevenson, 16.31; T. Stevenson, 16.12.—67 mins. 22 secs.
11. Maryhill Harriers.—J. Wright, 16.37; R. Macdonald, 17.00; T. K. Wilson, 17.04; R. Brymner, 16.57.—67 mins. 38 secs.
12. Motherwell Y.M.C.A. H.—D. Nelson, 17.19; G. Wood, 16.38; W. Watson, 17.46; J. Fleming, 16.03.—67 mins. 46 secs.
13. Victoria P. A.A.C. "B."—C. Forbes, 16.42; A. Johnston, 16.48; D. Macfarlane, 17.00; J. Adam, 17.31.—68 mins. 01 secs.
14. Plebeian Harriers.—J. Barber, 16.43; H. S. Paterson, 16.52; A. Smith, 17.18; A. C. Robertson, 17.11.—68 mins. 04 secs.
15. H. M. S. Caledonia.—Pasley, 16.58; Berry, 17.21; Humphries, 17.10; Quigley, 16.47.—68 mins. 16 secs.
16. Monkland Harriers.—A. McPherson, 16.46; J. Brown, 17.32; F. Bradley, 16.57; W. Corroon, 17.85.—68 mins. 20 secs.
17. Irvine Y.M.C.A. H.—F. Muir, 18.16; S. Cuthbert, 17.10; J. Lawson, 16.34; T. McNeish, 16.29.—68 mins. 28 secs.
18. Garscube H. "B."—H. Hattrick, 16.48; F. Robertson, 16.55; T. McGinley, 17.30; A. Warton, 17.26.—68 mins. 39 secs.
19. Shettleston H. "C."—H. Malloy, 17.07; D. Campbell, 17.25; H. Howard, 16.33; T. Fletcher, 17.39.—68 mins. 44 secs.
20. Kilmarnock Harriers.—W. Morton, 16.41; J. McPhee, 17.41; R. Miller, 17.18; G. Martin, 17.19.—68 mins. 59 secs.
21. Clydesdale Harriers.—G. White, 17.21; P. Reynolds, 17.50; J. Hume, 17.55; R. Boyd, 17.09.—69 mins. 32 secs.
22. Beith Harriers.—M. Walker, 18.00; H. Walker, 17.50; J. Phillips, 17.26; G. Lightbody, 17.29.—70 mins. 40 secs.
23. Auchmountain Harriers.—J. McLean, 18.04; R. Smith, 17.41; I. Bowes, 18.13; W. Lindsay, 17.01.—70 mins. 59 secs.
24. Hamilton Harriers.—H. Gibson, 17.22; B. Donald, 19.06; J. Stewart, 18.07; A. Gibson, 16.56.—71 mins. 31 secs.

FASTES TIMES.—

1. A. Forbes (Victoria Park A.A.C.)—15.47.
2. J. J. Barry (St. Modan's A.A.C.)—15.51.
3. B. Bickerton (Shettleston Harriers)—16.02.
4. T. Tracey (Springburn Harriers)—16.03.
5. A. McLean (Greenock Glenpark H.)—16.03.
6. J. A. Fleming (Motherwell Y.M.)—16.03.

DUMBARTONSHIRE

10 MILES C.C.

RELAY CHAMPIONSHIP

Westerton, 15th October.

Highly thought-of youth on the track Hugh Hattrick (Garscube) made a fine cross-country debut by handing over a nice lead at the first change-over.

The county road champion, Willie Gallagher (Vale of Leven), was in fine fettle and overtook and passed the '47 National Youths' mile champion Bobby Smith (Garscube) to give his club the lead. Then George White, the county $\frac{1}{2}$ mile champion, with a grand effort, took his club (Clydesdale) to the front over the 3rd sector.

But the most brilliant running was reserved for the last leg. And it was the 20-years-old county mile champion, W. Lennie (Vale of Leven), who showed it. Taking the lead early on he left class men Bobby Boyd (Clydesdale) and Alex. Kidd (Garscube) as if they were novices and was over half-a-minute faster than the next best.

