

# RENFREWSHIRE A.A.A. 10 MILES C.C. RELAY CHAMPIONSHIP.

Details:—

1. Bellahouston H.—(R. Penman, 13m. 20s.: C. Milligan, 13m. 16s.: H. Fenion, 12m. 33s.: R. Stoddart, 13m. 00s.). Time 52m. 09s.
2. Greenock Wellpark H.—(G. King, 13m. 22s.: D. McConnachie, 13m. 36s.: J. Stevenson, 12m. 40s.: T. Stevenson, 12m. 36s.). Time 52m. 14s.
3. Plebeian H.—(J. Simpson, 13m. 21s.: J. McCann, 13m. 56s.: A. Smith, 13m. 33s.: A. Small, 12m. 48s.). Time 53m. 38s.
4. Paisley H.—(G. Napier, 13m. 26s.: A. Napier, 13m. 10s. W. McNeil, 13m. 39s.: J. Campbell, 13m. 23s.). Time 53m. 38s.
5. Bellahouston H. "B"—(R. Wilson, 13m. 30s.: J. McLean, 13m. 46s.: G. Bell, 14m. 04s.: A. Jack, 14m. 15s.). Time 55m. 35s.
6. Greenock Glenpark H.—(D. McFarlane, 13m. 51s.: I. Osborne, 14m. 01s.: R. Cox, 13m. 59s.: J. Grant, 14m. 16s.). Time 56m. 07 s.
7. Greenock Wellpark H. "B"—(F. Sinclair 13m. 38s.: T. Carr, 14m. 39s.: C. Aitken, 14m. 26s.: J. Howe, 13m. 53s.).

Time 56m. 36 s.

8. Paisley H. "B"—(G. Crerar, 14m. 12s.: D. Drake, 14m. 04s.: J. Deveney, 14m. 12s.: J. Sellar, 14m. 17s.). Time 56m. 45s.
9. Kilbarchan A.A.C.—(R. Black, 13m. 46s.: A. Steel, 14m. 12s.: W. Douglas, 14m. 41s.: A. Douglas, 14m. 36s.). Time 57m. 15s.
10. Bellahouston H. "C"—(I. Leckie, 14m. 48s.: R. Climie, 14m. 41s.: T. Merser, 13m. 54s.: J. Gibb, 15m. 15s.). Time 58m. 39s.
11. Plebeian H. "B"—(P. McDermid, 14m. 22s.: C. Heaney, 14m. 19s.: T. McQuade, 14m. 13s.: D. Barclay, 16m. 26s.). Time 59m. 20s.
12. Babcock & Wilcox A.A.C.—(A. Duthie, 13m. 42s.: W. Greig, 14m. 56s.: J. Gunn, 15m. 13s.: T. Myres, 16m. 03s.). Time 59m. 54s.
13. Plebeian H. "C"—(E. Latham, 15m. 18s.: T. Monagan, 15m. 37s.: T. Rewcastle, 15m. 00s.: J. McCaffery, 15m. 13s.). Time 61m. 08s.
14. Auchmountain H.—(J. McLean, 16m 10s.: I. McKinven, 16m. 29s.: P. McIntosh, 16m. 42s.: J. Bryce, 15m. 29s.). Time 64m. 50s.

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Vol. 9, Nos. 5 & 6.

# THE SCOTS ATHLETE

PRICE  
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A unique long-jump action shot of a unique performer. 30 year-old Aleksandra Chudina (U.S.S.R.), world record-holder high-jump, Pentathlon Champion and recognised as greatest all-round woman athlete in the world.

Photo by H. W. Neale.

JOHN EMMET FARRELL'S  
RUNNING COMMENTARY.  
THE EMPIRE MARATHON—JIM PETERS  
OWN VIEW.  
CHATAWAY-KUTS PHOTO.  
SHRUBB'S GREATEST RACE.



## CHRIS CHATAWAY and VLADIMIR KUTS



Photo by H. W. Neale.

Chris Chataway (London) beats Vladimir Kuts (Moscow) by 2 tenths of a second in one of the most exciting and dramatic races ever in the history of track athletics. It was a world-record shattering event over 5,000 metres held at a Floodlit London-Moscow contest at the White City, London on 13th October. It brought a tremendous thrill to millions of viewers throughout Britain as well as to the 40,000 crowd present.

Chataway's time was 13m. 51.6s. but exactly 10 days later at Prague, in a race against the famous and incomparable Czech, Emil Zatopek, 27 years-old Kuts regained his world-record, returning 13m. 51.2s.

# 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

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JOHN EMMET  
FARRELL'S



ALTHOUGH we are now well into the cross-country season the impact of the track is still upon us and thus I may be pardoned a final round-up of personalities and events.

In SCOTLAND, Ian Picken of Maryhill Harriers off progressively low marks had a wonderful series of wins in the open "half" towards the end of the season and must now be among the first half-dozen at this event north of the border. In the longer distances Hamilton Lawrence of Teviotdale travelled long distances to compete but as he won all his road races except the marathon championship itself, his journeys could by no means be termed unnecessary. At distances from 10 to 15 miles he maintained a very high standard indeed. Even Joe McGhee whom he did not meet in these middle distance or semi-marathons might have been hard pushed to beat the border speedster.

### Hare and Hounds

Marathon champion McGhee stands at the moment head and shoulders above his fellows in Scotland, but that is not to say

that his possible contenders are not a capable bunch.

Lawrence himself could he get more distance training has all the attributes of a class marathoner. Geo. King of Greenock Wellpark is improving rapidly over the long grinds, while J. Higginson of Clydesdale an ex-sprinter by the way may be one to watch. Capable Alex. Kidd now more optimistic after a recent operation brings into his distance running the resolution and determination he previously showed as an amateur boxer. Another challenger may be Jim Ellis of Victoria Park who has long yearned to make a serious bid for the marathon while no peep into the future could prelude the possibility of a come-back attempt by ex-champion Harry Howard provided his rather tender feet stand up to the strain of the hard roads.

### Closing the Gap.

To enumerate the successful English athletes of the season just past would make this athlete appear almost like a catalogue



but Geoff Elliot deserves a special tribute for his outstanding and consistent achievements in the pole vault and thus closing the gap with the rest of the world in one of the cinderella field events. His peak achievements were his Empire Games victory in 14 ft. his 3rd place in the European championships with a magnificent 14 ft. 1½ ins. His native record is set at 14 ft.

