

# THE HARRIER—HIS CLUB & HIS SPORT

By A. K. MacDONALD

It rather dismays me when I come across an athlete—particularly a good performer—who appears to be totally uneducated in that cherished possession of all true harriers—"Club Spirit."

Many may not agree, but in my mind the fundamental difference between a good harrier and a good athlete is that the former has developed club spirit.

And what is this "Club Spirit"? Is it not made manifest by the harrier who strives to live up to the ideals of his club, who considers it an honour and always gives of his best while carrying the club colours, but who is not so blinded by any stupid adherence to his club that he cannot see and applaud brilliance in others? It is certainly not suggested by the fellow who refuses to run for his club in a relay unless he is given a certain sector nor by the member who persistently talks to the official as "your" club and refuses to accept his responsibilities in administration, etc.

Shall we agree, then, that our harrier is one who loves to run, is enthusiastic in his efforts to run well and is keen to meet and associate with good sportsmen of all clubs?

Now how does he regard his sport? Competitively he would endeavour to support all events organised to further the popularity of amateur athletics generally. He would also take a keen interest in the set up of his club and its governing bodies. In the club it is his duty to ensure that the constitution is sound and that the officials are those best suited for their respective posts. This is not always easy. For instance, seniority and length of service may demand the election of a president who really does not possess the qualities required. In the event of his election endangering the future welfare of the club the character of our Harrier would oppose it firmly but tactfully. If, however, the candidate had 100 per cent. club spirit, then care would be taken to see that he had a capable "vice" and a tactful secretary. And talking of secretaries—every club should have the best on its books.

After the officials the Harrier gives some thought towards improving membership, finance, training methods and social welfare. All these are his responsibilities as a club member. He may not be in a position to put his ideas into force, but he can and will submit them for consideration.

Interest in affairs outside his club to the national zone increases as the years roll by.

Although but an integral part of the whole, he nevertheless, has a duty to the sport here also.

He may feel, as many do, that the correct course is not to follow tradition but to break it. He will realise that tradition dies hard and that in this dour, but glorious, Scotland of ours, tradition only became tradition after great thought and great events had made it so. But if the changing world makes it, or part of it, obsolete then the time has come for courageous decisions for the introduction of new ideas and for a co-ordinated drive to put Scotland in her rightful place in the world of athletics.

## SPORTS DIARY

### August

10—Cumbernauld A.A.C.  
Carlisle Sports.

13—Shettleston H. and G.E. Cycling Clubs  
Helenvale.

17—Mingavie Games.

23-25—European Championships ... Oslo.

24—St. Machan's A.A.C. ... Lennoxtown.

30-31—Cowal Gathering.

### September

7—Perth to Dundee Road Race ... Perth.

Hamilton Harriers are having a successful season. Change of Hon. Secretary's address should be noted:—G. Craig, 65 Gateside Street, Hamilton.

Auchmountain Harriers are promoting, on behalf of Port Glasgow Town Council, a confined meeting with an open 14 miles road race, on 24th August, at Port Glasgow.

# THE SCOTS ATHLETE

To Stimulate Interest, to Develop Enthusiasm  
and to Encourage Sportsmanship in Scotland  
Edited by WALTER J. ROSS

AUGUST 1946

No. 5.

PRICE 3d.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 4/-

## A DEAD-HEAT!



For the past two seasons, Victoria Park A.A.C. have held an unquestioned supremacy in Scotland at one-mile medley relay racing. Their team have carried their colours well against all-comers. The above photo was taken at the end of the most exciting race engaged in by them. The race was at Rangers F.C. Sports in August, 1945. After the two teams running neck-and-neck all the way, C. Denroche (all white) of the A.A.A. Select, and J. B. Panton, V.P.A.A.C., come down the straight together for a dead-heat finish.

## CONTENTS INCLUDE

RUNNING COMMENTARY by J. E. FARRELL, on Scottish Sport. The A.A.A. Championships. The historic Wooderson race, and the marathon blunder.

JUNIOR SCOTS AT BIRMINGHAM. EDITOR IN THE "NEWS." OUR ATHLETIC STANDARD. THE HARRIER—HIS CLUB AND HIS SPORT.



## JUNIOR SCOTS AT BIRMINGHAM

By J. GILBERT (Hon. Sec., S.A.A.A.)

