

THE JUNIOR CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP.

MAGNIFICENT PERFORMANCE BY AN EDINBURGH LAD.

Since its inauguration five years ago it is safe to say that never has so much interest been taken in the championship of the Scottish Juniors as has been this season. The championship this year came off at the ideal course of Hamilton, and for the event eleven organisations were represented. Five clubs represented the east and the remainder hailed from the west. Glasgow conquered everything. Edinburgh made a desperate struggle, but the honour of the north was in the hands of a poor team—and such a home of sport as Perthshire could surely turn out a better combination than that of the Hawkhill. Never at any time could it be said that the north had the least chance in the race, and with the early breakdown of Cumans—the much-fancied winner—the only hope of runners in this district vanished. The race was timed to start at 2.45, but the Edinburgh contingent was late in arriving, and it was nearly an hour later before the men turned out. The Glasgow crowd were down early, and a motley gathering they were. The men from the capital travelled in royal style, four saloons conveying them to the scene of action, and in the crowd of swells and cuff-and-collar men a casual observer would hardly think the cream of Scottish runners moved. After walking down through the valley to the paddock little time was lost to waste on undressings, and the lads were not long in tripping lightly on to the racecourse. Some of them could hardly be designated juniors, for here and there a polished billiard ball could be spotted. The individual men were all forward, Robertson walking slowly down, attended by his trainer. Those in the Edinburgh stable, however, have their eye on the individual championship, and Hay is receiving all other than. He is a thin stripling, just turned 18, and is a novice this season. He has shown remarkable form, and since Cummings no prettier runner has Scotland produced. The lads were as usual ranged out in rows, and a splendid sight they presented. The course is a capital one—very little plough—and had been twice-trailed in the forenoon. At a given signal the men went off with a dash, Milroy breaking away, with Lightbody and Thomson in close attendance. They sprinted once round the course, and by this time the crowd had begun to tail off. As they left the gate, Milroy (the Carrick miler) was leading, with Baird (Dunbarton), Lightbody (of the same club), and Moyes and Thomson (of the Edinburgh) in close attendance. Robertson followed a little afterwards, and Hay spunked along at the Clydesdale's heels. The course then turned to the right, through grand open grass country. Cumans, who had been lagging, now made an effort to head the rest. Milroy, however, kept up the lead, and the Ardross man dropped to the rear. He early began to hang out signals of distress, and for the remainder of the race he never gave any trouble to the leaders, and, in fact, he finished pretty far behind. The course then lay straight for Brothock Bridge, and up to this point Milroy still led. Up the hill, however, Hay darted like a deer, followed closely by Robertson, who seemed a trifle taken aback by the marvellous running of the Edinburgh boy. The race lay straight through the woods, and then up by the Clyde back to Bothwell Bridge. By this time, of course, Robertson and Hay were far ahead of all others, and the latter was a hundred yards ahead of his rival. Entering the course at the north lodge—where the paper crossed—Hay flew to the right and made a vital mistake. The course lay by the left, and he had travelled 150 yards before he noticed his error. Robertson, of course, gained tremendous advantage through this big lead, and the race was now practically settled, as little less than a mile had to be travelled. Hay, however, was not done with, and a great cheer went up at every step he made up on the Glasgow demon. Yard by yard he covered, but the distance was too short to make up the leeway, and Robertson landed home winner by ten yards. The finish was a sensational one, and, although Robertson won, the Scottish champion is undoubtedly A. Hay. The time taken for the seven miles odd was 21 minutes net. The result of the team race was as follows:—

Clydesdale,	58 points.
Edinburgh Northern,	74 points.
Watsonians,	98 points.

As will be seen, Clydesdale easily won the team championship, but for a case of hard lines we never knew anything to beat that of Hay's. As a runner he is all that could be desired, and as he has youth on his side great things can be looked for from him. He was never thought of by those outside his club, and it may be mentioned that he was "tipped" by a well-known Glasgow sporting paper to finish nineteenth. Previous winners:—1891, Edinburgh Harriers; 1892, Edinburgh Northern; 1893, Edinburgh Northern.

HARRIERS.