#### Roger Bannister, Athlete of the Year.

In my opinion Bannister is definitely the athlete of the year. I speak primarily of Britain but he would get my vote also in a world ranking. He made history by being the first to break the 4 minute mile but he appeals mostly by winning the Empire and European titles. Great performances are to be admired at any time but give me one who can produce the goods when the chips are down. I admired Zatopek for his flair for the big occasion and this year Bannister has done all that was required of him.

#### Race in a Million.

The Chataway-Kuts duel over 5,000 metres in the London-Moscow match was a classic, perhaps the greatest race in the history of athletics. All honour to Chris Chataway in his hour of glory and his last stride victory over Kuts in the world record time of 13 mins. 51.6 secs. a fantastic 5 secs. faster than latter's previous record at Berne.

The glory to Chataway, but equal honour to both men for they were equal in character. Neither gave up the struggle till the tape was reached.

Yes it was grand to see the charming Chataway come into his own, but let's remember Kuts is still the European champion. Like Bannister he produced the goods when the medals were at stake.

#### Chris's Record Short Lived.

Chataway's record did not last long. Ten days to be exact. But the memory of his great race with Kuts will be much more durable and that indeed is a consolation. What superlatives can we use to describe the sturdy Russian athlete who not only very easily defeated Zatopek but

took another four tenths off the recent record of 13 mins. 51.6 secs. which thus now stands at 13 mins. 51.2 secs. The previous record has been described as fantastic. To those of us who know athletics the bare mention of that time is tribute enough. In this Czech-Soviet match at Prague Zatopek could muster only a moderate 14 mins. 19 secs. But don't write Emil off completely. Perhaps he is as he admits somewhat passe over 5,000 metres, but over 10,000 metres I would still back him against the world.

#### The Fetish for Records.

The standard of athletics has risen to an amazing degree yet paradoxically the number of records, World, British, etc., has reacted like a boomerang. These records have aroused considerable public interest in athletics but a kind of saturation point has been reached to such an extent that people feel they have been cheated if a race is not run in record time, no matter how keen or exciting the event. Times not victory is the cry, not as it should be, the reverse.

#### A World-Record Unnoticed.

Yet when would we ever have thought that a world-record would have passed almost unheralded and unsung, scarcely noticed as it was in this very Moscow-London Match. That a day would arrive when a world mark was not news. Admittedly the Chataway-Kuts heroics made the rest of the programme something of an anti-climax but Lituyev's 440 yards Hurdles world record of 51.3 was truly great as was our own Harry Kane's great 51.8 secs. for a new English Native and British National record. What a great find Kane is and incidentally what a wonderful little runner is the Russian woman Otkalenko. Where she seems to score is in her powers of acceleration in which she somewhat resembles the great Sydney Wooderson and in making this comparison I could give no higher praise.

#### World Ranking Performances

Before I leave this personal round-up I should like to make just one short com-

ment concerning Jim Peters. Jim is chiefly remembered this year for his gallant failure at Vancouver. But if I were to make a short list of performances to be voted for as the greatest of the year I would have no hesitation in submitting Peters truly fantastic figures of 2 hrs. 17 mins. 39.4 secs. in this year's A.A.A. marathon, the fastest time ever done in this most arduous event. Because of his amazing ability and his vast superiority over most I regret his retirement from active athletics.

#### Heroic Stayers.

Having run the marathon myself, I have often felt that I could not attempt a longer run yet I truly admire the courage, determination, the fitness and enthusiasm of the out and out stayers. In the absence of the popular Wally Hayward of South Africa, unbeaten at distances over the regulation marathon and recently forced to turn professional—there was no one to hold lanky Derek Reynolds of Blackheath over the approximately 104 miles course of the Brighton to London and back, which he covered in the good time of 14 hrs. 54 mins. 59 secs. A point to note is that Reynolds competed in this year's classy and classic A.A.A. Marathon and finished 12th in the splendid time of 2 hrs. 35 mins. 55 secs. so he does not lack speed.

In the increasingly popular London to Brighton race of approximately 52 miles the surprise was the outstanding form of that grand stayer W. H. Kelly of Reading A.C. who won in the fine time of 5 hrs. 39 mins. 46.6 secs. from evergreen Tommy Richards who finished fast to pip the 6 ft. 3½ ins. South African F. A. Mare—5 hrs. 47 mins. 11 secs. to 5 hrs. 47 mins. 27 secs.

Compared with these, the So. London "30" must seem like a sprint and Geoff. Iden of London's Victoria Park not long back from his grand 6th place at Berne, won handsomely in 3 hrs. 3 mins. 28 secs. a time beaten only by the great Jack Holden himself. The much-improved W. H. Kelly could not here repeat his great London to Brighton win but just managed to hold off the most improved stayer in England R. F.

Hopcroft of Thames Valley, whose 3rd here added to his 4th in the London-Brighton constitute 2 performances of startling merit.

#### Shettleston End Great Sequence.

In the McAndrew road relay Shettleston Harriers turned the tables on their great rivals Victoria Park who had a 5 year winning sequence behind them. It was a magnificent race which reached a crescendo in the last lap when a brilliant record effort by Ian Binnie was countered by a well judged run by Joe McGhee, who able to husband his resources by virtue of a commanding lead finished the stronger. Springburn Harriers a very enthusiastic bunch these days ran well to finish a good 3rd but Shettleston Harriers proved their great all-round strength by also finishing their teams 3rd and 4th.

Binnie's record 14.58 was easily the best performance of the day but McGhee's 15.30 was very meritorious for a marathon man. Alex. Small of Plebeian turned in a 15.32 which was no surprise after his brilliant track running, Eddie Bannon the national cross-country champion not yet up to concert pitch but improving rapidly clocked 15.36 and Robert McLean, Springburn's speedster and J. Russell of Victoria Park put up the smart times of respectively 15.42 and 15.47.

#### A Grand Club Man.

What an enthusiastic and consistent servant have Victoria Park in John Stirling. In the McAndrew relay he had a good lap of 15.57. Although he has not yet broken through into International or championship class he has always been a valuable team man and scorer. He was one of the 6 counters who made history when Victoria Park won the English cross-country team championship and also assisted his club to win the Edinburgh-Glasgow relay championship and take a leading place in the London Brighton classic. He has been a counter in numerous 2 mile team races. In the National he is usually to be found in the early teens just a few places (admittedly the most vital) outside international selection.



