

THE SCOTTISH CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP.

Officials:—Judges: Messrs. David Carr (Maryhill Harriers) and F. W. Bruce (Edinburgh Hare and Hounds). Referee: Mr. A. M. Bryson (West of Scotland Harriers). Timekeeper: Andrew Hannah (Clydesdale Harriers).

It was a slight coincidence that on the same day as the National Cross-Country Union carry through their premier event at Horton the governing body in Scotland should decide their championship across the open on the ground which lies in and around the ancient racecourse and links at Musselburgh. The Scottish race is not so old an institution as the English Championship, for it is but twelve years since the first national engagement in cross-country running took place. The first championship was evolved from a challenge sent by the Edinburgh Harriers to their great rivals in the West, and a fortnight after, the first move, Lanark Racecourse, witnessed the initial trial of strength and speed. Since that memorable day it is quite remarkable that notwithstanding the spread of the pastime of the Harriers in Scotland no team or individual outside of the two first rivals have ever secured the title. This no doubt redounds to the prowess of the famous clubs, but the younger organisation have all along shown a desire to nurse their men, as it were, for the Junior Championship. To combat this Conservative policy the Scottish Union passed a rule eighteen months ago debarring the winning team in the Junior from further competition therein. This wise legislation was made manifest in Saturday's race, when the record number of five teams were drawn up under the shadow of the old paddock. The race for team honours was generally regarded as a good thing for the Clydesdales, but at the last moment the Glasgow Club was forced to compete without several of the best men. They were Andrew Hannah (the champion 1890-91-93-94, and '96), D. Millmaker, J. Stavert, and Matthew Reid. This wholesale withdrawal gave the race a very open appearance, and, in fact, both the Watsonians and the Edinburgh Harriers held high hopes of success. A special train conveyed the bulk of enthusiasts from the capital to the ancient burgh. It was a round hour after arriving in the town before the runners were marshalled, and the start given.

The course lay twice round the golf links and then out into the open by Ponkie road. The first bit of stiff work had to be tackled at the Poorhouse Brae, and on the trail across to Elphinstone Tower the plough had to be negotiated. The paper was stretched right across the field to Carbury, and the turn home was taken by the back of the village of Levanhall, the inter-journey being a shade under ten miles. The weather was favourable, but the ground had a hard touch of frost in it, and the majority of the runners decided to travel with spikes. At the word to go, given by old Andrew Hannah, Robertson, who was nearest the palings in the front row, made off, and at a spanking pace he took the motley crowd round the bend. The familiar tail was rapidly thinned out, and by the time the first circuit of the course had been completed Robertson, who still led the van, had only an attendance of half a score. Those in his immediate vicinity were the brothers Duffus, the three Gibbs, Pitt, Pattison, Yuill, and Henry. The Clydesdale man was running with a fine, graceful stride, and along with Hamilton Yuill he was the most attractive runner. The leaders kept in a solid pack, but as they hurried to gain the distinction of first into the open, J. Gibb came to the front, with Paterson, Stewart, Duffus, and Robertson in his wake. The runners took some time to pass, and the last man to clear the palings was Peter Addison, of the Edinburgh Northern Harriers. As the veteran tripped through the divided crowd, he was awarded a hearty cheer. He deserved it, too, for he has competed in every race, and, what is more, has always taken a creditable position. As the men disappeared round the bend the Watsonians and Clydesdale had a good representation at the head. Through the country the race pursued its even tenor. Four miles from home Jack Paterson, of the Watsonians, got tired of the company, and let himself go on his own. He rapidly cleared away from Robertson, and was easily one hundred yards to the good when two miles had still to be traversed. Entering the straight for home Paterson held a commanding lead, and in the last half-mile looked round the whole way. He finished a fresh winner, but the next man, Robertson, appeared distressed a little. With the approach of the general body of the runners some desperate racing took place, but the arrival of Clydesdale men at 7, 8, and 9, along with a couple of earlier arrivals, fairly settled the issue. The result was—

Individual Champion, John Paterson, Watsonian Cross-country Club.

Team Champions, Clydesdale Harriers (46 points).

ORDER OF ARRIVAL.

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| 1. J. Paterson, Watsonians | 9. A. R. Gibb, Watsonians |
| 2. W. Robertson, Clydesdale | 10. A. Pitt, Motherwell |
| 3. L. Jack, Watsonians | 11. J. H. Gibb, Watsonians |
| 4. S. Duffus, Clydesdale | 12. A. Robinson, Edinburgh Northern |
| 5. H. Yuill, Motherwell | 13. J. Lamb, Edinburgh Northern |
| 6. J. S. Duffus, Clydesdale | 14. W. Sharp, Motherwell |
| 7. W. Mill, Clydesdale | |
| 8. G. Brown, Clydesdale | |

TEAM PLACINGS.

