

MAY, 1953

Vol. 8, No. 1

THE SCOTS ATHLETE

PRICE
6D



Photo by H. W. Neale.
A pleasant study of the famous Scottish athlete, Dr. EWAN C. K. DOUGLAS (Atlanta). He has represented Gt. Britain in the two post-war Olympics at Throwing the Hammer.



GLASGOW POLICE SPORTS

(Under S.A.A.A., S.C.U. and S.A.W.A. Laws)

AT

IBROX STADIUM

(Kindly Granted by Rangers Football Club)

ON

SATURDAY, 13TH JUNE, 1953

BRITAIN'S PREMIER OPEN SPORTS MEETING

ENTRIES CLOSE, SATURDAY, 30th MAY, 1953.
AT 5.0 P.M.

T. D. McKIE, Hon. Sports Secy.,
Marine Police Office,
Glasgow, W.1.

JOHN EMMET FARRELL'S
RUNNING COMMENTARY.
SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIPS REVIEWED
MELVIN WHITFIELD. BEST PERFORMANCES.
ACTION PHOTOS. SPORTS PUBLICITY.

SCOTTISH AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

SIXTY-FIRST ANNUAL
SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

AT NEW MEADOWBANK, EDINBURGH
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

26th and 27th JUNE, 1953

FRIDAY, 7 P.M. SATURDAY, 2.30 P.M.

EVENTS:—100 Yds., 220 Yds., 440 Yds., 880 Yds., One Mile, Three Miles, Six Miles, Two Miles Steeplechase, 120 Yds. Hurdles, 440 Yds. Hurdles, High Jump, Long Jump, Hop, Step & Jump, Pole Vault, Discus, Javelin, Hammer (Wire Handle), Weight, Marathon, Tug-of-War (Catch Wt.), Tug-of-War (100 Stones) Junior Relays 4 x 110 yds. and $\frac{1}{4}$ Mile Medley.

ENTRIES for these Events close first post SATURDAY, 13th JUNE, 1953, with C. M. RAINBIRD, Hon. E.D. Secretary, 19 Craiglockhart Loan, Edinburgh, 11, from whom further Entry Forms can be obtained.

**ANNUAL JUNIOR AND YOUTHS'
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

AT WESTERLANDS, GLASGOW
ON SATURDAY, 4th JULY, 1953, at 2.0 p.m.

JUNIOR EVENTS:—100 Yds., 220 Yds., 440 Yds., 880 Yds., One Mile, 120 Yds. Hurdles, 200 Yds. Hurdles, High Jump, Long Jump, Hop, Step and Jump, Weight, Hammer (12 lbs.), Javelin, Discus, Pole Vault.

YOUTHS' EVENTS:—100 Yds., 880 Yds., Long Jump.

SENIOR RELAYS:—1 Mile Medley and 4 x 110 Yds. Relay.

ENTRIES for these Events close first post SATURDAY, 20th JUNE, 1953, with D. McL. WRIGHT, Hon. W.D. Secretary, 17 Polwarth Gardens, Glasgow, W.2. (Telephone: Western 6557), from whom further Entry Forms can be obtained.

THE SCOTS ATHLETE

TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN
SCOTTISH AND WORLD ATHLETICS

"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm."

EDITED BY - WALTER J. ROSS

EDITORIAL OFFICES—69 ST. VINCENT STREET, GLASGOW, C.2

TEL.-CENTRAL 8444

MAY, 1953. Vol. 8. No. 1.

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JOHN EMMET
FARRELL'S



AFTER a most exhilarating cross-country season here we are right into the summer season without it seems even the formality of a close season.

Those rugged distance runners seem to thrive on those road relays and distance races which span the winter and summer programmes.

Magnificent London—Brighton Relay.
After what can only be termed a magnificent race, Thames Valley Harriers beat Birchfield Harriers—the new National Cross-Country Champions by some 150 yards. The Scots' nominees did not set the heather on fire on this occasion, Victoria Park finishing 7th (still a useful performance) against their great 3rd of a year ago, while Shettleston Harriers without the services of Eddie Bannon brought up the rear of the 20 competing teams.

Frank Sando in the first lap, massive Australian miler, Don MacMillan running for Poly in the 2nd and Fred Green for

Birchfield in the last lap put in great runs, but the classic proved to be the Pirie-Olney duel in the 7th leg of approximate 6 miles. Pirie took off a couple of yards in front of Olney and hared off to such good purpose that he smashed the course record but Olney hounded him and would not be shaken off with the result that they finished as they started both being timed at 29 mins. 5 secs. or 13 seconds inside Jim Peter's old record of 29 mins. 18 secs. Not even a Pirie at his best could put daylight between himself and his shadow.