### A Bright New Corner.

Vale of Leven were surprise winners of the Dumbartonshire relay championship against a weakened Garscube team and although all ran well, newcomer T. Moy was the chief architect of victory with a fastest lap of 11.48.

### Pirie Returns to Cross-Country.

A piquant piece of news is the report that Gordon Pirie is returning to a full cross-country programme this season. Perhaps it is merely a coincidence but Gordon has not been so gay since he cut his cross-country training schedule.

### Prospects for San Sebastian.

Even at this early stage of the season the thoughts of many cross-country stars will be on possible selection for Scotland in the International and as this involves a journey to San Sebastian in Spain next March there is sure to be a keen struggle for places. Let me recall last year's 9 in the order of finishing. 1, E. Bannon (Shettleston H.) 50.19; 2, T. Tracey, (Springburn H.) 50.42; 3, H. Fenion (Bellahouston H.) 50.49; 4, R. Kane (V.P.) 50.50; 5, F. McKenzie (Shettleston H.) 50.51; 6, J. Stevenson (Green. Wellpark) 51.17; 7, J. McGhee (Shettleston H.) 51.19; 8, T. Stevenson (Green. Wellpark) 51.59; 9, A. C. Gibson (Hamilton H.) 52.09;

Most of these runners will be again forward. Can any others break the ranks of that solid phalanx of runners. Too early to say for the shorter distance events give only a rough idea of form but the chances of the 2 reserves must not be airily dismissed, namely Gordon Dunn of Garscube H. and Willie Gallagher of Shettleston H.

### Return of Walter Lennie.

Then what of the chances of Walter Lennie of Vale of Leven now back after a spell down south. Fit and well and with ambition and enthusiasm unimpaired he could well be a live contender for his first jersey, and what better debut than at San Sebastian. Even when he was mile champion I considered him a better prospect over the country and as he has confessed to me that the country is

his real love—the possibilities are evident. What are the chances of say Alex. Small of Plebs. a grand miler, a good relay runner over the longer country stretches. Why not, if he has a mind to. But only the future will tell.

### The Quest.

For that is the attraction of athletics in general and cross country in particular. The gradual striving for fitness and peak condition and the enjoyment of trying to reach a goal which seems just outwith the reach. The immortal Robert Louis Stevenson has said that it is better to travel than to arrive. It would seem there is a world of philosophy in that statement. I knew a runner who tried for years to win his club's open handicap. At last he succeeded. But he was never quite the same man again.

### V.P.A.A.C. ROAD RELAY RACE

2nd October, 1954.

61 teams started and 58 finished

1. Shettleston H.—E. Bannon, 15m. 36s.; J. Turnbull, 15m. 59s.; R. C. Wallace, 16m. 00s.; J. McGhee, 15m. 30s. Time 63m. 05s.
2. V.P.A.A.C.—C. D. Forbes, 16m. 35s.; J. D. Stirling, 15m. 57s.; J. Russell, 15m. 47s.; I. Binnie, 14m. 58s. Time 63m. 17s.
3. Springburn H.—T. O'Reilly, 16m. 16s.; D. G. McKay, 16m. 26s.; R. F. McLean, 15m. 42s.; T. Tracey, 15m. 59s. Time 64m. 23s.
4. Shettleston H. "B"—I. Cloudsley, 16m. 04s.; W. Gallacher, 16m. 13s.; W. McFarlane, 16m. 18s.; R. Wotherspoon, 16m. 27s. Time 65m. 02s.
5. Shettleston H. "C"—H. Fox, 15m. 58s.; J. Eadie, 16m. 13s.; T. Walters, 16m. 18s.; A. Orr, 16m. 39s. Time 65m. 08s.
6. Bellahouston H.—G. Nelson, 16m. 28s.; T. Mercer, 16m. 35s.; J. McLean, 16m. 48s.; H. Fenion, 15m. 58s. Time 65m. 49s.
7. Garscube H.—D. Coupland, 16m. 40s.; G. Dunn, 16m. 14s.; F. Robertson, 16m. 31s.; A. Kidd, 16m. 31s. Time 65m. 56s.
8. Beith H.—J. C. Harris, 16m. 55s.; J. W. Armstrong, 16m. 14s.; G. Lightbody, 16m. 31s.; K. Phillips, 16m. 31s. Time 66m. 11s.
9. Paisley H.—A. Napier, 15m. 54s.; G. Napier, 17m. 40s.; W. McNeil, 16m. 42s.; J. M. Campbell, 16m. 09s. Time 66m. 25s.

### EASTERN DISTRICT 10 MILES C.C. RELAY CHAMPIONSHIP.

THE Relay Championship, for the Mackenzie Cup, was held at Galashiels, on 6th Nov. over a course of hilly country and road of four laps of 2½ miles each. The favourites Edinburgh University went straight into the lead from the first lap, closely followed by Edinburgh Northern, in fact Jackson of the University, only gained the lead from Wilkinson, Northern on the last stretch of the road. The holders Edinburgh Southern could only finish 15th in this lap, and with a weakened team through illness and injury could hardly be expected to make a fight of it from such a position. The second lap saw no change in the front, but Braidburn were now in 2nd position, followed by Falkirk. Still it was University in the lead at the end of the 3rd lap, but now Edinburgh Eastern had come into the picture with a grand lap by J. Hamilton, followed by Braidburn and Falkirk. The struggle was now on to see if Eastern could spring a surprise over their more fancied rivals, Braidburn and Falkirk. Well so hard did Crawford of Falkirk, try, that he not only passed the Eastern runner, but he appeared to be closing the gap between the University runner rapidly as the runners came in sight of the finish. However, the Varsity runner hung on and brought the Mackenzie Cup into their possession for the fourth time in the existence of this trophy. Falkirk finished a gallant second, and deserved to come into the District honours, as they are a improved young club. Eastern finished a proud 3rd and deserved the congratulations, they received. Braidburn had once more to be content with 4th place, but with their young team should not have too long to wait for the honours. The fastest lap time honour fell to A. Crawford F.V.H, followed by A. S. Jackson, E.U. H.H. with J. B. Wilkinson, E.N.H. third.

### Details:—

1. Edinburgh Univ. H. & H.—(A. S. Jackson, 13m. 36s.; H. A. Horne, 14m. 03s.; J. Miller, 14m. 19s.; W. H. Watson,

14m. 08s. Time 56m. 06s.