Positions.	Club.	Points.
1	Clydesdale Harriers	41
2	Watsonian C.C. Club	71
3	Motherwell Harriers	102
4	Edinburgh Harriers	132
5	Edinburgh Northern Harriers	135

THE WINNER.

Mr. John Paterson, the winner of the individual honour, is a comparative youth, but he has had a remarkably fine athletic career. He won the Junior Championship a year ago, and on the track he has scored numerous successes. Strange to say, he is not what you might designate an enthusiastic runner, for in the summer time he is more inclined to follow the royal and ancient game. In the Amateur Golf Championship, at Muirfield, he qualified for the third round, where he was defeated by the conqueror of Mr. F. G. Tait. He is a superb golfer, and in addition he is an accomplished swimmer, taking a prominent share in the competitive work of the Warrender Private Baths Club, for whose polo team he played for a couple of seasons. He is rather modest in the estimation of his powers, and his victory was all the more popular.

ATHLETICS.

CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP.

The third annual cross-country championship of Scotland which took place at Hawthill Recreation Grounds proved in every respect a great success. Those in charge, aware of the big counter attractions in the city, made a late start, and by doing so were compensated by having a capital turnout of spectators, who took the greatest interest in the proceedings. For the contest four teams entered—viz.: Edinburgh Harriers (Bolders), Clydesdale Harriers, West Harriers, and Kilmarnock Harriers. As to the result, opinions were pretty equally divided between the Edinburgh Harriers and the Clydesdale, but, as will be seen from the result, the Clydesdale team proved a long way the superior lot, supplying the first five in and winning the championship by 23 points to Edinburgh's 62. The West and Kilmarnock were hopelessly out of it. The following is a list of the runners who competed for each club:—

Edinburgh Harriers.—a D. C. Macmichael, a b D. S. Duncan, D. I. M'Kinlay, a J. W. L. Beck, b G. Black, A. Robertson, b J. H. M. Jack, b E. C. Burt, a b P. Addison, a J. M. Bow, G. G. Robertson, and b A. M. Donaldson.

Clydesdale Harriers.—b J. Campbell, a b A. P. Findlay, b W. Henderson, R. Graham, A. Hannah, b A. G. Colquhoun, a b W. M. Thomson, J. Johnstone, D. Campbell, A. Russell, J. Henderson, b Alex. Brown.

West Harriers.—J. E. Young b E. B. Tibbitts, a b R. Dickie, D. G. M'Conochy, b A. J. Young, D. Stewart, E. Campbell, b J. B. M'Larn, B. C. Hillis, A. Walker, b E. Harper, and A. Riley, Jun.

Kilmarnock Harriers.—J. Q. M'Pherson, T. Good, J. Anderson, S. M'Leods, A. Ewing, G. Scouler, W. Sims, J. Spiera, A. D. Henderson, and J. Rankine. a—Run in 1884. b—Run in 1887.

A course of about eight miles had been carefully laid, and shortly before five the phalanx of competitors were sent on their long journey. After covering the running ground for a couple of laps, the cross-country work was entered on, the route being by Craigentiny Meadows and Portobello and back by St. Margaret's to Hawthill, where another lap was run, and the same course followed. The first three to show the way were Findlay and Hannah of the Clydesdale and Duncan of the E.H., the rest being in a bunch. Findlay pioneered the way, and when the competitors reappeared he held the lead by a long way, followed by Hannah, Campbell, Graham, and Robertson. All the leaders were going splendidly, and at this stage matters promised well for the success of the Clydesdale. Findlay, keeping up the pace, entered the last lap a long way ahead of his club-mate, Campbell, whom he beat by more than the length of the straight. Findlay was warmly cheered for his magnificent performance. Next to Campbell, other three Clydesdale men took third, fourth, and fifth positions, the sixth and seventh falling to the Edinburgh Harriers. The following is the order the first eight passed the winning post:—

A. P. Findlay (Clydesdale)	1
J. Campbell (Clydesdale)	2
A. Hannah (Clydesdale)	3
R. Graham (Clydesdale)	4
W. Henderson (Clydesdale)	5
A. Robertson (E. Harriers)	6
D. C. Macmichael (E. Harriers)	7
A. G. Colquhoun (Clydesdale)	8

Time, 51 + 5 mins.

The following is the result of the club championship:—

Clydesdale Harriers	23—1
Edinburgh Harriers	62—2
West Harriers	138—3