Bright running at Bolton Floodlight.

Local favourite Fred Norris made a gallant attempt to beat Eaton's 1936 10 miles British Record of 50 mins. 30.8 secs. by clocking 51 mins. 39.8 secs, breaking the tape some 50 yards in front of Walter Hesketh who showed improving form. Norris passed the 7 miles stage in 35.21 which is 5 seconds inside the British record,

but he then stitched and failed to sustain his advantage.

Empire, British and Native Records fall to Pirie.

As if to demonstrate that his lapse in the International Cross-Country Championship was just an off-day—Gordon Pirie put up an amazing run in winning the Southern 6 miles championship in 28 mins. 47.4 seconds which will constitute a new British Empire, British All-Comers British National and English Native Record. His times at 4 and 5 miles, respectively 19 mins. 4 secs. and 23 mins. 56.2 secs. are new English Native records. Jim Peters of marathon fame also put up great figures to finish 2nd in 29 mins. 1.8 secs. his best ever at this distance. He was incidentally the only runner in the field who was not lapped. Charlie Smart—44 year old Belgrave veteran ran well to finish 4th in 30 mins. 16 secs.

Carrying on in real Zatopek style, at this early stage Pirie has subsequently returned 4 mins. 16 secs. for a club mile and on another date with 8 m. 56 s. he was just .4 secs. outside Chris Chataways great 2 mil record. In process Pirie had covered 1½ miles in the new English record time of 6 mins. 39 secs. What will he have done by the seasons end ?

Great Running by R. McMinnis.

Some knowledgeable critics consider that Jim Peters will be seriously challenged in the big Marathon events by Stan Cox who has set his heart on defeating his rival and friend, but R. McMinnis by his brilliant defeat of Olympians Iden and Cox in the Finchley "20."—in which he took nearly 2 minutes off Peter's course record must be reckoned with. Iden and Cox were also inside these figures. Despite a slight discrepancy in the course it appears that McMinnis's time represents faster running than last years record.

Added to his win in the Doncaster—Sheffield Marathon it is apparent that if McMinnis can keep this form up he will give Peters and co. many anxious moments.

Scot Alex. Kidd of Garscube keen marathon aspirant who went down chiefly to gain experience not in an excellent

show by finishing 8th in 1hr. 55 m. 20 s. just behind Tom Richards in this mammoth field of 159 starters. Close runner-up to Charlie Robertson in last year's Scottish Marathon championship J. Duffy of Hadleigh finished 16th in 1 hr. 57 m. 56 s.

Record Boston Marathon.

Japanese runner Keizo Yamada won the classic Boston Marathon in 2 hrs. 18 mins. 51 secs. with V. Karvonen of Finland second and K. Leandersson of Sweden 3rd. The winner's time is not only a Boston record but a world best ever faster than Jim Peter's fantastic 1952 Marathon of 2 hrs. 20 mins. 42.2 secs. But there have always been doubts as to the bona fides of this course as a full-fledged marathon because of its suspected shortness and its downhill nature. Yet there can be no doubt of the intrinsic brilliance of the Jap's feat with his fast time and defeat of such classic contenders.

"Some" Schoolboys "Some" Records

The L.A.C. School-boys championships of 1953 were productive of some amazing athletic feats of which many seniors would be proud to equal. There were a crop of records and among those our grand young Scots hammer thrower takes a proud place. Ian Bain of Fettes retained his hammer title with a prodigious 171 ft. 6½ ins. record.

Perhaps we have another Douglas or Clark, or even another Nemeth or Strandli? Other records were M. K. Wheeler's 440 yards in 50 secs. M. Martin's 880 yards in 1 min. 58.5 secs. R. Dunkley's Mile in 4 mins. 21.8 secs. G. Schmidt's 12 ft. pole-vault. E. L. Carr's shot-putt of 49 ft. 9 ins.; and almost as good though not records were S. Orman's 20 ft. 11½ ins. long jump and P. Brimon's really high jump of 6 ft. 2 ins. !

Bannister Smashes Wooderson's British Mile Record.

After Roger Bannister's classic 4 mins. 3.6 secs. mile which displaces Sydney Wooderson's 4 mins. 6.4 secs. as a British record—the mythical 4 minute mile moves nearer to reality. Bannister finished very fast covering the last lap in 58.7 secs. and his second half was faster than his first



Photo by P. S. Waldie.

