

# THE EASTERN DISTRICT RACE.

## HONOURS GO ROUND.

### A DETERMINED HARRIER.

"Finest race I have ever seen." Such were the words uttered by a regular veteran, who has seen and competed in hard-fought battles of years ago. The phrase was made use of after the Eastern District Championship, which was run from the Scottish Rugby Union's field at Inverleith, on Saturday. The teams were early forward, and on that score gave the officials comparatively no bother. There was the usual attendance, however, of funklers, and this upset many teams. Reserves had at the last moment to be called in. Bonnybridge lost their best man in J. Esplin, who lost the train. Wight, of the E.H., was also an absentee. J. R. Brydon, the E.N.H. good man, was not present; whilst A. Bain, D. A. Whyte, and W. Watt absented themselves from the Kirkcaldy team. Stirlingshire Central lost Clark, Milne, and Laird, and decided to run only nine men. Plucky Jedburgh could not get forward more than G. Turnbull, F. M. Halliburton, and W. Oliver. C. F. Mathieson, E.H., a little boy who, though said to be a good runner, it was but fair to health to keep back from the race, as he is much too young to take part in such a telling race as that of Saturday was. Early in the day Father Hume bossed a flying pack over the course, which was thickly covered with snow. Those who assisted in the paper-scattering operations were Paton, Gibb, Burton, Hutchieson, and others from the E.H. The route this year was practically the same as last season, only, ere doubling for home, the paper lay further south in the direction of, and almost touching on Davidson's Mains.

Secretary Scott, ably assisted by W. Badenoch, summoned the runners, and the figures showed that not one club ran the team originally selected. Including reserves, those which ran twelve were Edinburgh Northern and Southern, the others being represented as under:—Edinburgh Harriers and University Hare and Hounds, 11 each; Kirkcaldy Harriers and Waverley Harriers, 10 each; Watsonians and Bonnybridge Stirlingshire, 9 each; and Jedburgh, 5; so that, instead of their being 120, only 57 started. The start was timed for three o'clock, but it was not until half-an-hour after that the race commenced. Graham, of the Stirling Central, took the lead, and he made the field follow him to a merry tune. As showing how fast the pace was, the last man left for the open country 90 seconds after the leader. As they left the ground, the leaders were Graham (S.C.H.), Keen (Bonnybridge), W. F. Rankin (W.S.C.C.), J. Rankin (W.C.C.C.), Alexander (E.H.), Thomson (Waverley), Munro (E.H.), Leishman (Bonnybridge), Ross (E. Southern H.), Baylis (do.), Orr (E.U.H. and H.) It was found stiff work getting over the ploughs, they being frost-bound. Graham had still the lead when going over the first plough. He stumbled badly and received a deep gash on the knee. This, however, did not prevent him making up on the leaders—the brothers Rankine and "Lang Toon" Stoddart. The latter slipped away quietly to the premier position when half-distance had been covered, and two miles from home held a commanding lead of about fifty yards. Nearer to the goal of success came the quartette—Stoddart, the Rankines, and Graham. A tremendous crowd had assembled at the entrance to the ground to witness the lads coming in. Graham led entering the field, but on the back straight the Rankines got in front, and a grand struggle resulted in J. Rankine beating his brother W. F. by inches. Graham was so badly hurt that he had to be taken to the infirmary. The house doctor said that three stitches were necessary, and in his opinion, had the wound been a quarter of an inch deeper, the limb would have had to be amputated. All the runners showed good stamina. As was fully borne out by the win of the Stirlingshire Central, with Bonnybridge second, in the team championship, "Face's" argument for a Central District race will have to be—and that in the near future. Either that, or, as Mr Bryson suggested on Saturday, take the E.D. race into the provincial districts and encourage the sport. All the officials, from the judge to the man with the safety-pin, worked in a noble manner, and the success of the meeting was a signal one. Placings—

