

NATIONAL CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP.

A GREAT RACE.

A. M'PHEE AGAIN CHAMPION.

DEAD-HEAT FOR TEAM HONOURS.

SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL TEAM.

The twenty-fifth annual championship under the auspices of the National Cross-Country Union of Scotland was decided on Saturday from the Glasgow Agricultural Society's Show Grounds, Scotstoun, and resulted in a memorable race. The attendance of spectators was good, and, as usual, with a national event for decision, quite a number of prominent runners of the past were present. Among those we noticed within the enclosure were W. M. Carment (S.A.A.A. president and secretary of the Cross-Country Union from 1882 to 1897); C. Pennycook (champion 1882); R. A. Hay (champion 1880); George Hume, R. K. Kinnmont, A. M. Bryson, and J. McCulloch (ex-presidents), J. Allan (S.A.A.A. vice-president), W. Batchin (president); W. Bain (vice-president); J. W. Shanks (S.A.A.A.); T. Connell (W.S.H.); A. Turnbull (1,000 yards record holder); and the old Olympic Harrier, J. M'Laren.

There were considerable alterations in the teams. The holders, West of Scotland H., were without J. Clelland, who finished seventh last year. Clydesdale were minus the veteran Andrew Forrester, and Edinburgh were without J. D. Hughes, tenth last year. West of Scotland ran nine, Clydesdale nine, Edinburgh eight, Edinburgh Northern twelve, Edinburgh Southern nine, Maryhill eight, while Motherwell Y.M.C.A. could only muster four, and these, therefore, ran as individuals. The six individual entrants all competed.

Fortunately, the weather proved ideal for a cross-country contest, and the course, which extended over a distance of ten miles, was found fairly dry and good going. A few minutes after advertised time the runners were got well away. Once round the enclosure Culbert was leading, closely followed by M'Phee, Mann, Duffy, Kerr, and Dallas. Another circuit of the ground and the runners left for the country in the following order:—Templeman, Duffy, M'Phee, Mann, Culbert, and Kerr. Great excitement prevailed as the runners came in sight to complete the half distance. At this stage M'Phee and Duffy were running together, and, if anything, the holder appeared freshest of the two. Eighty yards away came Mackenzie, leading Gilbert and Templeman, then followed Mann, Grant, Torrie, Jack, Thomson, Dallas, Bruce, Culbert, Rodger, M'Lagan, and Venn. At this stage West of Scotland were leading Clydesdale by 20 points.

As the athletes came in view for the finish it was seen M'Phee had obtained a comfortable lead and he eventually passed the judges a winner for the second year in succession by about 30 yards. After Duffy there was a gap, after which the runners sprinted in rapid succession.