This photo appropriately recalls the meeting of DAVID GRACIE (G.U.A.C.) (4) and JIM HAMILTON (V.P.A.A.C.) in the 1950 Scottish quarter mile championship and won by the latter in 49.5 secs. one of the best recorded. Gracie reversed the placings in 1951, and won easily last year when Hamilton was a non-starter through injury. The clashing of these two, now more polished athletes, should be one of the highlights of the 1953 season.

With a more even pace Bannister could be the first 4 minute miler of all time. Among others in the running for this honour are Lueg of Germany, Reiff of Belgium, Eriksson and Aberg of Sweden, Boysen of Norway—the two McMillans, of U.S.A. and Australia, Landy of Australia who has impressed with sensational miles in 4 mins. 2.1 secs. and 4 mins. 2. 8secs. and last but not least Barthel of Luxembourg reigning 1,500 metres champion, for whom I have the greatest respect and admiration.

Scottish Track Prospects.

I think that we can look forward to an extremely high standard of athletic endeavour not only over the border but also here in Scotland.

On the one hand it may be argued that there is bound to be a reaction following last year's great Olympic Games incentive. On the other hand there is the incentive of next year's European and Empire Games. Some of our Scots' athletes will be striving to catch the Scottish selectors eye for the latter and even the British selectors for the former. So the Scottish championships

at Meadowbank on June 27th should be a most engrossing affair!

Can Willie Jack retain sprints.

Last year Willie Jack put in a special preparation in view of possible Olympic Games selection and was consequently out on his own in the sprints. Even without this extra effort he has the class to retain both sprints. In the hundred classy contenders should be the consistent veteran John McLachlan of Maryhill last year's runner-up, ex-junior champion A. S. Dunbar of Stranraer now a colleague of Jack's and Robin Ward of Glasgow University who are both running very well indeed. In the furlong K. A. Robertson of Edinburgh Varsity may be feared most.

Gracie should retain Quarter title.

Versatile Olympian David Gracie can retain his 440 yards flat title provided Jimmy Hamilton of Victoria Park equally good at quarter and half foregoes the shorter distance race. Last year's runner up D. McDonald of Garscube can make it a tight finish and we may also see again in the final W. C. O'Kane (Garscube) and R. Mill (V.P.A.A.C.)

A "Hot" Half.

The half mile should be an intriguing race. The holder Guy Sorbie of Hamilton Harriers is proved a better runner than his last year's winning time suggests. However he has not been out in the early meets and may find himself short of racing gallops. Last year's runner-up W. Speirs Shettleston Harriers and club-mate J. Kirk are not likely to be starters, but opposition is not eased. J. S. Petty now in Bellahouston colours is in grand shape and may finally pull it off. He is a beautiful stylist but has had unfortunate set-backs from time-to time. The real doubt with Petty may be a lack of robustness to carry him through.

Stepped from the Junior ranks R. Stoddart also of Bellahouston Harriers has undoubtedly class, possibly the most promising half-miler in Scotland for some years, but has he the experience to win? H. M. Dove from B.A.O.R. (Maryhill Harriers) is a tried campaigner and Hillary and ex-junior champion H. A. Cumming both of Edinburgh University are fast men and will make it go. However, again the cat among the pigeons will be Jimmy Hamilton if he concentrates on this event. If he decides on this he will carry my confidence for he is happily endowed with all the qualities required to make a champion. He has temperament, courage and class.

Schoolboy Rivalry Renewed.

We shall witness a grand mile final. Given fair conditions we can look for improved standard and a sub 4 mins. 20 secs. for the distance and more in keeping with the traditions of Bobby Graham and Tom Riddell.

The popular, rugged Aberdonian vet-student Ken Coutts (Edin. University) who won last year in the fine time of 4 mins. 21.2 secs. is a real stout-hearted runner and undoubtedly will be hard to beat. On account of their several thrilling duels in the past he will probably fear most his old schoolboy rival and friend John Hendry, last year's British Junior champion. Hendry, the powerfully built Elgin lad, now in the Scots Guards has been in touch with Walton A.C. and is reported to have had

favourable outings with none other than British champion G. W. Nankeville.

M. I. Robertson (Edin. University) though tended to be outshone by colleague Coutts at present can take fast pace and must be reckoned with as should the Greenock Wellpark, Stevenson brothers. As also should Bill Messer (E.N.H.) and J. Finlayson if the mile is their intention.

D. Henson and Alex. Breckenridge the Victoria Park pair 2nd and 3rd last year should put up a great effort to win the race for their club.

I would not be surprised to see the latter, the present junior cross-country champion, upset all the fancies and steal the race, he has shown speed and confidence over a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and he values the stamina work as displayed in his recent 2 miles race successes.

The 3 and 6 Miles Records may go.

