

CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP.

A united band, the cream of Scottish cross-country runners spanked this afternoon. Cathkin Park, the popular ground of the Third Lanark, was fixed upon as the starting-point, the Harriers' Union having secured it for the afternoon. Previous to the hour for starting—3.30—an enthusiastic, if not numerous, body of spectators gathered to witness the start. This is the sixth annual run for championship honours, but it is the first under the new Union which has lately been formed. As a sport, cross-country running has not taken a hold of the people. Like other athletic pastimes its progress has been clogged by the greater attractions of football. It is to be hoped, however, that under the new Union the sport will make rapid strides forward, not only in public estimation, but also in the members of its devotees who follow it as a means of physical development and healthy recreation.

THE OFFICIALS

for the day were:—Judges—T. Fraser, Edinburgh Harriers; A. M'A. Kennedy, Clydesdale Harriers; D. C. Brown, West of Scotland Harriers; F. Matheson, Paisley Harriers. Timekeepers—W. M. Lapsley and A. G. Rennie. Clerks of the course—W. Brown, Clydesdale Harriers; D. L. Dick, Clydesdale Harriers; W. Macdonald, West of Scotland Harriers; W. A. M'Laren, Edinburgh Harriers; A. Matheson, Paisley Harriers; W. C. Blackstock, Motherwell Harriers; T. S. Young, Hamilton Harriers. Hon. secretary and treasurer—D. S. Duncan, 5 Drum Place, Edinburgh.

As the runners stepped out on to the track they presented a very picturesque sight. In their ranks were to be seen such noted cricks as D. S. Duncan, A. Hannah, J. Logan, C. Pennycook, A. G. Colquhoun, &c. Edinburgh were without D. I. M'Kinlay, one of their best runners. The West turned out nine men only. Lining up to the call of Mr Donald C. Brown, from whom they received instructions as to the course, the following runners started.

THE TEAMS.

Clydesdale — A. Hannah, Merrison, Jas. Logan, T. A. Fergusson, C. Pennycook, Abraham Russell, D. Campbell, R. W. Campbell, A. C. Colquhoun, John Taylor, A. R. Scott, and A. Mitchell.

Edinburgh — A. Robertson, J. Dickson, D. C. Macmichael, T. L. S. Hunter, C. F. Smith, W. M. Carment, P. Addison, J. S. Merrison, D. S. Duncan, J. Hume, W. B. Muir, and A. E. Nicholson.

Motherwell—C. M'Cann, Robert Dollar, Robert Graham, W. A. Merry, J. Leggan, J. M'Kenna, W. T. Chambers, C. Robertson, W. Craig, F. Shearer, and H. Wallace.

West of Scotland—J. Croll, E. G. Clark, W. H. Baxter, A. M. Donaldson, W. T. Jack, A. W. Smith, T. M'Leish, G. Woodburn, and K. D. Mackenzie.

THE COURSE.

It is not a far cry from Bothwell Brig to Langside, and Scotia's beautiful but unfortunate Queen has provided a connecting link between the two. Pretty, picturesque, lovely, the Union could not have selected a better course on which to bring off their first united run. The trail was finely laid by a pack, which consisted of T. Gardner, Hugh Murray, T. W. Young, and J. Harper as leaders. The course lay over a pretty tract of country, and the ground was in finer order for spikes. After going once round the track, the runners broke off at the south-east corner, made their way out of the ground at the gate leading to Myrtle Park. The villas here were skirted, and the trail bore away to the east of Mount Florida. A company of curlers following the roaring game were left behind, and then with a sight of the Hundred Acre wall, by a bee-line is led to Cathcart. Here a couple of ploughed fields were crossed, and then the course stretched alongside Aikenhead estate. Here some gentle climbing work was done, and crowning the heights the trail skirted the famous old Castle of Cathcart. Coming down hill, the Cart's quiet stream, scarcely murmuring, was crossed. Leaving Cathcart behind the trail led due west and then north, again crossing the Cart at Millbrae, where the steepest climb of the course was put in. Mounting the brae and skirting the monument, the Queen's Public Park was reached, and here in a bee line the trail led to the south-west corner of the Cathkin Park, at which the runners entered, and finished after doing the track once round.