THE ORDER OF FINISHING WAS—

1, A. M'Phee, Clydesdale, 58 min. 17 3-5 sec.; 2, J. Duffy, Edinburgh, 58 min. 31 sec.; 3, T. Jack, Edinburgh Southern, 59 min. 13 sec.; 4, G. Mackenzie, West of Scotland, 59 min. 14 sec.; 5, J. W. Templeman, Bellabouston, 59 min. 14 sec.; 6, Alex. Mann, Clydesdale, 59 min. 25 sec.; 7, R. F. Gilbert, West of Scotland, 59 min. 41 sec.; 8, W. S. Grant, Waverley, 60 min. 1 sec.; 9, G. Culbert, Monkland, 60 min. 5 sec.; 10, R. M. Bruce, Edinburgh, 60 min. 7 sec.; 11, J. B. M. M'Lagan, Edinburgh Northern, 60 min. 42 sec.; 12, A. Thomson, Edinburgh Southern, 60 min. 44 sec.; 13, W. G. Rodger, West of Scotland, 61 min. 2 sec.; 14, J. M'Ghee, Clydesdale, 61 min. 13 sec.; 15, G. Dallas, Maryhill, 61 min. 17 sec.; 16, W. Hamilton, Maryhill, 61 min. 23 sec.; 17, J. Torrie, Gala, 61 min. 31 sec.; 18, A. P. Inglis, Edinburgh Northern, 61 min. 37 sec.; 19, A. J. Simpson, Clydesdale; 20, A. Aitken, Glenpark; 21, F. M. Stoddart, West of Scotland; 22, W. G. Dawson, Edinburgh; 23, T. Tevendale, Maryhill; 24, W. Laing, Edinburgh; 25, A. J. M'Guffie, West of Scotland; 26, Sam S. Watt, Clydesdale; 27, J. Thomson, Edinburgh Northern; 28, R. Hutcheson, Edinburgh; 29, J. Hendry, Edinburgh Northern; 30, G. Inglis, Edinburgh Northern; 31, G. H. Peddie, Edinburgh Northern; 32, A. J. Hobbs, West of Scotland; 33, A. W. Waugh, Edinburgh Southern; 34, F. E. Vickers, West of Scotland; 35, Robert Blair, Clydesdale; 36, J. C. Venn, Edinburgh Northern; 37, W. A. Ramsay, Edinburgh Southern; 38, T. Murphy, Edinburgh Northern; 39, D. Rutherford, Maryhill; 40, P. F. Tierney, West of Scotland; 41, F. Martin, Edinburgh Southern; 42, W. Steel, Maryhill; 43, T. Robertson, Edinburgh; 44, J. L. McMillan, Edinburgh; 45, W. A. Muir, Edinburgh Southern; 46, R. Frew, Clydesdale; 47, R. Graham, Motherwell; 48, D. Bruce, Edinburgh Northern; 49, J. C. Gordon, Edinburgh Northern; 50, H. Fairley, Edinburgh Southern; 51, W. Ross, Edinburgh; 52, G. H. Ramsay, Edinburgh Southern; 53, J. Munro, Edinburgh Northern; 54, A. J. Forrester, Clydesdale; 55, H. Mitchell, Maryhill; 56, A. Grant, Edinburgh Northern; 57, D. M. Aitken, Clydesdale; 58, W. H. Horne, Maryhill.

TEAM PLACINGS.

after taking out the individual competitors, were:—

West of Scotland—G. Mackenzie, 4; R. F. Gilbert, 6; W. G. Rodger, 10; F. M. Stoddart, 16; A. J. M'Guffie, 20; A. J. Hobbs, 27. Total, 83 points.

Clydesdale—A. M'Phee, 1; A. Mann, 5; J. M'Ghee, 11; A. J. Simpson, 15; S. S. Watt, 21; R. Blair, 30. Total, 83 points.

(Tie for first position.)

3, Edinburgh H.—J. Duffy, 2; R. M. Bruce, 7; W. G. Dawson, 17; W. Laing, 19; R. Hutcheson, 23; T. Robertson, 33. Total, 106 points.

4, Edinburgh Northern H.—J. B. M'Lagan, 8; A. P. Inglis, 14; J. Thomson, 22; J. Hendry, 24; G. Inglis, 25; G. H. Peddie, 28. Total, 119 points.

5, Edinburgh Southern H.—T. Jack, 3; A. Thomson, 9; A. W. Waugh, 26; W. A. Ramsay, 32; F. Martin, 36; W. A. Muir, 40. Total, 148 points.

6, Maryhill H.—G. Dallas, 12; W. Hamilton, 13; T. A. Tevendale, 18; D. Rutherford, 34; W. Steel, 37; H. Mitchell, 49. Total, 153 points.

The Junior Championship was won by R. F. Gilbert, West of Scotland H.

SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL TEAM.

After the race the N.C.C.U. Committee met and selected the team to represent Scotland in the international contest as follows:—

A. M'Phee, Clydesdale.

J. Duffy, Edinburgh.

T. Jack, Edinburgh Southern.

J. W. Templeman, Bellabouston.

G. Mackenzie, West of Scotland.

A. Mann, Clydesdale.

W. Bowman, West of Scotland and Sparkhill.

S. S. Watt, Clydesdale.

R. F. Gilbert, West of Scotland.

Reserves—1, T. Johnston, Clydesdale and Highgate; 2, W. S. Grant, Waverley; 3, G. Dallas, Maryhill; 4, J. B. M'Lagan, Edinburgh Northern.