2. Falkirk Victoria H.—(R. A. Sinclair, 14m. 13s.; D. Cleland, 14m. 19s.; I. Pater-son, 14m. 15s.; A. Crawford, 13m. 34s.) Time 56m. 21s.

3. Edinburgh Eastern H.—(C. Fraser, 14m. 02s.; H. Philip, 14m. 33s.; J. Hamilton, 13m. 46s.; J. Devlin, 14m. 23s.) Time 56m. 44s.

4. Braidburn A.A.C. (N. Donachie, 14m. 03s.; J. Corbett, 14m. 15s.; R. A. Henderson, 14m. 15s.; J. Hepburn, 15m. 01s.) Time 57m. 34s.

5. Edinburgh Univ. H. & H.—"B"—(J. Crawford, 14m. 19s.; A. Ravenscroft, 14m. 33s.; N. Allsup, 14m. 25s.; H. A. Cumming, 14m. 35s.) Time 57m. 52s.

6. Edinburgh Northern H.—(J. B. Wilkinson, 13m. 43s.; A. N. Pringle, 15m. 31s.; D. Davis, 14m. 38s.; W. Messer, 14m. 46s.) Time 58m. 38s.

7. Edinburgh Univ. H. & H. "C"—(J. W. Brydie, 14m. 15s.; A. C. Ross, 14m. 41s.; N. J. King, 15m. 06s.; M. Fraser, 14m. 46s.) Time 58 m. 48s.

8. Edinburgh South. H.—(G. Reid, 14m. 59s.; N. Duff, 14m. 33s.; H. Robb, 15m. 03s.; J. Smart, 14m. 28s.) Time 59m. 03s.

9. Teviotdale Harriers.—(H. Lawrence, 14m. 03s.; R. Wilkinson, 15m. 09s.; G. Wright, 14m. 50s.; D. Campbell, 15m. 09s.) Time 59m. 11 s.

10. Edinburgh South. H. "B"—(G. Elliot, 15m. 01s.; A. Ross, 14m. 39s.; H. Robertson, 15m. 02s.; J. Dinning, 14m. 34s.) Time 59 m. 16s.

11. Strathtay Harriers.—(C. Boyle, 14m. 35s.; J. Dick, 15m. 45s.; D. Innes, 14m. 59s.; R. K. Urquhart, 13m. 39s.) Time 59m. 18s.

12. Edinburgh H.—(J. I. Hermiston, 14m. 38s.; J. J. Trainer, 15m. 59s.; T. A. Stanton, 14m. 44s.; R. Stewart, 14m. 19s.) Time 59m. 40s.

13. Gala Harriers.—(W. F. Lindsay, 14m. 20s.; G. Wintrup, 15m. 06s.; A. Henry, 15m. 44s.; J. H. Dodds, 14m. 47s.) Time 59m. 57s.

14. Edinburgh South. H. "C"—(J. Heggie, 15m. 16s.; N. Ross, 14m. 45s.; T. Henderson, 15m. 08s.; W. Grant, 14m. 52s.) Time 60m. 01s.



15. Dundee Hawkhill H.—(I. McDougal, 15m. 15s.; H. Bennett, 15m. 21s.; W. Adamson, 15m. 40s.; L. Duncan, 14m. 34s.). Time 60m. 50s.

16. H.M.S. Caledonia. (B. L. Phillips, 15m. 08s.; D. A. Cousins, 15m. 04s.; E. Johnston, 15m. 24s.; K. Brown, 16m. 35s.). Time 62m. 11 s.

17. Edinburgh South H. "D"—(G. Peat, 15m. 51s.; N. Halverson, 15m. 40s.; D. Morrison, 15m. 17s.; P. McAllister, 15m. 24s.). Time 62m. 12s.

18. Falkirk Victoria H. "B"—(R. Chalmers, 15m. 24s.; T. Cook, 14m. 50s.; J. Currie, 16m. 06s.; J. Moffat, 17m. 01s.). Time 63m. 21s.

19. H.M.S. Caledonia. "B"—(D. Martin, 16m. 19s.; J. Taylor, 15m. 48s.; F. Middleton, 16m. 56s.; J. Ingram, 15m. 43s.). Time 64m. 46s.

#### Fastest Laps:

1. A. S. Crawford F.V.H.—13m. 34s.
2. A. S. Jackson, E.U.H.H.—13m. 36s.
3. J. B. Wilkinson, E.N.H.—13m. 43s.

### MIDLAND DISTRICT C.C. RELAY CHAMPIONSHIP.

Stepps Stadium—6th November, 1954.

1. Shettleston H.—(C. Wallace, 17m. 00s.; J. Eadie, 16m. 51s.; J. McGhee, 16m. 49s.; E. Bannon, 16m. 10s.). Time 66m. 50s.

2. Victoria Park A.A.C.—(I. Binnie, 16m. 51s.; R. Kane, 17m. 25s.; J. Stirling, 17m. 24s.; J. Russell, 16m. 39s.). Time 68m. 19s.

3. Shettleston H. "B"—(W. Gallagher, 17m. 24s.; G. Everett, 16m. 56s.; I. Cloudsley, 17m. 11s.; H. Fox, 17m. 18s.). Time 68m. 49s.

4. Springburn H.—(T. O'Reilly, 17m. 16s.; D. G. McKay, 17m. 43s.; R. F. McLean, 17m. 10s.; T. Tracey, 16m. 46s.). Time 68m. 55s.

5. Bellahouston H.—(R. Penman, 17m. 36s.; R. Wilson, 17m. 42s.; H. Fenion, 16m. 27s.; C. Milligan, 17m. 46s.). Time 69m. 31s.

6. Garscube H. (S. Horn, 17m. 08s.; G. A. Dunn, 17m. 10s.; A. Kidd, 17m. 44s.; F. J. Robertson, 18m. 29s.). Time 70m. 31s.

7. Motherwell Y.M.C.A. H.—(T. Scott, 18m. 01s.; J. McMillan, 18m. 30s.; A. H. Brown, 16m. 19s.; D. McFarlane, 18m. 02s.). Time 70m. 52s.

8. Larkhall Y.M. H.—(I. Duncan, 17m. 48s.; T. D. Reid, 17m. 53s.; I. Gilfillan, 18m. 19s.; J. Stevenson, 17m. 08s.). Time 71m. 08s.