THE RACE.

Hannah led his men round the track in fine style, and was the first to break into the open country. In a bunch the others followed. On coming to the ploughed fields near Cathcart, the tail began to form. Hannah was leading still, with Robertson and other three Edinburgh men not far behind. Duncan at this stage was tenth man. Strange to say, the grassy field proved the stiffest to get over, and after leaving the heights above Cathcart many of the runners caved in. Hannah, with that dogged pluck characteristic of him, pegged away. The Elmhill Wood and Millbrae he mounted like a young colt. The run home was easy going, and he re-entered the track at Cathkin 50 yards ahead of Robertson—Time 32 min 20 sec. Going on again, the second round was a repetition of the first, save that the Clydesdale men cut up badly, Millbrae being too much for them. Hannah increased his lead, and showing no signs of weakness ran in for the finish 100 yards in front of Robertson, who, singular to say, ran second for three years running. Hannah had a great ovation, and was proclaimed

CHAMPION.

1, Andrew Hannah, (C.H.)—time, 64 min. 40 1-5th, secs.; 2, Robertson, 65 min. 27 4-5th secs.; 3, Carment, 65 min. 54 3-5th secs.; 4, M'Michael; 65 min. 3 2-5th secs.; 5, A. Russell; 6, Addison; 7, Hunter; 8, Taylor; 9, Colquhoun; 10, Fergusson; 11, Scott; 12, Logan; 13, Campbell; 14, D. Campbell; 15, M'Cann; 16, Muir; 17, Dickson; 18, Nicholson; 19, Merry; 20, Smith; 21, Mitchell; 22, Dollar; 23, M'Kenna; 24, Duncan; 25, Baxter.

TEAM WINNERS.

3 First Edinburgh.—1, Robertson, 2, 2, Carment 6.; 3, M'Michael, 4.; Addison, 5.; 5, Hunter, 7 Muir, 16—58 points.
RSecond Clydesdale.—1, A. Hannah, 1; 2, A. Russell, 5; 3, Taylor, 8; 4, Colquhoun, 9; 5, Fergusson, 10; 6, Scott, 11—44 points.

SCOTTISH CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP.

Judges—Messrs T. Fraser, D. C. Brown, and F. Matheson. Timekeeper—Mr W. M. Lapsley. Hon. Sec.—Mr D. S. Duncan.