NATIONAL CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP.

TO-MORROW'S RACE AT SCOTSTOWN.

PROSPECTS AND TEAMS.

(By "Pace.")

There was a time when the principal event in cross-country circles of Scotland was alternately decided in East and West, but the want of a suitable enclosure in the immediate vicinity of the Capital has given the committee of the National Cross-Country Union no option but to decide the race in the West of late years. Thus it is the 25th annual contest that falls to be brought off to-morrow, starting and finishing within the well-appointed enclosure of the Glasgow Agricultural Society at Scotstoun. An entry of seven clubs has been received, four from the West, and three from the East. In addition, four competitors have entered for the individual honours. Looking backwards, this race was for years a duel between Clydesdale and Edinburgh Harriers, and it was not till 1899 that the Watsonian Cross-Country Club came in and secured the title. They have the honour also of supplying the first individual winner outside the two first-named Clubs. Since 1899 both West of Scotland and Motherwell Y.M.C.A. have laid claim to team honours, and it is all for the good of the sport that those honours should go round.

To-morrow's race promises to be closely contested, both in regard to the individual and team placings. West of Scotland are the present holders, but their victory last year was a narrow one, a single point separating them from the Clydesdale. Their best man is undoubtedly George Mackenzie, who has always ran consistently in this race. He was fifth last year, and was immediately followed by A. J. McGuffie (6), W. Bowman (7), and J. Clelland (8). These are again available this year, with the exception of Bowman.

R. F. Gilbert, who was unable to compete in the recent Western district race, comes in, and with W. G. Rodger and P. E. Vickers, the W.S.D. six can be regarded as strong as last year, and with a slice of luck should finish their men in the first twenty-five.

Clydesdale Harriers, who have an unique record of wins in this event, are again forward with a strong team. Alex. M'Phee won the individual honour last year, and was runner-up to T. Jack in 1908. He should be ably backed up by S. S. Watt (3), Alex. Mann (4), R. Frew (12), and A. J. Simpson. Both Watt and Simpson should improve on their positions of last year. The club has a fairly strong "tail," including one or two with ripe experience.

Edinburgh Northern have a well-balanced team as was shown in this year's Eastern District Championship. They should be considerably strengthened by the inclusion of J. B. M'Lagan, who, I hope, is fit and well. He finished 13th in 1908, while in the same race George Inglis was 30th, J. Thomson 43rd, and G. H. Peddie 45th. These runners can be relied upon to support the Juniors.

By virtue of winning the Western District Championship, Maryhill Harriers join in the National event once again, and if it were possible for them to secure a victory it would be extremely popular. Their district team is a good one, but it is rather questionable if George Dallas and D. Rutherford will do so well over the extra distance, more especially if the course is a heavy one. One or two of the others may improve over the longer journey. Maryhill ran second to Clydesdale in 1899, after winning the now defunct "Junior." Edinburgh Harriers' last victory was in 1904, but they are now gradually recovering from a bad time. The outstanding member is J. Duffy, who finished tenth last year, and secured the Junior Championship. The team includes T. Robertson (8th in 1908), J. D. Hughes (37th in 1908 and 11th last year), R. M. Bruce and the veteran W. Laing.

Edinburgh Southern Harriers have a strong leader in T. Jack, who is certain to figure among the leaders. Although but third last year, he is bound to have felt the effects of his "Marathon" training during 1908. He will be well supported by A. Thomson (24th in 1908 and 12th last year), G. H. Ramsay (13th last year), and W. A. Ramsay.