The position regarding the longer track events is somewhat obscure at the moment but as I see it Andy Forbes should retain his 3 miles title and clubmate Ian Binnie his 6 miles, both in fast time.

Forbes still has the flair for the big occasion and if he has to be beaten then it will possibly take a time inside his own great record of 14 mins. 18.2 secs.

Binnie now training more often, further and harder than ever and already this season shown top condition and versatility with class 3 mile track and 15 mile road race wins would be most disappointed not to well beat 30 mins. for the 6 miles and eradicate the 30 mins. 4.2 secs. record figures he established last year in windy conditions.

Binnie of course may try for the double but this is a very difficult feat unless the athlete is extremely robust and possessed of exceptional recuperative powers.

Bannon and Black could upset Victoria Park Double.

Eddie Bannon—Scotland's hero of the International Cross-Country Championship has the class to be a real live contender and a probable winner of either 3 or 6 miles or both but his heart does not seem to be set on the track as it is in the country. Still if he runs in either he must



Photo by H. W. Neale.
Scotland's leading track athlete, DAVID GRACIE, when winning last year's Triangular International 400 metres hurdles race from fellow Olympians H. Whittle and A. S. Scott. In so doing he returned the good time of 52.6 secs. Following the Olympics he ran even faster, his best to date, returning on 6th August a winning time of 52.3 secs. at Malmö, Sweden.

be reckoned with. Up-and coming Alex. Black of Dundee Hawkhill is something of a dark-horse and his form up to now is potential rather than actual. However he decided to miss the big country tests to concentrate on the track. Whether that decision is wise or not seems problematical. But there is no doubt that whether he chooses the 3, or 6, or even the 1 mile—his sponsors expect him to make a serious bid for the honours.

Miniature Cross-Country test.

It seems strange that more cross-country runners do not attempt the steeplechase. Perhaps lack of facilities are to blame. J. W. Brydie of Edinburgh University—the holder is a useful flat runner and Ronnie Kane of Victoria Park—just beaten on the tape last year will have to indulge in some fast work to balance his un-doubted staying power. Spectators will be more than satisfied if we have as thrilling a finish as last year. A most memorable one.

Hurdle Twins.

J. Hart (R.A.F. and Atalanta) and J. P.

McAslan (Edinburgh University) put up a great race in the 120 yards hurdles last year the former winning by so close a margin that the time-keepers could not separate them and they may again fight out the issue over the high "steps."

Gracie on his own.

David Gracie who by earning Olympic selection and by subsequently setting up a new British record for 440 yards hurdles in chasing home world-record breaking Olympic Champion Charlie Moore of U.S.A. surely demonstrated that he is at the moment Scotland's greatest athlete. Although he may not be tuned up to the pitch of his Olympic-year fitness the Larkhall boy has sufficient class to retain his championship with ease.

Though much improved in technique and strategy he is still learning in that respect so it is safe to assume that he may have even greater triumphs to come.

Piper's fitness in doubt.

Bill Piper of Glasgow Police appears to have donned the mantle vacated by Alan



Reigning Scottish Pole Vault and High Jump champion, BILL PIPER (Glasgow Police) came under the critical eye of the famous Scottish chief athletic coach, H. A. L. Chapman (Centre) when training at Jordanhill training grounds.

Paterson and if fit could have retained high-jump and pole vault titles. Last year he jumped 6 ft. 2 ins. and vaulted 12 ft.—both creditable performances. A recent accident and leg injury may mean him being a non-entrant or tackling only the high-jump. His defection would be as disappointing to followers as to himself.

Only serious rival if he decided to come North would be the equally versatile Anglo-Scot and Kent policeman Norman Gregor a most colourful performer who may be only as good as Piper in the high jump but can rise to greater heights in the vault.

Few Stars in the Horizontal Jumps.

Last year there were no outstanding performers in the long and triple jump, J. R. Fleming (S. Fusiliers) and R.M. Stephen (Shettleston) winning respectively with undistinguished marks. The Olympic Gold Coast student W. N. Laing of St. Andrews University is capable of winning both titles if available. In the former event Peter McArthur (Edinburgh South.) and A. R. Smith (G.U.A.C.) are enthusiasts with the ability to triumph.

Drummond should prevail.

Though not in the Savidge class Jock Drummond of Heriot's should again be too

strong for his rivals in that explosive event, putting the weight. Last year he set up a Scottish record of 44 ft. 9½ ins. and is capable of further improvement.

As should McKenzie in the Javelin.