SCOTTISH CROSS-COUNTRY UNION.—The contest for the junior championship took place on Hamilton Park Race Course on Saturday. The event being altogether unknown to the district—a district, by the way, that does not readily respond to letters on this race course—the attendance was limited to those immediately interested. Nine clubs entered, and their members were for the most part represented. Comparatively favourable weather was experienced. The running was over a course of seven miles, of which only the start and finish were seen by the spectators. After an interval of 41 minutes 33 4-5ths seconds, the harriers arrived as follows:—W. Robertson, Clydesdale; R. A. Hay, Edinburgh; J. R. Hamilton, Maryhill; J. Mills, Motherwell; D. W. Mill, Clydesdale; J. Lamb, Edinburgh Northern; C. L. Kelly, Clydesdale; T. Lightbody, Dennistown; G. L. Young, Edinburgh University; D. Brown, Edinburgh Northern; J. Milroy, Carrick; R. S. Landis, Clydesdale; J. Stewart, Clydesdale; A. Moyra, Edinburgh Northern; R. Grant, Edinburgh Northern; J. Galloway, Maryhill; C. Drislan, Edinburgh Northern; J. McGowan, Clydesdale. Clydesdale Harriers won with 33 points, the runners-up being Edinburgh Harriers with 14 points.

SCOTTISH JUNIOR CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP.

A GREAT RACE.

Several members of the committee and voluntary trail-layers, under charge of Messrs W. Finlayson and D. T. Morrison, West of Scotland Harriers' Club, were early on in the day at the scene of the contest—Hamilton Park Racecourse, Hamilton. Trail-layers started from a well-known part of the racecourse near the grand stand, laid the "scent" round the track and out to the country. The ground, considering the wet weather of the past few days, was pretty firm within the enclosure, although when leaving the well-kept turf it became very slippery and treacherous in some places. Messrs. T. Praver, F.H., and John Meikle, W.S.H., acted as timekeepers; and Mr. M'Nah, C.H., starter. The course was gone over once instead of, as has previously been the case, twice. Dressing accommodation was ample, and the offices of the race company were comfortable quarters. The principal absentees were Forrester (Clydesdale), Watson (Maryhill), Mulherron, Hunter, and the Smiths (Dundee Hawks), Landells and Miller (E.H.). The Edinburgh teams were late in arriving and the start was delayed for fifty minutes. The first to show in front were Galloway (Dundee), Rodger and Mills (Motherwell), and Milroy (Maybole). A heavy shower had added to the moist nature of the ground, and the race was finished in semi-darkness.

Robertson, the favourite of the C.H., showed well, but he never got away more than a very few yards in front. Milroy, at half distance, had to stop to remove one of his shoes, which he carried in his hand the rest of the journey. The principal obstacle—a barbed-wire fence—much interfered with a fair judgment of the racing, as only one could clamber over at a time. Great excitement prevailed as after an absence of about 38 minutes the leaders were sighted. Clubmates ran to meet them, and in their jubilation infringed the rule bearing on cooching. The three first men were close, as indeed the first twenty were, and no championship race in Scotland has been productive of so few gaps and such keen running for places. Results:—

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP.

	Points.
First—Clydesdale Harriers—Robertson, 1; Mill, 5; Kelly, 7; R. S. Langlands, 17; Stewart, 14; J. M'Gowan, 18—total,.....	58
Second—Edinburgh Northern—Lamb, 5; Brown, 10; Moyer, 15; Grant, 15; Draffin, 18; Radenock, 22—total,.....	85
Third—Watsonian C.C. Club.....	197
Fourth—Carnick Harriers.....	201
Fifth—Edinburgh Harriers.....	224
Sixth—Maryhill Harriers.....	232
Seventh—Motherwell Harriers.....	244
Eighth—West of Scotland Harriers.....	319
Ninth—Edinburgh University H. & H.....	329
Tenth—Dennistoun Harriers.....	349
Eleventh—Dundee Hawkhill.....	420

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

William Robertson, Clydesdale Harriers; time, 41 mins. 23 4-5 secs.

By reason of the darkness, the close finishes, the late hour, distance from the nearest telegraph office, &c., the figures sent to the late editions of all Saturday evening papers were, in the case of the second team, transposed, and the corrected majority for the C.H. is 29 points.

CAIENS HARRIERS.—Meeting place, Hall,