9. Shettleston H. "C"—(J. Moore, 17m. 56s.; R. Wotherspoon, 17m. 17s.; A. Orr, 17m. 57s.; D. Campbell, 18m. 04s.). Time 71m. 14s.

10. Victoria Park A.A.C. "B"—(P. Kennan, 18m. 04s.; W. Sloan, 17m. 49s.; J. Whitelaw, 17m. 34s.; C. D. Forbes, 17m. 49s.). Time 71m. 16s.

11. Cambuslang H.—(E. Riley, 17m. 35s.; B. Morton, 17m. 55s.; G. Russell, 17m. 49s.; W. Mulrooney, 18m. 10s.). Time 71m. 29s.

12. Glasgow Univ. H. & H.—(P. Balance, 18m. 16s.; R. Meikle, 17m. 44s.; G. Campbell, 18m. 23s.; J. Finlayson, 17m. 07s.). Time 71m. 30s.

13. Clydesdale H.—(J. Higginson, 17m. 46s.; J. Hume, 17m. 46s.; P. Younger, 18m. 21s.; G. White, 17m. 46s.). Time 71m. 39s.

14. Vale of Leven A.A.C.—(A. McDougal, 17m. 17s.; W. Lennie, 18m. 03s.; J. Ferguson, 19m. 22s.; P. Moy, 17m. 00s.). Time 71m. 42s.

15. Maryhill H. (W. Hannah, 17m. 38s.; T. Harrison, 18m. 08s.; R. McDonald, 17m. 52s.; T. Ruth, 18m. 20s.). Time 71m. 58s.

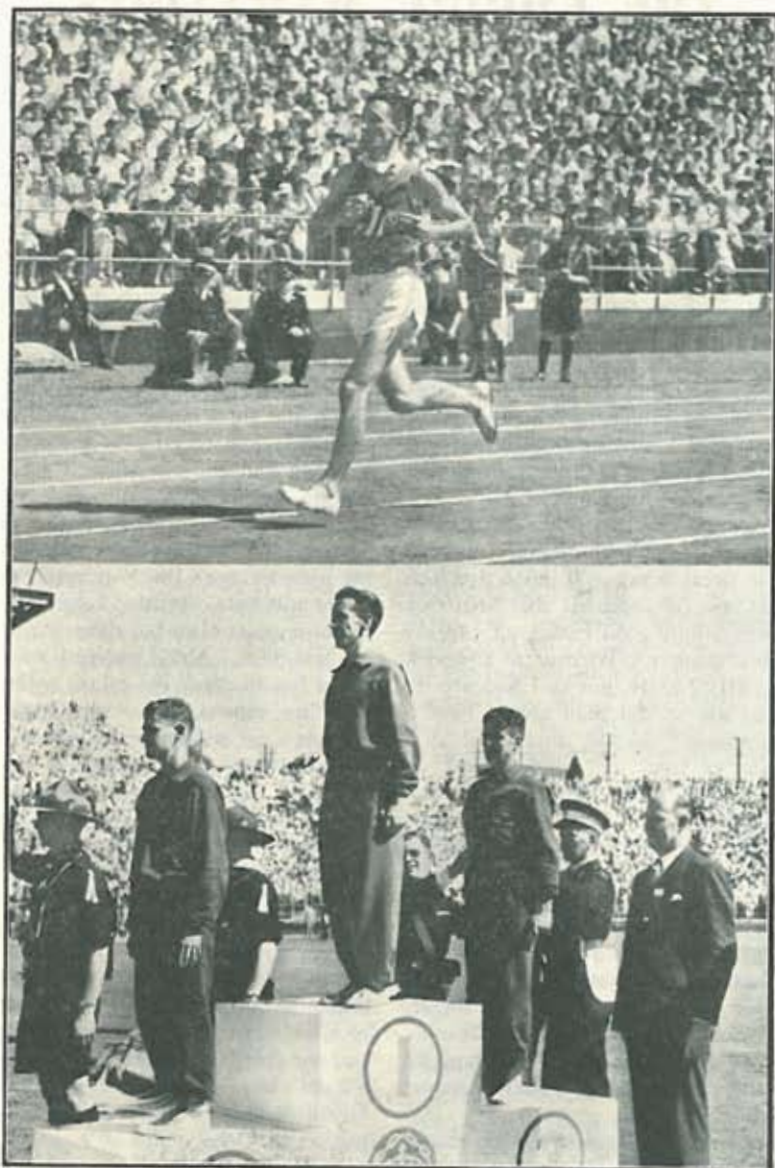
16. Bellahouston H. "B"—(T. Mercer, 17m. 33s.; G. Nelson, 17m. 19s.; I. Leckie, 19m. 12s.; J. Irvine, 18m. 00s.). Time 72m. 04s.

17. Springburn H. "B"—(D. Tracey, 17m. 44s.; D. Buchanan, 18m. 24s.; J. Crawford, 18m. 12s.; J. Stevenson, 18m. 19s.). Time 72m. 39s.

18. Garscube H. "B"—(D. Coupland, 18m. 21s.; G. Dickson, 18m. 09s.; B. Linn, 17m. 43s.; J. Linn, 18m. 54s.). Time 73m. 07s.

19. Maryhill H. "B"—(W. Black, 17m. 57s.; J. D. Gibson, 18m. 27s.; J. Gibson, 18m. 16s.; J. Wright, 18m. 54s.). Time 73m. 34s.

[Continued on page 15]



(Top) Joe McGhee (Scotland) finishes strongly round the track for a sensational win in the British Empire Marathon at Vancouver, following the tragic collapse of Jim Peters (England).

(Bottom) A memorable moment. On the victor's dais with J. Mekler (2nd) and A. Barnard (3rd) both of South Africa, as the band plays in honour the stirring Scottish air, "Scots Wha Hae." Joe had duplicated the feat of the famous Scottish runner Duncan McL. Wright who won the marathon at the Games previously held in Canada (1930).



# THE EMPIRE MARATHON

JIM PETERS' OWN VIEW

Dear Sir,

May I thank you very much indeed for the September "Scots Athlete." I find the comments re the Empire Marathon most interesting and would just like to add a few points that may possibly clear up a few of my actions and of my friend Stan Cox in the race. Firstly Stan and I have been friends and rivals since 1946. First as 3 and 6 milers, then on cross country, and later in road relay races and finally from 1950 in the longer road races up to the Marathon. From 1951 Stan has been in the same stable as myself and have as our Hon. Manager, friend and adviser Johnny Johnston.