Similarly in that classic event the Javelin, it will take a good spear to out-hurl Edinburgh student D. W. McKenzie whose winning throw of 183 ft. 3½ ins. last year was very good indeed. He is showing much more consistency this year and recently set up a Scottish record (yet unratified) of 185 ft. 10 ins. However he is by no means a certainty, C. F. Riach (Jordanhill T. C.) possibly a better technician can approach the same distances and a most serious challenger to both will be ever-improving Ian Drummond.

D is for the Discus.

In that other event as beloved of the ancient Greeks, the discus throw, a new champion may have to take the pedestal as holder W. H. J. Leckie does not appear to be competing this year. Former S.A.A.A. champion K. Maksimczk seems likeliest. However we have "3 D's" who must not be overlooked. Donnelly, J. L., Drummond J., and Douglas, E. C. K. each being a worthy contender.

Duncan Clark will be missed.

With holder Duncan Clark our famous hammer-thrower and kenspeckle figure at all the post-war championships, now abroad, the championship seems to be presented to his great colleague of British teams, the Penicuik doctor E. C. K. Douglas. R. S. Scott of Glasgow Univ. is revealing form good enough to take the runner-ups plaque.

The Championships require better Presentation.

I feel that the championships require a more colourful presentation to attract the less enthusiastic spectator.

A real live racy commentary on the running events would be helpful but in the field events it would be invaluable.

All spectators can follow the running events at some stage but this is not so in the more restricted field events where championships can be lost and won and even records set up without the knowledge of most of the onlookers.

A commentary featuring the technique of those events and the personalities involved would help enormously. It would help also if each event was given its place and did not serve as a mere background to other events.

Unpredictable Marathon?

An interesting and engrossing race should take place in the Marathon, with such lively contenders as present champion Charlie Robertson, J. Duffy of Hadleigh, Jack Paterson and Harry Howard—ex-champions both, Willie Gallagher, Alex. McLean, Joe McGhee and Alex. Kidd. Those names should provide the first 3 home. Harry Howard, brilliant but unpredictable must have a winning chance as should Duffy of Hadleigh last year's runner-up while warm conditions would favour the chances of game consistent stayer Paterson. If there is to be a surprise Joe McGhee of St. Modans whose current form has been very good might provide it. Still on balance I should favour the chances of holder Charlie Robertson who is very consistent and can at times be brilliant.

Desire continues but Hope fades.

A stubborn foot injury may preclude my

entry for the Marathon and even end my athletic ambition. A long innings does not soften regret at my inability to make one final serious attempt to win this traditional classic.

Strange isn't it how in most spheres of activity achievement takes second place to the yet unaccomplished.

Thus tribute is paid to the spirit of the quest.

The Greater Prize.

The glittering prize and the mob's applause are the fruits of victory yet often a man plods wearily on to earn only his own self-respect.

In the International at Paris I was forcibly reminded of this. Wearily I hobbled off the track in company with others long after the plaudits awarded the leaders had subsided.

Suddenly there were shouts and applause more in keeping with a victor's welcome. I looked round. Painfully and wearily the last competitor strove laboriously to reach the finish. As the faltering stride reached its goal the crowd rose in acclamation.

For the first man home a laurel wreath; for the last man to finish an intangible, yet strange paradox,—more durable one.

The tribute that always has been and shall continue to be paid by sportsmanship to heroism and courage.

A.A.A. PUBLICATIONS

- High Jumping (2/3)
- Long Jump & Hop, Step & Jump (2/3)
- The Discus Throw (2/3)
- The Javelin Throw (2/3)
- Middle Distance Running (2/3)
- Weight Putting (2/3)
- Hurdling (2/3)
- Sprinting and Relay Racing (2/3)
- A.A.A. Rules for Competition (1/9)
- How to Organise and Conduct a Sports Meeting (1/9)
- The Technique of Judging Track Events (1/9)

Obtainable from the
A.A.A. Crown Chambers,
118 Chancery Lane, London W.C.2.

WORLD CHAMPION & RECORD HOLDER

MELVIN G. WHITFIELD (U.S.A.)



Photo by H. W. Neale.

MEL WHITFIELD, winner of Olympic 800 metres at London and Helsinki, is booked to run at Glasgow Police Sports on 13th June—delightful news for all Scottish fans. The world's best "quarter-half miler" in top speed is a perfect picture of grace and power.

This first-time published photo shows him setting up the grand Scottish All-Comers' half mile record of 1 min. 50.8 secs. at Ibrox on 5th August, 1950. (Note how finishing fast and close to the verge he had to roll his shoulder to clear the post at the finishing line.)

The N.C.C.U. of Scotland Jubilee 1903-1953 COMMEMORATION DINNER.