Details:—

1. Vale of Leven A.A.C. (holders)—D. McPherson 13.16; W. Gallagher, 12.38; A. McDougall 13.03; W. Lennie, 12.00.—50 mins. 57 secs.
2. Clydesdale Harriers.—D. Scott, 13.28; R. Younger, 12.51; G. White, 12.35; R. Boyd, 12.54.—51 mins. 48 secs.
- 3.—Garscube Harriers.—H. Hattrick, 13.06; R. Smith, 13.11; R. Black, 13.02; A. Kidd, 12.36.—51 mins. 55 secs.
- 4.—Garscube Harriers "B."—F. Robertson, 13.25; J. Gunn, 13.13; R. Hepburn, 13.45; A. Warton, 13.40.—54 mins. 03 secs.

THE SCOTS ATHLETE

TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN
SCOTTISH AND WORLD ATHLETICS

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JOHN EMMET
FARRELL'S



UNLIKE the British track season which tends to taper off around September, the Continental season often reaches its climax as late as October, and certainly the extended summer-like autumn was more in accord with Summer than Winter pursuits and news of track and field athletics are not out of place despite the official start of the cross-country season.

Nankeville in Form.

Early in September our brilliant but erratic A.A.A. mile champion beat Olympic 5,000 metres champion Gaston Reiff over 1,000 metres in 2 mins. 24.8 secs. for a new Belgian record. Despite the fact that this shorter distance favours our champion Nankeville's performance certainly comes into the category of highly meritorious.

John Joe Barry was not so fortunate in his joust with Willy Slykhuis of Holland who beat him in a mile race

clocking 4 mins. 12.4 secs. to Barry's 4 mins. 16 secs. The Dutchman sprinted away from the Irishman over the last 100 yards to win by some 20 yards. Although Slykhuis may have the heels of Barry at this distance, I have a shrewd suspicion that John Joe has passed his peak for the season and his time certainly suggests that he was not at his best on this occasion.

Unless he changes his mind Barry intends to settle in U.S.A. after appearing in the indoor season early next year, and if so, we may see him in action only on rare occasions if at all. I feel certain that the colourful "Ballycurren Hare" will prove a popular figure over there. Our loss will be America's gain.

Impressive Flood-light Gala.

"Bill" Nankeville again captured the lime-light in the flood-lit Birchfield promotion with a creditable but unsuccessful attempt on Sydney Wooderson's $\frac{3}{4}$ mile

they beat that club's record aggregate time by 26 secs., the new time being 57 mins. 42 secs.

In addition the race was a personal triumph for Andrew Forbes who, in leading his team to the tape, knocked another second off his own record figures, the new time being 13 mins. 48 secs., terrific running in the rather fresh, gusty conditions.

Maryhill's advance to 3rd place, a tremendous improvement on their 11th place in the Victoria Park relay is worthy of mention especially as three of their team are youngsters barely out of the novice class but improving each time out.

The race at Dundee between Victoria Park and Shettleston was a particularly thrilling affair with the issue in doubt up to the last 20 yards.

The chief feature of these relay races apart from the running of Andrew Forbes has been the sterling performances put up by youngsters Ben Bickerton (Shettleston Harriers) and Tom Tracey (Springburn Harriers). If they can maintain such form over the longer stretches these young men will be challenging for places in the cross-country team for Brussels. Scotland could certainly do with some speed merchants, especially to cope with the fast start of the continentals.

Hamilton a Tough Course.

To sum up, however, present form can be a pointer to the future but is not entirely conclusive. 9 to 10 miles country is something different and while speed is a handy thing to have—in fact an essential, stamina too is required. As Hamilton is likely to be the venue for the National this year it should provide an adequate speed—stamina trial for this course has always been regarded as offering a particularly stiff test. There is a whisper thus early that the International course at Brussels is fairly stiff, and a thoroughly representative cross-country test. If such is the case, then perhaps Hamilton race-course is a wise venue.

Shettleston Harriers Should Repeat.

After the district relays are over the stage will be set for the Edinburgh—Glasgow relay (44 miles) on November 19th. Shettleston Harriers are hot

favourites to retain their title won in April as they have an adequate blend of youth and experience to select from. They have any amount of classy contenders for places in their team and their chief problem will be whom to leave out. I can well visualise some of their International stars finding it difficult to gain a place. Victoria Park, last year's runners-up, have not the same resources as their Shettleston rivals, but they may muster up a useful eight. If they can, then, with the addition of the brilliant Andrew Forbes, even the holders will have to put their best foot forward. Still it is a chancy thing trying to sum up a race of this nature. In particular one man having a bad day can put his team right out of the running despite the brilliance of his mates.

Birchfield Retain Manchester-Blackpool Relay.