It has been said that in the last 4 years I have just flayed the opposition in road races in Great Britain. If this is true then it must also be conceded that Stan Cox has been a jolly good runner up. In my 4 record shattering Windsor to Chiswick races 1951/52/53/54, just as I had a comfortable win so did Stan always have a "comfortable" second, that is, if it is possible to have a "comfortable" 26 miles run at speed. Furthermore Stan obtained his first Great Britain international as a miler in 1939 at the age of 20. He could also before the war run 3 miles inside 14.15. After the war he won the A.A.A. 6 miles championship in 1948. In 1952 in his only 6 miles he recorded 29.50 and that year also put up his best time for a Marathon which was slightly over distance. His time was 2 hrs. 21 mins. 42 secs. I mention all this to show his class and why I paid such a healthy respect for his ability.

I also knew that Stan very much wanted to win for England like I did. He also knew that I had and still have an extremely sore right heel. I knew I had to be at my best to stand any chance against him not to mention the other runners in the race. My policy has been "I fear them all and never underestimate any opponent." My 6 mile form the previous Saturday gave me the clue that I was in very fine fettle

and I jolly ought to have been with 5,000 miles in 11 months tucked underneath my belt. Good miles too for jogging or shuffling had no part in my make up. There was never any time to muck about. The maximum hard work in training had to be done in the shortest possible time.

Anyhow back to Vancouver—8 checks in cars revealed that the course was between half and threequarters of a mile too long. We protested to Mr. Frew the referee who said it was utter nonsense so Stan and I challenged him to go over the course in a decent car and see what it recorded. We did and found it well over. He said that the cars were never accurate. Thereupon we checked the very same car in his presence over the Vancouver official police mile test. One that is actually used in police court cases out there. Again the car was O.K. Mr. Frew had no alternative but to check the course again with the City experts. This was apparently done in a car with a special police gadget attached to the wheel. Nothing like our methods. Well the result of this check done without any of the runners present was that it was only about 300 feet over and this was because they could not check it properly owing to traffic. At the same time Mr. Frew declared he had proof that every car was 5% out. Well after that we just gave it up. The course being tough, the prospect of the noon day sun plus the fact that it was more than likely that the course was at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile over did not please us but then it was the same for all of us so we prepared ourselves to run at least 26 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

Soon after the start we had our first shock. The South African pair Mekler and Barnard had supposed to have been near to 2.25 in their home trial. Whilst they were undoubtedly good stayers they were—let us be frank about it—only plodders in relation to the speed that Stan Cox and myself were capable. We knew

that in the first mile and this was confirmed by their finishing times 2.40.57 and Barnard 2.51.49.8. The 3 boys from Australia must have been off form for we soon dropped them with Allan Lawrence—whom I consider was too young to run in the 6 miles, the three miles and then the Marathon at the games who was able to hang on at a distance for some miles. Only Joe McGhee came with us and he was moving very nicely too. I must make it clear that we three were running with great restraint but looking back we soon discovered that we were on our own. At 9 miles Joe was dropped and very soon afterwards I got stuck into a steep hill a little harder than Stan and we parted company never to see or talk to one another again in the race.

Now here comes a very important factor; Mr. Frew the referee would not let any managers etc., follow the runners but said they could be at all the feeding stations if they wished. Furthermore he would not permit sponges at any points other than the official feeding points. This is of course a completely different interpretation of the rules to our country. Being a very hot day I missed them more than I can ever explain because that is the only help I ever asked for on the road. No one from our team came round although I must say that John Savidge did offer. I will not comment on the English officials in this respect. But this I do know: The Scottish team manager to his undying glory had the interest and foresight to get out on that sun-baked road to help Joe. How he managed it or how much he followed Joe I am in no position to say or judge as I was away out in front. Whether he helped Joe or not by giving him encouragement, the position of the race and comfort, etcetera only Joe can say. But I will say this, I bear no malice and if I had been the Team Manager of Joe I would most certainly have done all I possibly could to help my boy. I do not consider it is breaking any rules and I furthermore consider that Mr. Frew was much too severe in laying the rule down that Managers must not follow in cars.

When I came into the stadium with less than 400 yards to go in the official time given to me by Mr. Frew of 2.20 do you think I would have passed the last feeding station under 1 mile from the finish if I had known that (1) I had a lead of 17 minutes or nearly 3 $\frac{1}{4}$  miles from friend Joe? (2) if only someone had told me that Stan was out? (3) if only it had been made known to me that I had only 1 mile to go at that last feeding station and had such a lead?

I had no real trouble until running down the steep ramp and reached the cinder track when I suddenly fell from the sun stroke and heat exhaustion just as Stan had at nearly 24 miles. I figured that I was in 2.15 form for an easy Marathon, 2.20 for Vancouver with 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  minutes to add on for suspect course. This means that if I was to finish in 2.22.30 I'd be within myself and possibly in front of Stan Cox who on all previous form was to be 2nd. So you see had I finished my time would have been about 2.22 bang on what I had planned (2.22) as compared with my last effort of 2.17 and bear in mind my hope that I was a little stronger than last June. Therefore I cannot agree that either Stan or myself ran too fast.

Now I have retired for good, doing 3 little runs a week, lots of coaching, teaching my son football, attending all sorts of functions and busier than ever. Even had to buy a typewriter. Please forgive all the mistakes. Am a novice and in a hurry. Kind regards to all my Scottish friends and best wishes.

Sincerely,  
Jim Peters.

**VICTORIA PARK** win "News of the World" Edinburgh-Glasgow relay for the 5th successive time beating favourites, Shettleston and establish new course record.

With the full course time of 2h. 46m. 43s. Victoria Park knocked 2m. 1s. off the course record they set in 1952. Shettleston were 34 secs. behind beating the former record by 87 secs. The race was a tremendous struggle between these 2 teams.



## THE EMPIRE MARATHON

On other pages we have been pleased to publish Jim Peters' letter. It is a sincere letter which speaks for itself and on which we have no desire to comment.

However, in view of Jim's references to the distance and measurement of the Empire Games marathon route and because moreover of an article by Maxwell Stiles headed "Did Jim Peters' really win?" which appeared in our U.S.A. contemporary "Track and Field News" supporting a claim that the race was considerably over-distance and on the question of remeasurement attacks "stubborn Vancouver officials" we feel it is only just and proper to present the views of the marathon organiser Mr. Alex. Frew. These appeared in a full article in "Vancouver Sun" for 12th August. We are reproducing here only the necessary extracts.