After the excellent performance of the Juniors at the S.A.A.A. Junior Championships, held at Edinburgh, on 8th June, and taken in conjunction with the highly satisfactory financial return therefrom, it was only natural to assume that the governing body would give some consideration to the nomination of a Scottish representation for the A.A.A. Junior Championships at Birmingham, on July 13th.

Apart from the policy of encouraging youth in its athletic endeavours, the S.A.A.A. recognised that, in the performances of the junior champions, our youngsters were capable, in many events, of taking on the best on the other side of the Border, despite the difference in age qualification. (Scottish qualification is "under 18 years of age on 31st March," while A.A.A. qualification is "under 19 years on day of sports"—quite a considerable difference at this "developing" stage of youth.)

Well, the selection of the Scottish representatives was made as follows: St. C. S. Taylor (George Watson's College)—100 yards and broad jump; G. V. Chester (Daniel Stewart's College)—440 yards; M. Roberts (Victoria Park A.A.C.)—440 yards; J. S. Hamilton (Victoria Park A.A.C.)—880 yards; J. G. M. Hart (Edinburgh University A.C.)—120 yards hurdles; G. W. McNab (Jordanhill College School)—120 yards hurdles; A. S. Paterson (Victoria Park A.A.C.)—high jump; J. S. G. Milhench (Edinburgh University A.C.)—discus and javelin.

Here was something to "go to market" with, and in my opinion, I felt no team—senior or junior—with greater "prospects" has ever been nominated to represent Scottish athletics. Unfortunately withdrawals came from St. C. S. Taylor, J. M. Hart and J. S. G. Milhench. The former was tied to his school sports that date, while Hart and Milhench were committed to the International University match in London. With these three declining the invitations our prospects diminished somewhat, but it was certainly in no despondent spirit that the depleted contingent arrived in Birmingham to uphold Scottish prestige.

Arriving at the sports enclosure we were agreeably surprised to find a

perfect picture of a sports enclosure (all grass), but, alas, in this case, "distance did lend enchantment," for, on closer inspection, it was clear that track conditions were not exactly what one might have expected for a meeting of such status or importance. As one of the party remarked on viewing the undulating track, "this has been made for Scottish athletes—up hill and down dale." In the jumping pit, the top earth had only been disturbed or dug up to a depth of not more than two inches, and our long and high jumpers (particularly Alan Paterson) did not view the prospect with any favour.

Now for a few notes on the actual participants and their events.

Alan Paterson, our "stonewall" certainty, barring accidents, started off a 5 feet 8 inches, just when the others were crying "enough." Clearing 6 feet 2½ inches easily, he next tried 6 feet 6 inches, but just could not make it, but nevertheless his 6 feet 2½ inches was great jumping when taking into consideration the fact that he was competing after practically one whole week of continuous air, sea and land travel. Great stuff, Alan!

Then the 440 yards—a heat, second round, and a final, with the first heat timed for 2.45, second round at 3.15, and the final at 3.45. Surely something wrong here—and for Juniors, too. After protests had been made, considerable adjustment in the time schedule was effected. And a further complication confronted our representation. Despite the fact that the heats were "seeded," here we had Chester and Roberts, our two nominees, down to run against each other in the sixth heat. It was admitted by the organisers that a mistake had been made, but despite a strong protest, no adjustment was obtained. Rather than have our two nominees "killing" each other in the heat (only the winners of heats proceeding further) and thus jeopardising our chances in the subsequent rounds, Roberts sportingly offered to forego his chances in favour of his colleague competitor, and with no other competitor appearing, Chester was given a walk over. A lucky break! In the second round, Chester, drawn No. 1 lane, had the measure of his

opponents all the way, and won easily in 55 secs. Then the final! Drawn No. 1 again (the inside lane), he ran a great race right through the tape, to win the 440 yards by 10 yards in the excellent time of 51.5 secs., equivalent to something considerably less under better track conditions. Congratulations, Chester, and thanks, Roberts, for your sportsmanship!