Tipton Harriers had their share of bad luck in the recent Manchester-Blackpool relay in their bid to wrest the title from the holders, Birchfield, who have held the race since 1932. Leading at the 10th stage one of their star men failed to put in an appearance and they had to field a substitute.

Eventually Bobby Reid of Birchfield led his men home to victory in 4 hours 53 mins. 25 secs, or 5 mins. 29 secs. faster than last year. Tipton were good runners-up in 4 hours 54 mins. 48 secs. with the remarkable Sutton combination 3rd in 4 hours 56 mins. 2 secs.

Incidentally Bobby Reid tells me he has been resting during the summer but feels he is running faster than ever and means to make another bid for a Scottish singlet. So we are warned for one more classy contender.

Plea for Inter-Club Runs.

The competitive urge gives zest and flavour to any sport and none the less so in the case of cross-country running. There is a fairly comprehensive programme of racing already, however, and it is to be hoped that this will not shove inter-club running into the back-ground as it sometimes tend to do. For the latter captures the essential spirit of the sport, an exhilarating pastime to be enjoyed in the company of one's fellows in packs suitable to one's pace. Who

will forget the giant muster runs arranged by the Cross-Country Association during the emergency? The large packs ran over some grand and varied trails and in the process of keeping fit enjoyed themselves immensely. When the signal was given for a mile finish home, who will forget the jockeying for position and the earnest endeavour to gain a leading place? There were no prizes. There

was nothing at stake. Only the lust of honest contest and the spirit of the chase.

Good luck to those enthusiasts who are endeavouring to re-create the spirit of the muster runs, for I believe they are doing the sport a service. The fierce spirit of competition has command of our work-a-day world. Let us not ration fun in our sport.

Canada's Empire track and field team (23 men and 8 women) includes one 1938 Games champion—Eric Coy, winner of the discus throw at Sydney, and who later made an Australian record of 147 ft. 2½ ins. in Melbourne.

This time Coy, who competed in the 1948 Olympics, has been selected for the shot putt. His season's best effort is 46 ft. 2½ ins., so he'll find tough opposition from Australian champion, Trevor Evans, who hopes to beat his 50 ft., and H. Sadie (South Africa), an established 49 ft. performer.

Coy's discus record was broken last February by the young Victorian, Ian Reed, a firm Empiad favourite who threw 152 ft. 10½ ins. (In training recently, Ian topped 167 ft.)

Outstanding members of the Canadian team are Ted Haggis, a sprint threat who clocked 20.8 secs. over 220 yards in September; Bob McFarlane, a 47.5 secs. quarter-miler, and Bill Parnell, a 1 min. 51.5 secs. half-miler who, as a student at Washington State College, has had tons of top-class U.S. competition.

JOE GALLI

SPORTS SECRETARIES AND RECORD-BREAKERS.

TAKE NOTE.—A new form available from the Hon. Secy. S.A.A., MUST be used in all future record claims. Rightly so, competent refereeing is demanded for both track and field events, and, the referee must certify on the form.

Dumbartonshire A.A.A. are holding a 16 miles road race (individual and team) from Helensburgh to Clydebank on Monday, 2nd January, 1950. Pity the date clashes with the Morpeth race.

All interested should contact the Dumbartonshire Hon. Secretary, W. Stevenson, Esq., 59 Wilson Street, Alexandria.

We are always surprised to see the number of star men that are kept for the last leg in a relay in teams that haven't the slightest chance of winning. We came to the conclusion long ago that it is very unimaginative but would agree that if you're not wanting the best out of your team, then that's the way to run it!

Would correspondents kindly note that every letter, and bit of news, or, press cutting is greatly appreciated. If we do not reply promptly it arises from over-work.

KINGSWAY ROAD RELAY DUNDEE

15th October, 1949.

1. Victoria Park A.A.C.—J. Stirling, 14.41; C. Forbes, 14.46; J. Ellis, 14.27; A. Forbes, 13.48.—57 mins. 42 secs. (New Course Record.)
2. Shettleston Harriers.—C. Wallace, 14.27; J. Burton, 14.41; E. Bannon, 14.30; B. Bickerton, 14.07.—
3. Maryhill Harriers.—J. Wright, 14.33; J. E. Farrell, 14.24; R. McDonald, 14.56; R. Brymner, 14.56.—58 mins. 49 secs.
4. Springburn Harriers.—R. McLean, 14.29; S. McFadden, 15.18; J. Morton, 14.58; T. Tracey, 14.10.—58 mins. 55 secs.
5. Shettleston Harriers "B."—T. Clark, 14.50; J. C. Flockhart, 14.45; A. Maxwell, 14.56; H. Howard, 14.46.—59 mins. 15 secs.
6. Bellahouston Harriers.—R. Clinnie, 14.38; J. Kelly, 14.53; J. Lindsay, 15.01; J. Gifford, 15.11.—59 mins. 48 secs.