This important occasion was celebrated in the Grand Hotel, Glasgow on Friday, 17th April, 1953 by a company of 100 enthusiasts from all parts of Scotland, under the Chairmanship of Mr. David Scott, Monkland Harriers, President of the Union. At the reception many old acquaintances were renewed and new ones made, before going into dinner, where a table was reserved for ex-presidents, 16 of whom were present. An excellent meal was enjoyed, after which the evening quickly passed with speeches, interspersed with song and music by messrs. D. McLean, J. Payne and C. Livingstone.

At the top table were The Chairman; Lieut. Col. Sir Thomas Moore, M.P., C.B.E., O.B.E., Hon. President; Baillie Templeton, representing Glasgow Corporation; A. M. Dunnet, Editor in Chief Kemsley Newspapers; Bruce Swadel, Sports Editor, Sunday Express; William Carmichael, President S.A.A.A., Past Pres. N.C.C.U., John D. McKinlay, Past Pres.

S.A.A.A., and N.C.C.U.; Lieut. Col. D. McSwein, Past Pres. S.A.A.A. and N.C.C.U.; Lieut. Col. T. M. Riddell, famous middle distance runner; George McKenzie, ex-Internationalist; George Dallas, Hon. Secretary, N.C.C.U.; T. Fraser, Past Pres. N.C.C.U.

All made able, humorous and to-the-point speeches. Baillie Templeton referred to appeals for facilities, but pointed out that Stanalane and Knightswood tracks were little used, only West Thorn being fully used. Our Press guests appealed for more personalities and colour in our sport—it being suggested that the "National" be run at some famous beauty spot, say the Trossachs! Then they could give cross-country running a boost. However, they were evidently surprised to see such a gathering as was present, and were duly impressed.

As the evening closed it was voted on all hands a very successful enjoyable occasion, and a definite "miss" to those in the game unable to be present.

E. TAYLOR.

GLASGOW CORPORATION TRANSPORT RECREATION CLUB

OPEN SPORTS MEETING

(Under S.A.A.A. Laws and S.C.U. Rules)

HELENVALE PARK, PARKHEAD CROSS,
GLASGOW

TUESDAY, 30th JUNE, 1953

AT 6.30 P.M.

100 Yds., 220 Yds., 880 Yds., and 1 Mile, High Jump Handicaps (Open); Junior One Lap and Youths' 100 Yds. Handicaps; Two Miles Team Race.

Special Invitation Events; Senior Five-a-Side Football.

Entries close SATURDAY, 20th JUNE, 1953, with usual agencies, or with PETER REILLY, Gen. Secy., Glasgow Corporation Transport Recreation Club, 46 Bath Street, Glasgow, C.2.

Encourage Field Events for Youths

A Plea by A. Y. Lambert.

I should like to make a special appeal for better treatment in our athletic clubs of the younger lad who is in the "Youth" or "Junior" class.

At present in most clubs the pre-war attitude still exists of slavish worship of cross-country racing and its summer counterparts—the distance track runs of two miles and upwards. Anything outside these with a certain exception in the case of sprints and middle distance, are treated as Cinderella events. My appreciation of these former events could not be higher but surely while they tend to monopolise the interests of our clubs to the exclusion of jumping, throwing and hurdling, our athletic future is not very bright.

With the advent of the modern virile approach by our Scottish Schools A.A. to athletics this pre-war approach to youngsters by our harrier clubs becomes suicidal in its insufficiency. No longer do these youngsters come to our clubs with an interest only in the 100 or the mile but also with an interest in one or other of the "Cinderella" events mentioned above. Unless a boy is outstanding in one of the latter events and notwithstanding even that fact on occasions he has to sublimate his interest to the general demand for sprints, middle and distance running, and, bright or dim, the flame of his potential prowess at other events is snuffed out in its infancy.

Our educational establishments cater for the jumps, hurdles and throws, and a boy who goes to University has facilities for improving in these events. Hence the Atlanta domination of these events each year in the National championships. They are all, of course, subsidised, in time for training as well as in equipment. Can our harriers' clubs challenge their supremacy? Of course they can and have done, the hop, step and jump in last year's championships being a notable example. This and a few other examples in recent years show that in a small way, where encouragement has been given to youngsters in these events, it has borne fruit.

One very notable West of Scotland club introduced a novel venture last year in the form of a novices field events contest with three age groups between 14 and 19. Strength to their elbows—they deserve success, and they are attracting youngsters in their district who might not otherwise join a club because of lack of prowess in actual running. It is strangely enough the case that many of the lads so attracted may eventually gravitate to track running and in a few instances develop into substantial performers in that medium.

The great thing is obviously to attract all youngsters no matter what their particular forte may be, and to provide facilities and coaching for all events.