And now for the 880 yards, in which Hamilton was our representative. Running in Heat 1, he ran a very judicious race, just lying with the leaders until the top finishing bend, when he came away to qualify as a comfortable second in 2 min. 6.8 sec. In the final, Hamilton was drawn last in a line of nine competitors—not too happy a position. A quick start brought him into a comfortable position in the first three or four, but Hopcraft, of Thames Valley H.—a powerfully built runner—started to force the pace, and Hamilton, five or six yards behind, could not afford to let him get too far ahead. The first quarter finished with Hopcraft still five or six yards ahead of Hamilton, and there was a gasp when the time of the first quarter was announced at 57.5 sec. Someone was bound to crack. Could Hamilton sustain the pace? He was a matter of 6 yards ahead of the third man. Rounding the top bend, none of the first three looked to have much reserve, but twenty yards from the tape Hamilton made his effort and got into the lead with Hopcraft now beaten. It looked "all over bar the shouting," but Pickles, of Airedale H., who had been lying third most of the way, came with a surprising burst in the last 10 yards and passed Hamilton, who just could not stave off the challenge, to finish in 2 min. 2 sec. This time, compared with the first quarter of 57.5 will give some indication of the "bellows to mend" in the last turn of the track. Well, done, Hamilton! You were just a trifle unlucky, I think.

The only other event in which the S.A.A.A. was represented was the 120 yards hurdles (3ft. 3in.). Macnab, definitely a coming hurdler, if given plenty of competition, after one false start, got through his heat in comfortable fashion, in the comparatively slow time of 17.3 secs. Regarding the false start, what of the starter who "barks" at the delinquent "once more and you've had it"! Surely these young-

sters, in the stress of excitement and enthusiasm, are entitled to something better than this! The final was a good race, with Macnab up against someone just that slight shade better. Hitting a couple of hurdles did not help, but running on with great resolution, he was beaten by 1½ yards in 16.2 secs.

A pleasing incident took place in the Birmingham Hotel after the sports. Recognising the presence of Sir William Y. Darling, M.P., ex-Lord Provost of Edinburgh, and a former pupil of Daniel Stewart's College, I was able to arrange for E. V. Chester, present pupil of Daniel Stewart's College, to receive Sir William's hearty congratulations.

Summing up—5 competitors, 2 first places and 2 second places. A careful "post mortem" of the results forces me to the conclusion that more honours would have come our way had all the original selections been available. Well done, lads, and on behalf of the Association, thanks for your great efforts and for your exemplary conduct while "on tour." I hope the trip retains pleasant memories for all of you.

I have purposefully refrained from making any reference to the presence of other Scottish athletes at these championships, but it was most pleasing to observe the colours of Victoria Park and Shettleston during the afternoon, and a distinct Scottish accent could be heard at one corner of the ground when all the Scottish athletes gathered together!

Because of space difficulty we have not published positions in the Western Points League this month. Positions are roughly the same as published in July, with Victoria Park A.A.C. still leading, though Bellahouston Harriers have notably gained places. The League placings will be brought up to date and published next month, and we hope to have the final league in print by October.

\* \* \*

### ERRATUM

In the pole vault article in last month's (July) issue, two obvious errors in figures appeared. World and British record figures should have been given as 15 feet 7¼ inches and 12 feet 7¼ inches respectively.



## RUNNING COMMENTARY

by J. E. FARRELL

July has been a high pressure month of athletic endeavour centring round the brilliant spectacle of the A.A.A. championships on July 19th and 20th, which will surely go down on record as one of the most thrilling ever.

Before passing on to the A.A.A. championships it may be of interest to mention some of the highlights in roughly chronological order since the beginning of July. The Vale of Leven sports on July 6th produced a notable Maryhill winning treble: J. Hoskins, 2 miles; J. Clark,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile and "Dunky" Wright, 14 miles road race. Also worthy of mention was the stylish running of J. S. Petty (St. Modan's) winner of the youth's 300 yards handicap.

### Holden and Marathon

On the same date, Jack Holden of Tipton, made his debut in marathon running, by winning the Midland Counties Marathon Championship by a margin of 2 miles, in 2 hrs. 46 mins. 34 secs. This is the bald result, but we are indebted to Joe Binks of the *News of the World* for a more revealing analysis of Holden's performance. The latter apparently ran this race on the strength of a very successful trial over the marathon course of 2 hrs. 33 mins. 30 secs., but in the Midland Counties' championship he ran too fast in the initial stages of the race covering 10 miles in 57 mins. and 20 miles in 1 hr. 56 secs. After such a hectic pace he had to ease to finish the course in a time which was sound but by no means brilliant.

Binks suggests that Holden should have been sent to Oslo on the strength of his potential ability over the marathon distance, but here I am inclined to disagree. I do agree that Holden has great possibilities in the marathon, but *Rome was not built in a day* and it takes some little time to acquire the judgment necessary for this very specialised distance. The last six miles has proved a nightmare to more than one Marathon aspirant. Holden was entered for the A.A.A. marathon but was a non-starter.