Miss Sheila Burns, the Ladies Scottish Sprints Champion will be competing in future under the colours of Edinburgh Southern Harriers' Ladies Section.

THE A.A.A. DECATHLON

BISLAND MAKES HIGHEST SCOTTISH POINTAGE

By T. MONTGOMERY

HAVING competed in the British Decathlon Championship held at the Royal Military Academy, 2nd and 3rd September, has, if anything, strengthened my opinion that the Decathlon is the best event of all, an opinion that is probably not shared by many but nevertheless 22 entered for this year's event.

First of all I would like to congratulate young W. Bisland of Bellahouston H. on his excellent showing at his first attempt also being the youngest competitor, gaining a higher pointage, I believe than any Scot so far. Secondly the A.A.A. Committee who organised this Championship are to be complimented on the excellent organisation and arrangements made, an object lesson for most sports promoting bodies this side of the border. The choice of venue, Sandhurst, situated as it is in beautifully wooded parkland was absolutely ideal for a decathlon, and the condition of the track, pits, etc., prepared by diligent and knowledgeable groundsmen well nigh perfect and that under restrictions on the use of water. The meeting was favoured with excellent weather, a bit too humid for me, but two grand days. The breeze on the Friday was against the sprint and long jump but was hardly strong enough to affect performances materially and was non-existent on Saturday which was a real scorcher.

As will be seen from the points chart printed, H. J. Moesgaard-Kjeldsen of Poly. Harriers, a Dane, tall, well-built athlete typical of his race, won with a record pointage of 6,138. Second was Harry Whittle of Reading A.C., well-known for his long jump and 440 yards hurdles, and third a youngster of 21 from Doncaster, L. Pinder. A standard of 5,000 points was introduced this year and nine competitors beat this total to gain awards. The standard of performance is definitely on the upgrade, as it should be, and if the event is given the prominence it deserves I see no reason why 7,000 points should not be passed in the next year or two, and allow Britain to compete at International level in this event.

The order of events is as shown on the chart the first five being completed on the first day, and the heats as drawn for the 100 metres formed the pools for the other events allowing the events to be carried through quickly and smoothly. A notable feature was the expeditious way the long jump and the throwing events were measured, the long jumps being squared by a permanently fixed metal measuring strip at the side of the pit and the throwing events measured very quickly from a pre-determined arc.

As was expected Whittle showed up extremely well on the first day, his running and Jumping being the feature of the meet, but his weight putt showed his weakness in field events. However his 400 metres, 50.2 secs., 862 points was the best event of the meet, with his long jump next with 22 ft. 7½ ins., 775 points. Moesgaard-Kjeldsen, known better as just "Moes," had a good average throughout and scored heavily in the field events. At the end of the first day the placings after five events were, (1) Whittle, 3,437 ; (2) Moesgaard-Kjeldsen, 3,061 ; (3) Pinder and Payne, 2,984 ; (4) Dear and Chapman, 2,954 ; (5) Bisland, 2,920 ; and another 7 showing 2,500 or better, making the position quite exciting for the next day.

The times shown in the hurdles did not do justice to the track which had been attended to overnight and was again perfect. The excitement began to grow as the placings were not materially altered by the hurdles nor by the discus, which proved to be the weakest event of all partly due to the looseness of the circle, unfortunately, but the groundsman was forbidden to use water. So to lunch, a start had been made at 10.30 a.m. Competition was restarted with the pole vault, all competitors in one pool, and as competitors failed so they formed pools for the javelin and 1,500 metres. To those who understood the competition the excitement was rising, and in fact was now quite tense, but I must add that the friendliness and the sportsmanship among

