

Eastern District Championship — A Great Race — Clydesdale's Team Race—Close Placings.

The second of the season's "classic" events of Scottish C.C. running, that of the Eastern District Seven Miles' race, was on Saturday decided from Ochilview Park, Stenhousemuir, and the route that had been laid out by the Stirlingshire Central Harriers was a thoroughly representative one, taking in as it did grass, oat fields, plough, with some jumps, and the ground was soft, with here and there coatings of ice and hard ridges that made the going heavy and at some places very treacherous. The dressing quarters were an improvement on those that were in operation for the contest at the same place in February, 1901, when the teams were housed all over the old-time village. Those in charge of affairs on Saturday were—Starter—Mr George Hume, president, S.A.A.A.; time-keepers, Messrs Andrew Hannah (Clydesdale Harriers), Mr Badenoch (Edinburgh Harriers), and J. W. Brownrigg (Maryhill Harriers); referee—Mr W. A. M'Caig (president N.C.C.U.S.); judges—Messrs J. M'Calloch (Maryhill), and W. Batchin (Waverley Harriers), and clerks of the course were Messrs A. Ross Scott (secretary N.C.C.U.S.), and David Taylor (secretary Eastern District), while mark and distance stewards were also placed. The running was reported as keen all the way, and the finish was a most exciting contest for individual supremacy between Robertson (Edinburgh Harriers) and A. M. Matthew (of the Edinburgh University Hare and Hounds Club), the former lasting best, and gaining the win, in 46min 48sec. J. B. M'Logan (Edinburgh Northern) took third place, and P. J. Melville (Edinburgh Watsonians C.C.C.) fourth.

The team results were:—1, Edinburgh Harriers (winners 1899 and 1902), 109 points; 2, Edinburgh Southern, 115; 3, Edinburgh Watsonian C.C.C., 148; 4, Stirlingshire Central Harriers (winners 1900 and 1903), 195; 5, Edinburgh Waverley Harriers (winners 1901), 223. These are the closest figures over such a number of teams at any of these championships, and the pace set by some of those who ran for the first time in a premier race augurs well for the event of the 4th March. The eleven competing teams were—Edinburgh Harriers, Dundee Thistle, St. Andrew's Athletic, Galashiels, Edinburgh Northern, Edinburgh Southern, Falkirk Victoria, Stirlingshire Central, Edinburgh Waverley, Edinburgh University, and Edinburgh Watsonian.

The ever obliging representatives of Oxo were present, and did great service in regaling the runners with a nourishing and welcome refreshment after the race.

In the evening the tea and presentation of prizes were held in the Masonic Hall, Stenhousemuir, under the presidency of Mr George Hume.

Results since the institution of the race:—

1899—Edinburgh Harriers—J. Harona (Kirkcaldy Harriers).

1900—Stirlingshire Central—J. Rankin (Watsonians).

1901—Waverley Harriers—A. Sattie (Dundee Thistle).

1902—Edinburgh Harriers—A. Kinnaird (Edinburgh Harriers).

1903—Stirlingshire Central—G. M'Murtrie (Stirlingshire Central).

1904—Falkirk Victoria—J. A. Jamieson (Watsonians).

1905—Edinburgh Harriers—T. Robertson (Edinburgh Harriers).