The difficulties are many but are not great and as far as I can see the harriers' clubs of this country have no mean record behind them in surmounting difficulties.

Who's going to coach the youngsters in these events? Your own members of course! H. A. L. Chapman's classes for coaches at various centres and times are the best training ground available for people who wish to learn the mechanics of all athletic events. The C.C.P.R., I am sure, will furnish details by post for those really interested in becoming proficient at coaching in any event. Even Gymphlex of Leicester have advertised a set of training and technique charts for all events at 2/6 per copy or 25/- for the complete set.

I know there are people who say "You'll do more harm than good unless you're an expert coach." No Sir! is the answer to them for, no matter how limited your knowledge, encouragement itself is meat and drink to our youngsters and you'll find yourselves questing further and further for more knowledge and understanding of an event rather than let these lads down.

All the impedimenta cost money—but is an investment in the future of your club and of Scottish athletics not gilt edged! Even the presence of these items is an incentive to the youngsters to use

Best Performances: Early Marks

Compiled by R. SINCLAIR

These marks include to 14th May.

(* established outwith Scotland; dh—downhill; w.—wind assisted; n.—not announced officially; e.—estimated.)

100 Yards—

R. Ward, G.U.A.C. (dh) ...	10.0s.
A. S. Dunbar, G.U.A.C. (dhn) ...	10.0s.
J. T. Essuman, J.T.C.A.C. ...	10.2s.
W. R. Harvey, E.S.H. (w.) ...	10.2s.
W. Jack, V.P.A.A.C. (n) ...	10.3s.
W. Henderson, W.A.C. (w.) ...	10.3s.
J. L. D. Marr, Ed. Acad. (w.) ...	10.3s.
J. Thorburn, Tr. Acad. (w.) ...	10.3s.

440 Yards—

R. Mill, V.P.A.A.C. ...	52.0s.
D. McDonald, G.H. ...	52.1s.

880 Yards—

H. A. Cumming, E.U.A.C. ...	1m. 58.0s.
C. O. G. Hillary, E.U.A.C. ...	1m. 58.1s.

Noteworthy:

J. S. Hamilton, V.P.A.A.C. (h. 4 yds) ...	1m. 58.6s.
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One Mile—

K. Coutts, E.U.A.C. ...	4m. 23.2s.
J. Finlayson, Q.U.A.C. (n) ...	4m. 24.0s.
M. A. Robinson, E.U. (n) ...	4m. 24.2s.
J. Stuart, G.U.A.C. (e) ...	4m. 26.0s.

Noteworthy:

W. Messer, E.N.H. (h. 20 yds.) ...	4m. 23.0s.
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Three Miles—

J. Burnett, Camb. Un. ...	14m. 24.4s.
I. Binnie, V.P.A.A.C. ...	14m. 34.2s.
A. D. Breckenridge, V.P.A.A.C. (n) ...	14m. 42.0s.

Continued from previous page.

them. Just try taking a discuss up to your training field next time and after a few throws watch the group of youngsters assemble—all eager to have a shot. In the spirit that brings them round you lies the security for your investments of money and effort and the future of our beloved name in Scotland.

120 Yards Hurdles—

C. A. R. Dennis, E.U.A.C. ...	15.9s.
R. D. Unkles, G.U.A.C. ...	16.0s.

440 Yards Hurdles—

D. H. Mackenzie, E.U.A.C. ...	58.2s.
H. C. Ferguson, G.A.A.C. (u.) ...	58.7s.

High Jump—

M. G. R. Jenkins, Gordonstoun *	5 ft. 9 ins.
J. L. Hamilton, J.T.L.A.C. ...	5 ft. 9 ins.

Long Jump—

A. R. Smith, G.U.A.C. ...	22 ft. 1½ ins.
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Hop, Step & Jump—

G. Storey, St. A.U.A.C. ...	44 ft. 0 ins.
H. K. Lawson, E.U.A.C. ...	43 ft. 4 ins.

Pole Vault—

N. G. A. Gregor, H.H.H. *	12 ft. 8 ins.
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Putt—

J. Drummond, H.A.C. ...	44 ft. 9 ins.
T. J. Logan, V.P.A.C. ...	43 ft. 2½ ins.
S. Olafsson, E.U.A.C. ...	43 ft. 0 ins.
K. Maksimczyk, E.E.H. ...	40 ft. 4 ins.
H. K. McLachlan, G.U.A.C. ...	39 ft. 5½ ins.
I. H. Drummond, E.H. ...	39 ft. 4 ins.