A.A.A. DECAHTLON CHAMPIONSHIP, 1949
POINTS CHART

the competitors did not lessen, in fact, I believe it grew more apparent as the time went on. Whittle having failed fairly early on in the pole vault was an early finisher, with a new native record and 5,997 points. Vanhegan and I ran with him in the 1,500 metres, unfortunately for Harry as neither of us was any good as pacemakers and he ran a grand race on his own in 4 mins. 25 secs. Had he had some of the faster boys with him he might have reduced his time by say 5 secs., a difference of 140 odd points and finished the winner. However his total was 5,997 and with the pole vault just finishing, several competitors had a chance to beat it and so the tenseness grew and everything depended on the last heat of the 1,500 metres which included Moes, Dear and Chapman; Pinder and Bisland having finished earlier were also interested waiting to know their final placing. Moes had to do better than 5 mins. 15 secs. to win, well he did, but anything could have happened. Interest and excitement to the very last gasp of a two day effort! Moes was a popular winner as was indicated by the applause when he accepted custody of the A. B. George Trophy for the third year running.

For next year nearly all competitors indicated their intention of again entering even the lowly ones and some who retired, I expect the two youngest, Bisland and Pinder, to show up better next year and to keep Bisland company how about some other Scottish up and coming youngsters having a go?

Comparisons are sometimes odious, but nevertheless I am going to make some. In the points chart I have shown the details of G. E. Morris's world record of 7,900 points. Taking the best performance in each event at Sandhurst we get a total of only 7,149 points. This total cannot be got from the chart as, Vanhegan (Southgate H.) had the best putt of 42 ft. 2 ins., 701 points, and Flacke (Leeds A.C.) had the best discus of 117 ft. 9 ins., 594 points. Taking each event on its own we see that in only the long jump, 400 metres, pole vault, javelin and 1,500 metres, Morris's performance is approached or bettered. Again, only in the mile would Morris's performances have failed to win or gain a place in each of the events in the last Scottish Championships. On the Sandhurst results

it would need a team comprised of Whittle, Moesgaard-Kjeldsen, Dear, Vanhegan and Flacke to beat Bob Mathias's Olympic total by 10 points. It must be remembered that Morris's and Mathias's performances were made under Decathlon conditions, which means 10 events in two days and the figures are not their best for each event.

These figures are worth a close study and provide plenty of food for thought, and for our part action and plenty of it. We may not breed the number of big fast fellows that the U.S.A. produce but we have first class materials if it is only given the chance. What do I mean by "a chance?" Well, coaching, but coaching by coaches who have satisfied the powers that be by examination so that no youngster is given anything but the proper schooling and the sooner the coaches exams. commence the better.

Clubs, District Associations, and the S.A.A.A. must do everything in their power to provide the necessary facilities. I hear voices shouting that means money, as assuredly it does. Clubs usually know how to find money when they want it and I dare to suggest that the Ruling Body should levy all sports promoters, say 10% or 5% on their gate instead of the nominal fee now charged, and so provide the wherewithall to give our youngsters a chance.

However back to the Decathlon, why not have next year (1950), (a) the first Scottish Decathlon Championship, and (b) District Decathlon Championships. The National one, say mid-August with the district ones before it as convenient to the districts concerned. These, alas, would not be great money-makers but they would cost little to run and the experience gained by the competitors well worth the effort. As far as the Eastern District is concerned I feel sure that an excellent entry would be obtained. Two come very readily to my mind. Bell of Heriots (who I think would do very well in the A.A.A.'s) and Hunter of Edinburgh University. In the West I'm sure Bisland would give the lead.

A glance at the points table shows that coaching is indeed required especially in the field events. Technique is the be all and end all in these events and without it in the field events an athlete can only

CONFIDENTIALLY.

In the dressing room at the "Kingsway" Relay, Jimmy Ellis, now V.P.'s No. 2 man was worrying a bit. He was going the 3rd leg and his team were running behind. To Andy Forbes their great 3 miler, he says—"What's our chances of winning to-day Andy?" And Andy replied that he thought they could do it provided he took off no more than 16 secs. behind for the last leg. He couldn't stand any more."

After Jimmy Ellis had covered more than half his sector someone shouted "You're 25 seconds behind." That and Andy's last words buzzed in his ear. He got his head down and in his own words "murdered" himself. What do you think? He handed over exactly 16 secs. behind!

We all know the epic race it was and that Andy just scraped home to win.

Some fight, some judgment!