On the 9th July Atlanta had a narrow victory over Western District Select. The features were F. Sinclair's stylish double in the half-mile and mile events and Atlanta's victory over Western District in the relay event,

the latter comprising Victoria Park's winning team in the championships. On the other hand, Atlanta had two Victoria Park men assisting them, W. Ritchie and W. D. N. Connacher. A curious feature was the fact that Scottish champion, George McDonald was only 3rd in the 220 to Connacher and McKenzie, but made amends by winning the "100."

### Paterson's Highest

At Antwerp on Sunday, 7th July, Alan Paterson cleared two metres, which is his "highest-ever" jump. This height has been given out at 6 ft. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  ins. — *World class* without the shadow of a doubt.

### Classy Performances

Then on to College Park, for the Conliffe Harriers' diamond jubilee meeting, where the "sport" light was shared by the "hustling" Alan Paterson and the mimitable Sydney Wooderson. The former in clearing 6 ft. 6 ins. showed that his Antwerp leap was no flash in the pan, while the Blackheath Wonder showed his field home in the 2 miles handicap, which is claimed as an unofficial world record for a grass track. A Wooderson habit is shown in the fact that his last mile was the faster—4 mins. 30 secs. against 4 mins. 25 secs. for the first.

Classy performances at this meeting were also turned in by D. Wilson (Poly.) who despite failing to win the 1000 yards handicap equalled the Irish record of 2 mins. 15 secs., Alford of Roath Harriers who won the 880 yards in 1 min. 56.2 secs., and A. F. Adedofun of Queen's University who made Paterson go all out to beat him, by himself clearing 6 ft. 4 ins., and Steve McCooke, Ireland's premier long-distance expert who finished less than 100 yards behind Wooderson from the scratch mark in the fast time of 9 mins. 19 secs.

### A WORD OF CAUTION

In the A.A.A. Junior Championships at Birmingham a now rather tired Alan Paterson cleared 6 ft. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  ins. to win his first A.A.A. title and beat J. L. Newman's record of 1935 by 3 ins. G. B. Chester, of Daniel Stewart's College, had a brilliant win in the 440 with a splendid time of 51.2 secs. This robust

finisher should have a future at this distance.

J. S. Hamilton (Victoria Park) our hope for the 880, finished three yards behind D. Pickles of Alrdale who won in 2 mins. 2 secs. With all due respect to the latter, I think our own boy is just a trifle stale and is worthy of a rest. He has done a power of running for his club and has performed magnificently. He will come again.

Derek Burfitt of Belgrave, reckoned in many quarters as Wooderson's successor, really showed his class in winning the mile in 4 mins. 23.2 secs., to set up the second record of the meeting. Wonderful time for a grass track.

On the same day the English Universities trounced the Scottish Universities. But we had notable victories in the 880 yards, won by Scottish champion, J. S. Taylor (Aberdeen) in 1 min. 58.2 secs.; in the Discus, won by D. Smith (Aberdeen) with a throw of 130 ft. 6 ins., and a splendid winning jump by G. Garrick of Glasgow, with 5ft. 9 ins. This last is an extremely classy effort overshadowed only by Paterson's exceptional standard. Minor places were also gained by J. G. Hart (Edinburgh) in the hurdles, H. Wood of Aberdeen in the half-mile and K. M. Donaldson (Glasgow) in the sprints. When to this is added the fact that R. T. McPherson (Oxford) who won the mile is Inverness born, Scotland did not do so badly.

Highlight of the Glasgow Police Sports, on the same day, was George Mitchell's prodigious effort to throw the 28 lb. weight a distance of 70 ft. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  ins., although evergreen "Dunky" Wright's victory in the 14 miles road race was very much to the crowd's liking. In this race W. Farrell of the Castlehill Club showed improving form to take the handicap award, finishing actual fourth, not far behind the consistent W. Kennedy of Kilbarchan. J. S. Petty won again in smooth style—this time the Youth's half-mile handicap. Bellahouston monopolised the open mile.

Maryhill Harriers' meeting at Dunoon was spoiled by bad weather, but those who braved the elements saw some good sport notwithstanding.