The introduction to the article, reprinted here gives the explanation to Mr. Frew's account.

"Storm of protest stirred up over the tragic Jim Peters case in the British Empire Games' marathon last Saturday hasn't subsided. Questions have been asked and accusations hurled regarding the pitiful marathon ending. In an attempt to shed more light on the case, Vancouver Sun Staff reporter Al Fotheringham interviewed Alex Frew, chairman of the marathon Committee. Here is Mr. Frew's story:—

"There has been so much discussion and so many inaccurate statements made about Saturday's BEG marathon race I think that the public should be told the true facts of the case once and for all.

I was in charge of the marathon, as chairman of the marathon committee and referee and head official of actual running of the race.

The whole thing took two or three months of laborious preparation so if anyone should know anything of the marathon, I should.

Everything about the marathon was scientifically prepared and checked. It was probably the most difficult event to stage

in the whole BEG. Thanks to the co-operation of the city police and the RCMP the actual running of the race came off perfectly.

The course was measured five times after the English team protested that it was too long. I might point out that the Australian team which had been here 10 days before the English had been over the course thoroughly and were satisfied with its length until the English protested.

The first time it was measured under the supervision of Professor J. F. Muir, head of the UBC Civil Engineering department. Also present was city Traffic Inspector Jack Harrison who arranged for control of traffic while the course was being measured.

### Cut 250 Feet off Course

After the English protest, the course was re-measured on August 4 by a foot-o-meter reading. Because traffic control could not be arranged on such short notice we were not able to cut the corners as a runner would and we found the course 250 feet out.

We cut 250 feet off the course—250 feet off 26 miles, 385 yards.

The English measured the course by a car speedometer and I have a certificate stating that no speedometer reading can possibly be accurate.

Every preparation for the race was thoroughly carried out. There was six feeding stations along the course, one at 10 miles and one at every three miles after that.

Every station was manned by an average of six officials so that runners would not have to stop. The exact requirements of every runner were provided at every station.

For example, the list shows that Jim Peters requested "a glass of water; a sponge, dipped in water, not rung out." For a South African runner the list reads "One apple, a glass of cold sweetened tea." Other runners were given exactly what they wanted.

Two medical cars followed the runners to pick up stragglers. Other radio-equipped official cars were ready to rush aid to any runner who was in trouble.

It has been stated in the English press that English officials were not permitted on the course.

This is not true.

They were told they would not be allowed to accompany the runners in a car. I wanted as few cars as possible on the course for the simple reason that I wanted to keep exhaust fumes away from the runners.

English officials and all other officials were told that they could station themselves

### PETER WILSON ASHAMED.

By John E. Farrell

Describing Jim Peters' collapse at the end of the Vancouver marathon in the Daily Mirror Peter Wilson says "I felt Dirty and Ashamed."

After reading his article I am not surprised. I too felt ashamed on his behalf.

Admittedly Jim Peters' collapse in the stadium at the end of a gruelling race was unfortunate. Admittedly it worried and shocked the onlookers. Agreed too that a person has the right to express his own opinion. But surely that statement should be balanced and objective and not lacking in dignity.

For the benefit of readers who were fortunate enough not to read the article let me quote some excerpts from his text,

Describing Peters' entrance, Wilson writes—"But he is not a figure of merry jest; he is a refugee from an insane asylum, a fugitive from a padded cell."... He is Jim Peters "Mr. Marathon" himself, but he is a frightening caricature of the man I have called Jim a hundred times. . . Two steps forward, then three to the side. So help me he's running backwards now. . . There is more to follow—much more. This poor dumb man who only wants to win for England. . . But this isn't the fight game. This is nice clean amateur sport—and game Jim does get up. Mark you,

at the feeding stations to keep an eye on their runners.

The English did not take advantage of this opportunity which was open to all. I personally saw Scotland's coach at five different spots around the course.

He was sufficiently interested enough in his runner to follow him around the course.

There were 103 officials around the course and 40 policemen.

All runners received a map of the course showing the route outside the stadium, also a gradient map showed the grades of the hills.

All runners were shown at the start of the race the exact finish line."

he's not in very good shape now. In fact he looks pretty shop-soiled—this item marked down."

And now for Wilson's peroration. "...so Jim Peters—what does he remind you of, a landed fish with a gaffed jaw heaving for water and dying in the sun, a trapped and bloody fox which has gnawed its own leg off for freedom, a rabbit with infected myxomatosis beating its own brain out?"

After that description I thought Peters looked uncommonly healthy when he appeared on T.V. some days afterwards. It didn't seem right that he should appear in such good shape.

Yes, Peter Wilson calls Peters, "Jim." But because a man calls you by your first name he is not necessarily your friend. On the basis of that article Peter Wilson is no friend of Jim Peters, no friend of athletics, no friend of that fine instrument, the English language, no friend of journalism and perhaps in the long run no friend even of the newspaper which he represents.

Athletics needs and desires advertisement. But not the kind that comes from the sensation-monger lurking in the shadows.

Why does not Peter Wilson confine himself to the prize ring where despite his frequent horrifying and harrowing experiences, he seems more at home?

Unless he can do better, he would be doing a service to athletics by leaving it severely alone.



# SHRUBB'S GREATEST RACE

## Fifty Years Ago!

By James L. Logan.

November 5th 1904 is a hallowed date in Scottish athletics history, for on that curiously late day in the year, Alfred Shrubbs, a slightly built tobaccoist from Sussex, ran for an hour on the Ibrox Park cinders and set up a round dozen of records, some of them "world" marks.

Looking back over half-a-century, and remembering that a man must be judged on the standards of his own day, we see Shrubbs as one of the all-time "greats" of sport. Out of the hundreds of world-class distance runners of all time, four stand out as historical figures: Walter G. George, Alfred Shrubbs, Paavo Nurmi, and Emil Zatopek: each in their prime, respectively separated from each other by roughly quarter of a century. And, as will be shown later, there are direct links between the first three.

Shrubbs had already visited Scotland earlier in 1904 and set up records but he was keen to attack the world record for 10 miles, which stood in the name of the great W. G. George, who had set the figures at 51 minutes 20 seconds as far back as 1884. The West of Scotland Harriers, then a power in Scottish athletics, invited the great man north to a meeting at Ibrox Park.