Reflecting after the great struggle between Andy Forbes and Ben Bickerton (Shuttleton H.) in the "Kingsway," Ben said "I learnt a lot. Approaching the finish I could see the crowd at the tape, I came out from behind Andy and put in my effort. I thought I was getting there, but I misjudged the distance to go and couldn't hold it. Andy came up again

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get so far but seldom, I should say never, gets to the top. For example, how many jumpers know that the path of the centre of gravity of his body cannot be altered once he has left the ground and how many throwing men know, that power comes from the ground, and what effect rotation and angle of release have on his throw? You can take it from me that the two, Morris and Mathias, know all the answers and I have a feeling, a strong one, that they could teach the writer a lot more about athletics and hence their ability to take their places as the world's best.

[We are grateful to our contributor for stirring up interest in the Decathlon. All Scots interested in this event should link up with him. his address:—9 Parkhead View, Edinburgh, 11.]

and that was that. He's too 'old' to take chances with."

Youthful Willie Gallagher of Vale of Leven A.A.C. is going to go for the full distance marathon next season. He won the Dumbartonshire 12 miles road championship in record time last April.

With stars, Harry Howard, Alex. McLean, Emmet Farrell, Charlie Robertson, Jack Paterson and Jim McDonald, all keen to show what they really can do, there's gonna be some dust-up!

CONVERSATION PIECE.

When congratulating Steve McCooke, the uncrowned hero of last year's International cross-country race at the evening "bean-feast" after the event, the Editor learnt a thing or two.

To those looking for tips and inside information now that the "country" is in again, the conversation went something like this according to a fading memory —

Ross: Congratulations, Steve, that was a thrilling show to-day.

McCooke (with a warm beam on his face and with typical Irish friendliness) : Aye, well I did my best onwyay.

Ross: Maybe next year you'll pull it off. I'd love to see you do it.

Steve: I'll be out to do it. I'll do my best.

Walter J.: I hope you will manage to run in Scotland again, this year.

Steve: Hope so too, I like the Scots boys, just like orsel's, a' guid sports.

Walter J.: How old are you, Steve?

Steve (still beaming and fondling a pretty doll in national costume, presented in admiration from one of the Welsh team): 36 and I never felt better in my life.

Walter J. (note the discretion in working up to the big question!): And how do you train, mostly over the country?

Steve: No, on the road. 3 times a week on the road and over the country on Saturdays, but mostly on me own, I'm too far away from the club.

Your Editor: And do you go easy, or steady, . . . or do you mix it? . . . (no reply coming) . . . or do you go hard?

The Irish Hero: Hard? Aye, I go damn hard!!

30 MILES ROAD RACE

JACK HOLDEN'S FOURTH SUCCESSIVE WIN

By H. W. NEALE

SOUTH LONDON H. promoted their annual 30 miles road race on 10th September over the usual course of 4 laps of 7½ miles. The weather was very warm and this fact precluded any idea that the race would be run in extremely fast time. Of the 79 entries (a record for the event), 59 started; and this field was composed of some of the most important marathon runners in the British Isles.

After the first 7½ miles had been covered, the leaders came round in a bunch in the relatively fast time of 48 mins. 11 secs. The group was comprised of W. H. Kelly (Isle of Man), T. Richards (South London H.), J. T. Holden (Tipton H.), F. Gratton (Macclesfield H.), H. W. Dennis (Thames Valley H.) and J. Paterson (Polytechnic H.).

During next 7½ miles Holden speeded up the pace and gradually drew away from the rest, and lead at this stage by nearly a minute, from Gratton, Paterson, and Dennis, who all passed the timekeepers in 1 hour 34 mins. 7 secs. Behind these three, Olympic hero, Tom Richards and Kelly (from Isle of Man) came round; being about 1½-2 mins. behind the leader. By this time the rest of the field had strung out, and the last man was about 48 mins. behind Holden.

It was in the 3rd lap that Holden showed his supremacy, by gaining nearly ½ mile on the next competitors. When he had finished his 3rd lap (in 2 hours 20 mins. 13 secs.), he had already lapped quite a few of the slower runners.