Despite being pulled by the handicapper for recent successes, J. S. Petty continued his runs of successes, achieving his hat-trick by winning the open 880. A stylish runner, this Stirling schoolboy, looks a good prospect. In the road-race, Turner of Greenock Wellpark, upset the apple-cart by defeating

more renowned runners, but for J. Lindsay of Bellahouston, it may be said that since winning his own club's 17 mile race, he has put in a power of running, unexcelled by any other road runner in Scotland.

### A.A.A. CHAMPIONSHIPS

Now we come to the *pièce de résistance* of the season, the A.A.A. Championships.

There was a perfect setting for the Championships, the weather clerk being on his best behaviour. The sport too, was brilliant, but the organisation left much to be desired.

Of the 21 titles at stake, excluding the tug-of-war, which is usually of a purely domestic character, Holland won 5 titles (all field events), Belgium and Sweden 2 each which left 12 titles in British hands, although 4 of these were won by British athletes from overseas, namely, Trinidad and Jamaica.

### Scotland's Successes

Alan Paterson was Scotland's sole victor but we had seconds in the Marathon and Hammer and a third in the 440 yards hurdles.

First man to win an A.A.A. title since 1939, was L. Hindmar of Sweden, in the two-mile walk. I was intrigued by this young man's stylish walking, scrupulously fair, every muscle rippling, a deserved winner of the special "Fowler-Dixon" medal for style, although the holder, H. G. Churcher of Belgrave, deserves credit for his stuffy performance in making the Swede travel to win. On the Saturday the Swede outclassed his field to complete a magnificent double by winning the seven-mile walk.

The six-mile race developed into a duel between J. H. Peters (Essex Beagles) and J. Chapelle (Belgium) who has been a frequent visitor to our shores, returning home with the distinction of A.A.A. champion in 1939 in the 10 miles and steeplechase events. On this occasion he found Peters too good in 30 mins. 5.4 secs.

In the field events the Continentals dominated, though Alan Paterson won the High Jump with 6 ft. 2 ins., his nearest competitor, R. C. Pavett (R.N.) dropping out at 6 ft. 1 in. Alan went on to attempt 6 ft. 5 ins., but failed. No shame to him. He has had a hard season and has shown that he is in world class. He has been selected for the European Games at Oslo—a signal honour. Next year is a pre-Olympic



year and he must nurse himself discreetly.

### Dutch Dominate Field Events

D. C. Watt of Polytechnic had a nice double in the long jump and hop-step-and-jump to put a better face in it from Britain's point of view.

However, the Dutchman, Houtzager, won the hammer with Scotsman, D. McD. Clark second. Brasber of Holland took the discus with 142 ft. 11½ ins. with compatriots Tamoree, de Bruyn and Tutkeveld, winning respectively the pole vault, weight, and javelin. A "field day" for our Dutch friends in the field events.

In the 120 yards hurdles final P. Braekman of Belgium stepped nicely over the sticks to beat his compatriot. Our own boy Hart did splendidly to make the final, finishing fifth in the good time of 15.5 secs. In the longer 440 hurdle race, D. R. Ede stayed off a challenge by the Belgian Prevot in the commonplace time of 57 secs. R. Boyd ran splendidly to gain a third place for Scotland.

### Colourful Doubles

McDonald Bailey who has beat even time on numerous occasions this season had a comfortable double sprint victory, showing 9.8 secs. for the shorter journey and 22.3 for the furlong. The former race was somewhat spoiled by false starts and the sole French entrant's disqualification did not go down well with the crowd.

The 6 ft. 4 ins. Wint of Jamaica, trying the new distance of half-mile, won in good time despite a late challenge by C. T. White; 1 min. 54.8 secs. against 1 min. 55.2 secs. His running was curiously unorthodox and uneven, showing a first quarter in 54 secs. and a somewhat slowish last lap of 60 secs. He was more impressive in winning the 440 yards later, in 48.4, his apparent effortless lazy style appealing to the spectators in no uncertain manner. W. Roberts of Salford, twice British champion and one of Britain's representatives in their famous winning relay team at the last Olympics, in Berlin 1936, made a sensational come-back to complete the course in 48.6, an amazing performance for a man of 34 years of age. Panton ran gamely but I have the feeling that he is just a trifle stale. He certainly has not shown last year's form. But he will yet come into his own.

