

**SCOTTISH WOMENS C.C.
CHAMPIONSHIP,
AYR RACECOURSE
5th March, 1955.**

THIS event was again favoured with fine weather although there was a cold east wind. Excellent arrangements were made by Mr. and Mrs. Thursby and Ayr Athletic Club and members of the Western District C.C. Union officiated.

Before the race there was quite a bit of speculation as to whether Miss Miller from Aldershot would master the reigning champion A. Drummond who was the home favourite, but the expected battle did not materialise as Miss Miller unfortunately did not finish the course.

The Course was one of three laps diagonally across the racecourse and this gave the spectators a good view of the entire $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles race, but unfortunately the race was not well supported by spectators, the large East contingent of 1953 being absent. It was unfortunate also that there were very few competitors from the East.

Of a total entry of 25 including three teams, 20 faced the starter, and for the first $\frac{1}{4}$ mile remained pretty well bunched together, but shortly afterwards a small group including Drummond, Miller, Boyes, Ferguson, Elder and McLeod broke away and were still bunched at the end

of the first lap. Going uphill for the second time, Aileen Drummond started to force the pace, which I thought was not very fast at that point. But I had the feeling that runners were suffering from an insufficient warm up, and the cold wind which was affecting their breathing. They certainly were looking none too happy at this stage.

As Aileen drew away trailing Miss Boyes and Miller after her with the rest of the field strung out behind, it became apparent that the latter was in trouble, and that the youngest competitor in the race, Boyes, was going to be a force to be reckoned with at the finish as she was moving easily and showing little sign of tiring. As the second lap was completed Drummond was about 30 yds. up on the field and moving much better, Miller dropped out here and Boyes took up the role of challenger with McLeod maintaining her position close behind. It was now pretty definite that the holder would, unless something very unexpected happened, win again. This was indeed the result with the others dropping slightly further behind but all credit must be given to Miss Boyes for her really fine show in finishing second in her first National.

T. MONTGOMERY,

(Hon. Chief Coach S.W.A.A.A.).

Details :

1. A. Drummond, Maryhill 18m. 39s.
2. C. Boyes, Maryhill H. 18m. 52s.
3. E. McLeod, Unattached 19m. 08s.
4. M. Ferguson, Springburn 19m. 15s.
5. A. Elder, Maryhill H. ... 19m. 38s.
6. D. Fulton, Springburn 19m. 52s.
7. M. Campbell, Maryhill
8. S. Johnstone, Edin. Harr.
9. S. Stewart, Edin. Harr.
10. M. Steel, Maryhill H.
11. C. Walsh, Maryhill H.
12. C. Buchanan, Maryhill H.
13. C. Watson, Springburn
14. T. McDevitt, Springburn

Team :

1. Maryhill—1, 2, 3, 6. 12 pts.
2. Springburn—3, 5, 11, 12. 31 pts.

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finish his Olympic saga with victory in the classic event, the marathon. His try-outs suggested that he would end his career with a glorious flourish, but instead he tasted bitter disappointment. There was a question of too-liberal expenses and before the tangle could be sorted out, the Olympics of 1932 were over.

Twenty years later, however, a bald fifty-five year old man strode gallantly round the Olympic arena, bearing the Flame on the last lap of its long journey across Europe. Never was a lap of honour so worthily earned and any bitterness that may have lingered in Nurmi's heart must have vanished forever as the crowd acclaimed him.