Gratton and Paterson were timed at 2 hours 23 mins. 31 secs.; while Dennis, Kelly, and Richards were strung out behind them, in that order, a terrific struggle was going on between the Scottish champion, Paterson and the youthful Gratton. These two ran side by side all through the race, with nothing more than a yard or so between them; while the timekeepers differed their time by only a second throughout the whole



Photo by H. W. Neale.
JACK HOLDEN (Tipton Harriers) one of the greatest distance runners ever, winning the 30 miles race.

race. When one speeded up the pace the other matched his efforts, and when the one leading, slowed, there was the following runner, to always come up to take the lead. At the end of the 30 miles they were still together; and they actually SPRINTED the last 100 yards. Gratton caught Paterson with about 40 yards to go and actually lead by a yard, but Paterson managed to find another effort to cross the finishing line by approximately 4 feet to spare. The excitement was so terrific that I was shut in and only managed to get a photo after ploughing through the crowd of onlookers.

THEY RAN LIKE THIS FOR 30 MILES

The Scottish Champion JACK PATERSON and ever improving and much-fancied FRED GRATTON (Macclesfield H.).



Photo by H. W. Neale.



Photo by H. W. Neale.

—AND FINISHED LIKE THIS

PATERSON just gaining the Judge's verdict after an amazing sprint finish.

Holden won at the end by about 7 minutes, and Paterson beat Gratton (as previously described) by 1 sec. Kelly who had run the last lap in 53.53, had gained about a minute on the 2nd pair, and finished only a short distance in front of Dennis. Of the 59 starters, 32 finished; and of these 19 completed the course

within the standard medal time of 3.50.

Runner-up in the Scottish Marathon J. McDonald (Thames Valley H.) ran well to finish a good 7th in 3 hours 26 mins. 48 secs.

The lap times of the first 6 are as follows:—

LAPS OF 7½ MILES EACH.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
1. J. T. Holden (Tipton H.)	48-11.	45-5(1-33-13)	46-57(2-20-13)	51-36(3-11-49)
2. J. Paterson (Poly H.)	...	48-11.	45-55(1-34-6)	49-25(2-23-31)
3. F. Gratton (Maccles. H.)	48-11.	45-56(1-34-7)	48-21(2-23-31)	55-22(3-18-53)
4. W. H. Kelly (Isle of Man)	48-11.	47-5(1-35-16)	51-12(2-26-28)	53-53(3-20-17)
5. H. W. Dennis (T. V. H.)	48-11.	46-55(1-35-6)	49-30(2-24-36)	57-53(3-20-42)
6. T. Richards (S. London)	48-11.	46-21(1-34-33)	55-53(2-30-26)	54-13(3-24-35)

JOE GALLI'S AUSTRALIAN GOSSIP.

N.S.W. High School's Championships.

David Johnson, 17-year-old Wollongong lad, eclipsed Olympian John Treloar's N.S.W. high school's 100 yds. record when he clocked 9.8 secs. to win his open championship heat on September 21st.

On the following day, against a cross breeze, Johnson won the final in 9.9 secs., which equalled the old record. Then, after winning his 220 yards heat in 22.3, Dave lost the final by inches to R. Lyons, who returned the same time.

Johnson, who showed promise by placing third in the Australian 100 yds. championship (won by Lloyd La Beach) last January, also won the broad jump with a leap of 21 ft. 4½ ins.

A new high school's championship open 440 yards record of 50.5 secs. was posted by K. Windsor of North Sydney—Treloar's old school.

Star of the under 16 division was Kevin Gosper (Newcastle), who set new records of 10.1 in the 100 yards, 22.4 in the 220 yards and 21 ft. 1 in. in the broad jump.

Other notable performers were G. Pearson, who made an under 15 broad jump record of 20 ft. 5½ ins., and A. Rymer, who won the under 14 100 yds. dash in 11 secs.

* * *

Australia's first-ever National marathon championship, held at Perth, W.A., on September 17th, resulted in a surprise win for ex-cyclist Bob Prentice (Victoria), who clocked 2 hours 43 mins. 46 secs.

Continued from following page.

beloved hobby—running. Only those intimately connected with Tommy realised how very little time he actually spent training for competitive athletics, this may seem a paradoxical statement for a man who reached International class, but true nevertheless. Every spare moment was not for himself, but lecturing and debating at his youth clubs.

An office manager, he had gained highest honours in accountancy after long tedious hours of hard work and study.



The time, although disappointing, may be considered good in view of the very warm day and the hilly course—no more than 5 miles of it was flat.

It was Prentice's second race over the distance, and he did a remarkable job in defeating the hot favourite, Gordon Stanley (Victoria), by 1 min. 36 secs.