Individual Championship—1 J. Rankine (Watsonians), 35mins 55 3-5secs; 2 W. F. Rankine (W.C.C.C.), 35:55 4-5; 3 J. Graham (S.C.H.), 35:58; 4 H. Stoddart (Kirkcaldy), 36:18; 5 W. C. Munro (E.H.), 36:21; 6 J. M'Guire (S.C.H.), 36:31; 7 W. Keen (Bonnybridge), 36:31 1-5; 8 R. Wallace (Waverley), 38:32; 9 J. Young (B.H.), 38:32 1-5; 10 P. Wilson (S.C.H.), 11 G. Guthrie (Waverley); 12 A. Wilson (E.N.H.); 13 H. Stevenson (Waverley); 14 G. Dewar (S.C.H.); 15 D. M'Vey (S.C.H.); 16 W. Boyle (Bonnybridge); 17 J. Leishman (Bonnybridge); 18 J. Hay (W.C.C.C.); 19 A. R. Hallam (E.U.H. & H.); 20 A. Inglis (E.S.H.) 21 C. Mitchell (E.H.); 22 R. M'Kenzie (E.H.); 23 R. Leishman (Bonnybridge); 24 J. Miller (E.N.H.); 25 W. Ross (E.H.); 26 J. Menzies (S.C.H.); 27 J. J. C. Milne (E.H.); 28 W. Jackson (E.N.H.); 29 J. W. Falkner (Waverley); 30 W. Renton (Edinburgh Southern); 31 J. H. Hardie (Waverley); 32 G. Lawson (Kirkcaldy); 33 J. C. M'Nee (E.H.); 34 J. Webster (Edinburgh Southern); 35 W. Smiles (E.U.H. and H.); 36 J. W. Bayne (Kirkcaldy); 37 J. Frame (E.S.H.); 38 A. Lawrence (E.N.H.); 39 W. Brown (W.C.C.C.); 40 A. Begg (Waverley); 41 T. H. Ross (Edinburgh Southern); 42 J. Walker (Waverley); 43 J. Boyle (Bonnybridge); 44 W. Oliver (Jedburgh); 45 W. H. S. Alexander (E.H.); 46 A. Hay (E.S.H.); 47 J. Dingwall (Kirkcaldy).

### TEAM CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP.

- 1 Stirlingshire Central Harriers—J. Graham 5, J. M'Guire 6, P. Wilson 10, G. Dewar 14, J. Menzies 25—total 74 points.
- 2 Bonnybridge Harriers—W. Keen 7, J. Young 9, W. Boyle 16, J. Leishman 17, R. Leishman 23, J. Boyle 43—115 points.
- 3 Waverley—R. Wallace 8, G. Guthrie 11, A. Stevenson 15, J. W. Falkner 29, J. H. Hardie 31, A. Begg 40—132 points.
- 4 Edinburgh Harriers—W. C. Munro 5, C. Mitchell 21, R. M'Kenzie 22, W. Ross 25, J. C. Milne 27, J. M'Nee 37—133 points.
- 5 Watsonians—J. Rankine 1, W. F. Rankine 2, J. Hay 18, W. Brown 39, F. Tod 60, J. G. Montignani 80—200 points.
- 6 Edinburgh Northern—A. Wilson 12, G. Miller 24, W. Jackson 28, A. Lawrence 38, A. Mitchell 50, J. J. Linkie 54—206.
- 7 Edinburgh Southern—A. Inglis 20, W. Renton 30, J. Webster 34, J. Frame 37, T. H. Ross 41, A. Hay 46—208 points.
- 8 Kirkcaldy Harriers—H. Stoddart 4, G. Lawson 32, J. W. Bayne 36, J. Dingwall 47, G. Keddie 55, J. Reid 63—237 points.
- 9 Edinburgh University Hare and Hounds—A. R. Hallam 19, W. Smiles 35, A. L. Pearson 45, J. W. C. Orr 67, D. Lees 69, R. L. Candlish 77—312 points.