Discus—

J. Drummond, H.A.C. ...	135 ft. 10 ins.
K. Maksimczyk, E.E.H. ...	128 ft. 4 ins.
C. F. Riach, J.T.C.A.C. ...	122 ft. 3 ins.
E. C. K. Douglas, F.E.C. ...	121 ft. 11½ ins.

Javelin—

D. W. R. McKenzie, E.U.A.C. ...	185 ft. 10 ins.
C. F. Riach, J.T.C.A.C. ...	184 ft. 3½ ins.
I. H. Drummond, E.H. ...	178 ft. 10 ins.

Hammer—

E. C. K. Douglas, F.E.C. ...	165 ft. 0 ins.
D. S. Scott, G.U.A.C. ...	143 ft. 41 ins.



Leading at almost the half-way stage in the Annual Dumbartonshire Balloch-Clydebank road race are J. DUFFY (Clydesdale H.) (5) G. A. DUNN (9) and D. COUPLAND (both Garscube H.). Duffy was the eventual winner.

Photo by G. S. Barber.

SPORTS DIARY

May.
 23—Bellahouston Harriers.....Ibrox Stadium.
 23—Bonnybridge Sports Festival.....Bonnybridge.
 23/25—Inter-Counties (England) & British Games—White City, London.
 29—Edinburgh Boys' Brigade Championships—New Meadowbank.
 30—Glasgow Highland Gathering—Ibrox Stadium.
 30—Tillicoultry & Hillfoots A.C.—Tillicoultry.
 30—London Caledonian Games—White City.
 30—Army Cadet Force Championships—Paisley.
 30—Sea Cadet Corps.....Saughton.
 June.

2—Edinburgh Lighting & Cleansing Welfare A.C. Sports and Scottish Relay Championships (4 x 440 yds)—New Meadowbank.
 6—Scottish Women's A.A. Championships—Helenvale Park, Glasgow.
 6—Scottish University Championships—Aberdeen.
 6—Federation of Catholic Boys' Clubs—New Meadowbank.

6—Dundee F.C. Supporters' Club & Hawkhill Harriers—Dundee.
 6—Inverness-shire Schools' Association—Inverness.

6—Singers Sports Gala.....Clydebank.
 6—Lanarkshire Constabulary A.C.—Shawfield.
 9/11—S.A.A.A. Eastern District Championships & "Sports Dispatch" Trophy—New Meadowbank.

13—Bathgate St. Mary's A.C.....Bathgate.
 13—Glasgow Police A.A.....Ibrox Stadium.
 13—Scottish Deaf Amateur Sports Association—Helenvale Park, Glasgow.
 13—Babcock & Wilcox A.C.—Renfrew.
 15—Renfrewshire A.A.A. Championships—Renfrew.

16—Glasgow Inter-Club Contest.....Glasgow.
 20—Scottish Schools' A.A. Championships—Edinburgh.
 20—Fife & Kinross Y.M.C.A. Championships—Markinch.

20—Edinburgh & District Inter-Works Sports—New Meadowbank.
 20—Motherwell & Wishaw Police—Motherwell.
 20—Inter-County Youth Services.....Stranraer.
 20—South-West Scotland Electricity Board—Helenvale Park, Glasgow.
 23—Heriot Trophy Contest.....Edinburgh.
 26/27—S.A.A.A. Senior Championships (including Marathon) & Junior Relay Championships—New Meadowbank.
 27—Scottish A.T.C. Championships—Turnhouse.
 27—Braw Lads' Gathering.....Galashiels.
 27—Stewarton Bonnet Guild Festival Sports—Stewarton.
 27—Inverness Highland Games.....Inverness.
 30—Glasgow Corporation Transport Recreation Club—Helenvale Park, Glasgow.
 July.
 3/4—Women's A.A.A. Championships—White City, London.
 4—S.A.A.A. Junior Championships & Senior Relay Championships—Westerglas.
 4—Tayport Sports & Gala Day.....Tayport.

ROAD RACE FIXTURES

May.
 25—Goatfell Hill Race.....12 miles.
 30—Tillicoultry Highland Games.....15 miles.
 June.
 27—Scottish Championship, Falkirk to Edinburgh—Ben Nevis Hill Race.....15 miles.
 July.
 11—Saxone A.C., Kilmarnock.....18 miles.
 18—Maryhill Harriers, Dunoon.....12 miles.
 25—West Calder.....15 miles.
 25—Falkirk Victoria.....10 miles.
 25—A.A.A. Championship, Cardiff.

August.
 8—Carlisle.....11 miles.
 15—Milngavie Highland Games.....10 miles.
 22—Bute Highland Games.....11 miles.
 September.
 5—Shotts Highland Games.....10 miles.
 12—Dunblane Highland Games.....14 miles.

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