Shrubbs was then 24 years of age and in just four years of competition had built up a massive reputation as a track and cross-country runner. He was a "natural" who, on his own testimony, had taken to the sport by the merest chance. Sprinting to the scene of a fire, he was "spotted" by the secretary of a harrier club who afterwards persuaded him to take up running. Off 45 yards in his initial venture in a mile handicap, he won by over 50 yards and in a short time had established a national supremacy on the track and over the country.

Although Shrubbs's primary object in his Ibrox venture was the 10 miles record,

arrangements had been made to extend the run to include an attack on the One Hour Amateur record, also held by George at 11 miles 932 yards. Professionalism attracted many of the leading runners at that time, hence the segregation of record categories into "Amateur" and "Professional."

Shrubbs arrived in Glasgow two days before his record attempt and after a trial spin expressed his appreciation of the Ibrox track, which had been specially prepared for the occasion. Despite the lateness of the season, he was confident that he would get inside George's figures.

A strong wind and a sodden track, however, were discouraging features on the day of the attempt. Eighteen runners lined up with him—a "time" handicap gave them a personal incentive to keep going—but only a few spectators were there to cheer him on: for then, as now, Glasgow was apathetic to "pure" athletics, and the West of Scotland Harriers were rewarded for their enterprise with a "gate" of exactly £45!

Right from the start, the slightly built (5 ft. 7 ins., 9 stone 4 lbs) English wonder slipped into his graceful stride and astonished the cognoscenti by clocking 4 mins. 44 1/5 seconds for the first mile. He then settled to an average "mile" of a few seconds over 5 mins. and within 3 miles (14 mins. 45 4/5 secs.) he had lapped his field.

At 5 miles, the first record—Scottish All-Comers—toppled: 24 mins. 55 4/5 seconds. After that, it was records, records all the way. His six miles mark of 29 mins. 59 2/5 seconds was a world 'best' and gives the modern enthusiast some idea of Shrubbs's stature. Even by today's standards, an under-thirty-minutes 6 miles is a noteworthy feat in itself, but in the course of an hour's run half-a-century ago is phenomenal.

Towards the end of the ten miles, Shrubbs's individual 'mile' times were lengthening slightly but even his slowest—the last—was 5 minutes 13 seconds, and his total of 50 minutes 40 3/5 seconds was a world amateur record by the handsome margin of 39 2/5 seconds. He was also inside the professional record by 26 seconds.

Not surprisingly after this magnificent achievement of his primary object, he tapered off as he ran out the remaining ten minutes for his "hour" total of 11 miles 1136 yards, a world amateur record, but just 139 yards short of the professional figures. Despite his fatigue, he mustered the traditional finishing sprint to delight the spectators.

Thus ended one of the most momentous athletic feats of all time. Shrubbs's world marks succumbed in due course but his British and Scottish All-Comers Records stood as his monument for years. More than a quarter of a century later, as a schoolboy, I saw Peerless Paavo Nurmi, then a multiple world record holder, remove the first of Shrubbs's hoary old records from the Scottish list—the four miles. But others lingered on the books right into the modern era and it is only recently that the last of them were erased.

Shrubbs was a born runner and entirely self-trained at the time of his Ibrox triumph. He attributed his staying power to nature and the regularity of meals and habits, although his training methods appear to contradict the last-mentioned item. For instance, on the Sunday before his Ibrox engagement, he was sitting reading at one o'clock in the morning when he had a powerful urge to go out running. He covered 13 miles over the moonlit roads that night!

What Shrubbs could have done under modern methods of training is a fascinating thought. The great Zatopek claims—and his history seems to prove it—that his success is due to fanatical devotion to scientific training, with no help at all from nature. Now, if there ever appeared a man with Shrubbs's talent and Zatopek's devotion!

20. Springburn H. "C"—(J. Jackson, 18m. 30s.; A. Fulton, 18m. 06s.; J. Ballantyne, 18m. 39s.; A. Stevenson, 18m. 25s.). 73m. 40s.

21. Shettleston H. "D"—(J. Thomson, 18m. 28s.; W. McFarlane, 18m. 49s.; W. Gorman, 18m. 41s.; J. Turnbull, 17m. 44s.) Time 73m. 42s.

22. Glasgow Univ. H. & H. "B"—(A. Galbraith, 18m. 35s.; T. Robertson, 19m. 16s.; S. Rose, 18m. 46s.; J. Boyd, 18m. 00s.). Time 74m. 37s.

23. Monkland H.—(W. Mason, 18m. 45s.; C. Ballantyne, 18m. 52s.; J. Smith, 19m. 28s.; W. Drysdale, 18m. 34s.). Time 74m. 39s.

24. Larbert Youth A.A.C.—(J. Gibson, 18m. 34s.; D. Paterson, 18m. 49s.; R. Hutcheson, 20m. 14s.; A. Leishman, 18m. 26s.). Time 76m. 05s.

25. Springburn H. "D"—(J. Hart, 19m. 11s.; D. Wallace, 18m. 42s.; J. Jacobs, 19m. 26s.; W. Lauchlan, 19m. 12s.). Time 76m. 31s.

26. Dumbarton A.A.C.—(R. Ballantyne, 19m. 21s.; J. Brown, 19m. 18s.; A. Ewing, 20m. 26s.; J. Timmins, 18m. 13s.). Time 77m. 18s.

27. Victoria Park A.A.C. "C"—(P. Callaghan, 19m. 18s.; K. Warden, 19m. 54s.; A. Bell, 19m. 53s.; D. McFarlane, 18m. 58s.). Time 78m. 03s.

28. Garscube H. "C"—(E. Murray, 19m. 42s.; A. Warton, 19m. 39s.; D. G. Causon, 19m. 41s.; W. J. Ross, 19m. 02s.). Time 78m. 04s.

29. Clydesdale H. "B"—(J. Boyd, 20m. 06s.; D. Stewart, 20m. 03s.; W. Howie, 19m. 24s.; J. Duffy, 19m. 14s.). Time 78m. 47s.

Fastest Times—1. E. Bannon (Shett. H.), 16m. 10s.; 2. A. H. Brown, (M.Y.M.), 16m. 19s.; 3. H. Fenion (B.H.), 16m. 27s.; 4. J. Russell, 16m. 39s.; 5. T. Tracey, (S.H.), 16m. 46s.

This issue has to cover October and November and thus we regret having to hold over a great deal of matter, including—Best Performances List amendments, Race Details, Our Post and P. W. Cerutti features.