

Individual championship won by P. T. Lewis, of Coatbridge Section Clydesdale Harriers. Motherwell Harriers considered their lines hard in not having received credit for their win. The ten miles, or Senior Scottish Cross-Country Championship, was run at Tynecastle, Edinburgh, on Saturday, 12th March, and had a small team entry, only three clubs—the West of Scotland, Clydesdale, and Edinburgh Clubs—sending representatives. Such a small entry seems to take one's memory back to the years when the first cross-country team championships were run, and when these three clubs were the only harriers' combinations in Scotland. We might at this point be pardoned for a slight digression, and recall to mind the original events in connection with this almost new addition to the athletic sports of Scotland. The first championship of the kind north of the Tweed was held in 1886 on the Racecourse at Lanark, and was indeed a sorry-looking affair as far as the number of spectators was concerned. Edinburgh on that occasion sent the winning team, but the individual champion was A. P. Findlay, of the Clydesdale. The Edinburgh team again repeated their victory in 1887 and 1891, Clydesdale winning in 1888, 1889, 1890, and 1892, when the races took place at Hampden Park, Hawkhill Grounds, Edinburgh; Hamilton Racecourse, Tynecastle Grounds, and Cathkin Park, the individual winners on these occasions being altogether—1886, J. P. Findlay, Ayrshire (C.H.); 1887, James Campbell, of Helensburgh (C.H.); A. P. Findlay again in 1888; Andrew Hannah, Glasgow, in 1889, 1890, and 1891. Last March there had been previous to the day of the competition a heavy fall of snow, and the course mapped out was extremely heavy. The course was about four miles in a circuit across country. This was run over twice, and the remainder of the distance was done on the track within the enclosure. The teams were in full as follows:—

Clydesdale Harriers (Holders 1888-9-90).—G. Brown, J. Campbell, A. G. Colquhoun, T. Ferguson, G. Graham, A. Hannah, P. T. Lewis, J. Marshall, A. McDonald, J. Naismith, C. Pennycook, M. Reid.

Edinburgh Harriers (Holders 1886-7-91).—A. Robertson, D. I. Mackinlay, T. L. S. Hunter, C. F. Smith, W. M. Carmont, P. Addison, W. B. Muir, J. Dickson, D. MacLagan, R. London, R. K. Kinslismont, G. Hume.

West of Scotland Harriers.—W. A. Baxter, M. Edgar, A. Hamilton, P. E. Morrison, D. C. Macmichael, P. M'Morrow, A. McCandlish, R. Macdonald, James Noble, J. A. Shanks, T. McLeish.

A. Hannah and J. Campbell, two worthy runners and past champions, were the first to show in front, T. L. S. Hunter following close up with Kinslismont at his heels, and in rotation as stated the runners took to the country, and on returning after one round it was observed that Pennycook (Clydesdale) held a long lead, the next to him being Hannah, with Hunter and Carmont, and several others of the Edinburgh men, in attendance. On entering the country for the second time Pennycook was still leading, and Hannah second. Crossing Polo field Pennycook increased his lead, and in coming into sight again at the railway, his time being up to this distance 52 mins. 45 secs., he still held a long lead, and passed the post first about a quarter of a mile in front of Hannah, his full time being 55 mins.; Carmont, M'Kinlay, and Muir, all of the E.H., were the next in order. Clydesdale thus won the individual championship through Pennycook, while they also carried off the club championship with 37 points, against Edinburgh 44. The following were the number of points gained by the Clydesdale and Edinburgh Harriers respectively, with their times:—

CLYDESDALE.			EDINBURGH.		
	Min.	Sec.		Min.	Sec.
1 Pennycook.....	50	0	1 Carmont.....	56	17
2 Hannah.....	56	16	4 M'Kinlay.....	56	27
6 Reid.....	56	48 1-8	5 Muir.....	56	41
7 Naismith.....	56	53	8 Hunter.....	56	54
9 Lewis.....	57	0	10 Addison.....	57	12
12 Brown.....	57	30	14 Smith.....	57	33
					44

The following also finished:—M'Morrow (W.S.), 11; Colquhoun (C.), 12; M'Lagan (E.), 15; London (E.), 17; J. Dickson (E.), 18; J. Noble (W.S.), 19; T. Ferguson (C.), 21; D. C. Macmichael, 22; J. Campbell, 23; A. Macdonald (C.), 24; R. K. Kinslismont (E.), 25; A. McCandlish (W.S.), 26; G. Hume, 27.