FROM a sporting point of view, the sixth annual Cross-country Championship of Scotland, held for the first time under the auspices of the recently-established Scottish Cross-country Union, was an undoubted success; but, strange to say, with no counter-attraction in the immediate vicinity, the attendance at Cathkin Park, Glasgow, which had been kindly placed at the executive's disposal on Saturday, was again disappointing, not more than 400 spectators being present at any time during the course of the race. Like last year, the Clydesdale, Edinburgh, West of Scotland, and Motherwell Harriers were the only clubs to enter, and, while the first two started their full complement of runners, the others could only muster nine men apiece—a fact which does not speak well for the *esprit de corps* of the absentees. The weather was upon its best behaviour, but, although the rays of the sun had moistened the surface of the roads and fields over which the major portion of the race was run, there was still a considerable bone left underneath, which severely tried the muscles of those of the runners who donned the orthodox spiked shoe, in preference to the less speedy but more comfortable rubber sole. Starting with half a mile on the cinder track, the runners had then to compass a stiff circuit of about five miles of open country, abounding in obstacles, with just a trifle too much hill-climbing, which, however, could not be avoided, and, returning to the track again, they negotiated nearly a lap before going over the same circuit of country, and finishing with a quarter of a mile on the track—in all close upon eleven miles. On receiving the word to go, A. Hannah (Clydesdale) at once placed himself at the head of affairs, closely followed by Pennycook (Clydesdale), and Hunter, Robertson, and Carment (Edinburgh), with Colquhoun and Russell (Clydesdale) at their heels, and so they left the track. On reappearing after the first circuit of country, Hannah led Robertson by nearly 100 yards, with Colquhoun, Carment, Macmichael, Russell, and Hunter next in the order named, and thus early Edinburgh's ultimate victory seemed assured, as they held an advantage of eight points, and were going strong and well. Excepting that Hannah drew further away from the others, and Colquhoun lost several places, positions were little changed in the second round, Hannah ultimately winning with ridiculous ease by nearly 500 yards from Robertson, with Carment and Macmichael close up, while Edinburgh secured the championship for the first time since 1887 by six points over the Clydesdale, Motherwell being third. It was certainly a feather in the cap of the winners to supply five out of the first seven in; but the feature of the race was Hannah's grand running, and he is undoubtedly the best long-distance runner Scotland has yet produced. It was a strange coincidence, too, to find A. Robertson (Edinburgh H.) occupying second place for the third successive year; but we are afraid his lack of speed will always act as a bar to his chances of success outright. Owing to the crowding of the spectators at the finishing post, only the winner's time was taken, but the arrangements otherwise were good. The following is the order of finishing: A. Hannah, Clydesdale, 64min 40sec, 1; A. Robertson, Edinburgh, 2; W. M. Carment, Edinburgh, 3; D. C. Macmichael, Edinburgh, 4; Abr. Russell, Clydesdale, 5; P. Addison, Edinburgh, 6; T. J. S. Hunter, Edinburgh, 7; J. Taylor, Clydesdale, 8; A. G. Colquhoun, Clydesdale, 9; T. A. Ferguson, Clydesdale, 10; J. R. Scott, Clydesdale, 11; J. Logan, Clydesdale, 12; R. W. Campbell, Clydesdale, 13; D. Campbell, Clydesdale, 14; C. McCann, Motherwell, 15; W. B. Muir, Edinburgh, 16; J. Dickson, Edinburgh, 17; A. E. Nicholson, Edinburgh, 18; W. A. Merry, Motherwell, 19; C. F. Smith, Edinburgh, 20; A. Mitchell, Clydesdale, 21; R. Dollar, Motherwell, 22; J. McKenna, Motherwell, 23; D. S. Duncan, Edinburgh, 24; W. H. Baxter, West of Scotland, 25; H. Morrison, Clydesdale, 26; K. D. Mackenzie, West of Scotland, 27; J. Croll, West of Scotland, 28; E. G. Clark, West of Scotland, 29; R. Graham, Motherwell, 30; W. P. Chambers, Motherwell, 31; F. Shearer, Motherwell, 32; A. M. Donaldson, West of Scotland, 33. Subjoined are the placings of the four teams:

1. EDINBURGH H.—A. Robertson, 2; W. M. Carment, 3; D. C. Macmichael, 4; P. Addison, 6; T. J. S. Hunter, 7; W. B. Muir, 16. Total, 38 points.

2. CLYDESDALE H. (Holders).—A. Hannah, 1; Abr. Russell, 5; J. Taylor, 8; A. G. Colquhoun, 9; T. A. Ferguson, 10; J. R. Scott, 11. Total, 44 points.

3. MOTHERWELL H.—C. McCann, 15; W. A. Merry, 19; R. Dollar, 22; J. McKenna, 23; R. Graham, 30; W. P. Chambers, 31. Total, 140 points.

4. WEST OF SCOTLAND H.—W. H. Baxter, 25; K. D. Mackenzie, 27; J. Croll, 28; E. G. Clark, 29; A. M. Donaldson, 33; Total (for five men), 142 points.

Results of previous races: 1886—Edinburgh H., first in, A. P. Findlay, Clydesdale H.; 1887—Edinburgh H., first in, J. Campbell, Clydesdale H.; 1888—Clydesdale H., first in, A. P. Findlay, Clydesdale H.; 1889—Clydesdale H., first in, C. McCann, Clydesdale H.; 1890—Clydesdale H., first in, A. Hannah, Clydesdale H.