Merv. Harburn, who had never raced the distance before, made an auspicious debut—and clean-sweep for Victoria—by taking third place in 2 hours 53 mins. 46 secs.; while Rowley Guy, N.S.W. champion, was a poor fourth in 3 hours 7 mins. 6 secs.

Prentice and Stanley drew away from the field at 16 miles, but with 21 up, the favourite couldn't hold the pace, and Prentice went away to a comfortable victory.

Prentice and Stanley (he clocked 2 hours 35 mins. 1 sec. a year ago) are now almost certain to represent Australia in the Empiad marathon. They meet again in the Victorian title race in November—and I'll "go" for Stanley again!

He was only 34 years of age when he passed from us. Bellahouston have suffered a hard blow in the loss of an ideal sportsman and President. The wide circle of the youth of the city in which he moved have lost a great servant. All his dynamic energy and enthusiasm he threw in for their guidance and welfare and he had the true qualities for leadership. He gave everything he had for them, every spare moment, every ounce of energy—he even gave his life.

TOM GIBSON

A Tribute from Jack Gifford.

ON 27th August a very good friend of mine slipped quietly away after a lifetime spent in service to youth movement and athletics in the city of Glasgow.

Universally admired by all who knew him, he was well known in the political and business world of the city, but in the sphere of Scottish athletics was a well-known figure recognised by all participants as Tommy Gibson, Scottish International runner and President of the Bellahouston Harriers' Club. Tommy joined Bellahouston in 1932 and I actually believe his first race for the club was in a youth event at Hamilton Racecourse that same season, when he revealed natural ability by finishing 8th individual in a fairly strong field. Next season found Tommy runner-up to A. Hamilton in the Club Novice Championship, and a fortnight later he finished 14th in the National Novice race.

He made it an auspicious first senior season by gaining a winning medal in both the "Bella" teams which won the Renfrewshire and Midland District 7 miles races.

Just about this time was the start of Bellahouston's peak era, when they gradually built a team which in the five years between 1934 and 1939 won everything except the Midland District relay. In all these teams Gibson was a "key" man and could always be depended upon to produce his best form for the big occasion. The best race I saw Tommy run was in the National at Ayr in 1938. A fortnight previous he had been runner-up to T. Lamb in the Club Championship. We had hopes that Lamb would gain a place in the Scottish team, and he justified our confidence by finishing sixth, but Tommy Gibson delighted the "Bella" supporters by gaining a place in the Scots team also. He turned the tables on his team-mate, who had defeated him in their last race, and actually finished fourth.

On two or three occasions Tommy was reserve for the Scots team, and again he turned out for his country in 1946 when club-mate G. Anderson unfortunately had to decline his place through illness, and Tommy, as first reserve, stepped into his place.

When I think back, of all the races I have seen and had with Tommy, the one that strikes me most vividly was the Renfrewshire 7 miles at Thornliebank in 1937. At the 4 miles stage I was leading Tommy by 300 yards, at 5 miles it was two hundred, and a mile from the finish Tommy had cut it down to 100 yards. From my point of view worse was to happen, 880 yards to go and Tommy was tenaciously cutting down my lead until I was barely fifty yards in front. He had the cruellest of luck, I crossed the finishing line at a snail's pace whilst Tommy came tearing up behind me strong and full of running only about 30 yards at my back.

Throughout the years as we recalled past races, never once did Tommy mention that I had been lucky to beat him. No athlete ever more deserved the compliment of being known as "modest in victory and generous in defeat." Tommy Gibson, one of the most popular runners ever to wear the Bellahouston St. Andrew's Cross, has set an example of sportsmanship which we in Bellahouston impress on all our members to do their best to emulate.

When his illness came upon him, he showed courage in adversity which was an inspiration to all who visited him. The Bellahouston motto is "Nil Desperandum" and as President of the club no man ever lived up to that inspiring slogan more worthily.

Whenever I visited him he was always asking how the club was faring and was delighted when I told him that a young lad whom he had brought into the club had won a first prize at an open sports meeting, but he was more than delighted when he heard that our Ladies' team had broken the relay record at the Ladies' Relay Championship at Ibrox.

At the early part of this past season, I watched Tommy, whilst far from well, coaching these girls in that vital part of relay racing—baton changing. Most of these girls were comparative novices, and one can readily understand his delight at their success.

He gave all his time to the youth of the city, lecturing and coaching, with a hurriedly snatched hour or two at his