Motherwell Y.M.C.A. include several of their district team, and it remains to be seen if these runners commit themselves or not. On paper, their team is a strong one, and includes T. Millar, R. Graham, and W. M'Farlane, who finished 6th, 14th, and 18th, when the club won in 1908. These, with D. Peat, P. Diver, and A. Kerr, should form a useful six, with several other capable runners to back them up. To sum up the chances of the respective teams, I think both Clydesdale and West of Scotland will have to rely upon their sixth man to pull them through. Motherwell have a well-balanced team if all entered compete, but will their men be sufficiently well forward to counteract the outstanding men of the other two clubs? Only on one occasion has

CLYDESDALE HARRIERS

gone three years without winning, and I shall look for their success again to-morrow. The West of Scotland should be runners-up, with Motherwell Y.M.C.A., Maryhill, Edinburgh Northern, and Edinburgh fighting out positions. Now we come to the individual winner. Who is to be champion for 1910? The likely runners are A. M'Phee (holder), T. Jack (champion 1907-8), S. S. Watt, J. W. Templeman, W. S. Grant, G. Mackenzie, and J. Duffy. Watt has already beaten M'Phee in his club this season, while Templeman, who was second last year, is greatly fancied by his fellow clubmen. Jack is not by any means a spent force, and either Mackenzie or Duffy may create a mild surprise. However, I plump for

ALEX. M'PHEE, C.H.

to score his second successive win, followed by Jack, Mackenzie, Templeman, and the others mentioned. The entries are as follows. The figures denote the position filled by the competitor last year:—

Individual Competitors—W. S. Grant (Eastern District Champion) Waverley Harriers; J. W. Templeman (2) Bellahouston Harriers; A. Aitken, Greenock Glenpark Harriers; R. Semple, Hamilton Harriers.

West of Scotland Harriers—(Holders and winners 1908)—J. Clelland (7), R. F. Gilbert, A. J. Hobbs, J. S. Menzies, George Mackenzie (5), A. J. McGuffie (6), John Pollock, W. G. Rodger (16), F. M. Stoddart, P. F. Tiernay, P. E. Vickers, D. Kirkpatrick.

Clydesdale Harriers—(Winners 1888-9, 1890, 1892-5-4, 1896-7-8, 1901-2, 1906-7).—D. M. Aitken, R. Blair, R. Frew (12), A. J. Forrester, A. Forrester, George Findlay, Alex. Mann (4), Alex. M'Phee (1), J. M'Ghee, P. M'Lean, A. J. Simpson (17), Sam S. Watt (8).

Edinburgh Northern Harriers—(Eastern District Champions 1910)—H. Bruce, J. C. Gordon, J. Hendry, A. P. Inglis, G. Inglis, J. Munro, T. Murphy, J. B. M'Lagan, A. Paterson, G. H. Peddie, Jack Thomson, J. C. Yenn.

Edinburgh Southern Harriers—C. Campbell, H. Fairley, T. Jack, F. Martin, W. A. Muir, G. H. Ramsay, W. A. Ramsay, T. A. Ross, S. Severn, A. Thomson, R. H. Turner, A. W. Waugh.

Maryhill Harriers—(Western District Champions 1910)—George Dallas, Wm. Hamilton, T. A. Teyendale, Wm. Steel, D. Rutherford, H. Mitchell, W. A. Livingstone, John M'Kinlay, H. S. Davidson, H. Howatt, W. H. Howe, Jas. S. Thomson.

Edinburgh Harriers—(Winners 1886-7, 1891, 1895, 1903-4).—R. M. Bruce (19), J. Duffy (9), W. G. Dawson, A. Edwards, J. D. Hughes (10), R. Hutcheson, W. Laing (23), W. M'Ewan, J. L. M'Millan, W. Ross, T. Robertson, H. J. Scott.

Motherwell Y.M.C.A. Harriers—(Winners 1908).—J. Diver, P. Diver, R. Graham (30), J. Jardine, A. Kerr (20), T. Millar, R. Millar, A. Mooney, W. M'Farlane (14), D. M'Elhinney, D. Peat, S. Russell.

Individual Entrants—J. Torrie, Galt H., Geo. Gilbert, Monkland R.