Pennycook ran in grand form, and fairly out-paced the whole of the field. The several club championships in nearly every instance last year brought to the front new men, at least new champions, whilst since the present season opened in September last there has been quite an army of hitherto unknown men competing and winning the novices' races, but accomplishing such performances as to justify the anticipations of their clubmates that more will be heard of them in a public way not only in cross-country running, but on the track as well. It is a matter for regret that all the Glasgow harriers clubs, during the course of last summer, suffered rather severely in the athletic meetings organised, and for which very elaborate and expensive and extensive arrangements had been made. Whether on Saturdays, Mondays, or other week-day evenings, the weather was, in nearly every instance, such as to interfere with the otherwise perfect order of things. English "cracks," in the persons of wheelmen and polo—long and short-distance champions were induced to attend, and did attend, and gave such proofs of their powers as to thoroughly delight the onlookers, but all this cost money, and by reason of rain there was very little return in a financial respect, and there can be little doubt but the combinations are, in the meantime, hampered by the losses that resulted from a very praiseworthy effort to supply the Glasgow sport-loving public with all that was good in the several branches of athletics.

There are many clubs doing good work in Dundee, Arbroath, and Forfarshire generally at the present time, and from these as well as Aberdeen clubs there should be plenty of runners to select a strong Forfarshire or North of Scotland team for battle in the Junior and National Championships of February and March next, and it is to be anticipated that at least six teams may be forthcoming at the senior team race in March.

There must, by reason of numbers, be surely something done by cross-country legislators for the many junior clubs at present in existence. By reason of the oddly-sounding name of the junior championship this clubs cannot devise a premier race at all, and so there is to some extent a lack of that combination so essential to the propagation

of these junior clubs, which supply year after year so much good talent to the ordinary or senior clubs. These young clubs must receive some recognition, else they may fall off for lack of support and encouragement. And, in order to add to the popularity of cross country running, of the championships particularly, and the sport in a more general way, it were imperative that the committee of the S.C.C.A. enter upon their arrangements on a much earlier date than has hitherto been the case, and then much more publicity be given to all that is done in this respect. All this, that in the usually quiet season interest may be awakened and sustained in these very interesting features, the end being a good attendance and enhanced financial returns. This so, and the future of this splendid sport is assured.

The General Committee of the S.A.A.A. meet this evening to continue their revision of the rules. A fortnight ago several very desirable changes were made, and to-night other changes will be suggested and no doubt carried. The East and West have now equality of representation on committee. The wonder is this was not long ago made law. The first question to be considered to-night is the handicapping rule; and, from the feeling that prevails in the West, there is good reason to believe that the restrictions imposed last year will be removed—that, in fact, the handicappers will have power to frame their handicaps as circumstances demand. This, as has again and again been said, is as it should be. The Eastern delegates will make a tactical mistake if they do not meet the prevalent wish in the West concerning this matter.

The Clydesdale Harriers did magnificently at the cross-country championship meeting on Saturday. Both honours—the club and the individual championships—fell to them. They led the Edinburgh Harriers by a narrow majority of points at the close, which shows there was not much to pick and choose between the teams. Andrew Hannah, who was looked upon as a moral to win the individual honour, was badly beaten by one of his club friends, Charles Pennycook, who covered the distance—eight miles or thereabout—in 55 minutes. Hannah should have been equal to that, as a fortnight ago, in the ten miles club handicap, he covered the distance in 62min. However, the "going" was very different on Saturday, and he did not appear to take so kindly to it as the winner. When the ten miles championship is run perhaps he will show that as a distance runner, when fit and well, he has no equal in amateur ranks.

We are on the eve of the west country golfing season, and it promises to be a successful one. The Glasgow spring meeting takes place at Alexandra Park on April 9, and very soon after that date the members will be playing on their sea links at Irvine. It is most fortunate that it was by the unanimous vote of last Thursday's meeting of the club that it was agreed to accept the Duke of Portland's offer. Had there been much opposition it would have led