### Wint's Olympic Distance

It would be interesting to know what Wint intends to go for at the Olympics. Will it be the 440, his recognised best distance up to the present, or will it be the 880, his new distance, or will he take both in his stride, attempting to win either or both. Certainly the double has been achieved at the Olympic Games in the past, A. G. Hill winning 800 metres and 1,500 metres, and Douglas Lowe the 400 metres and 800 metres. Against this it has to be admitted that competition is so intense nowadays that it is almost imperative to concentrate on one particular event if an Olympic crown is aspired to. Although Wint may well prove a find at the 880 I should imagine he would be well advised to concentrate on the 440 where he is accustomed to stroll round to victory. His height which is such an advantage in the shorter race might well be somewhat of a disadvantage in the longer test. The athletic world will watch his prowess with intense interest.

### The Race of the Century

The sport up till now had been exceptionally good and intensely interesting yet when the three-milers stepped to their marks, including Sydney Wooderson and the Dutchman, Slykhuis, there was a buzz of excitement from the crowd, which increased as the pistol went off. But no one who witnessed this race could have forecast the treat that was in store. With the excitement of the race still upon me and with its recapitulation in the quietness of the aftermath, the verdict I reach is alike. It was certainly the greatest race I have ever seen and to have been present was indeed a privilege.

It is good to know that the movie camera captured the thrill of the race on the films for people who were not present at the real thing. From the pistol Wooderson and the Dutchman were well placed, but as the race developed and the pace increased the two outclassed their field with Wooderson making the pace and the Dutchman on his heels. One did not need to be an athletic enthusiast to appreciate this race. The spectacle of these two relentless pacers moving in unison and in perfect style would have gladdened the heart of an artist. So it went on, lap after lap, Wooderson shadowed by the young Dutchman—first mile passed in 4 mins. 40 secs.; second mile passed

in 9 min. 23 secs. In the last half-mile Wooderson appeared to step up the pace but could not shake off Slykhuis. The latter appeared confident; giving the impression that he was merely biding his time and we were apprehensive of Sydney's chances.

### Amazing Finish

Then came the fantastic last lap. At the bell Wooderson still lead but on the back straight with a furious burst of speed Slykhuis simply tore to the front, opening up a gap of three to four yards and it seemed all Lombard Street to an orange that the younger man would prevail, but the Blackheath "mighty atom" was not yet done with and cheers went up when he was seen to be challenging the Dutchman.

He spurred to Slykhuis's shoulder; then round the last bend—defying all the canons of orthodox running by running wide at the bend—now he was level and as the runners entered the final straight Wooderson was slightly in front. Half-way down the straight he had a lead of perhaps two yards then for one fierce moment he seemed to waver. Would the Dutchman get on terms? Amidst a frenzy of excitement rarely witnessed in the annals of sport, it was seen that Wooderson, now in top gear, was actually increasing his lead and he flashed to the tape for a five-yard victory.

When the time was announced showing that both men had beaten the all-comers' record of the Finn, Taisto Mäki, there was a storm of applause that lasted for several minutes. Both men received a great ovation which they thoroughly deserved. Wooderson's time of 13 mins. 53.2 secs. is barely 20 secs. behind Gundar Haegg's wonder record.

An amazing feature was the fact that his last 440 was faster than Wint's last quarter in his half-mile, and Wilson's last quarter in his mile. The question is can Wooderson, now 32, hold this form till 1948 against world opposition. I believe he can and will if he has a mind to. For he is an athletic genius and something of a law unto himself.

### Marathon Mix-Up

The day of sensations was not yet over, however. In the mile we had again a great struggle between an Englishman and a Dutchman—D. G. Wilson just holding off De Ruyter by inches. So close were they that the same time 4 mins. 17.2 secs., was given for both men. Despite such an exciting race the

time was a trifle disappointing but as Wilson was not quite over the effects of a slight indisposition, his was indeed, a courageous effort.

To close the day of excitement we had the finish of the marathon. Squire Yarrow of Polytechnic, ex-winner of the Polytechnic Marathon and runner-up in the European marathon of 1938, entered the stadium with McNab Robertson of Maryhill Harriers, six times winner of the A.A.A.'s marathon and last winner, breathing on his neck. Unfortunately, the Steeplechase, won by Van de Wallyn of Belgium (incidentally, runner-up to the Frenchman, Pujazon, in the recent International cross-country championships at Ayr) was still in progress and these lion-hearted "marathon twins" had to thread their way past hurdles instead of getting a clear run through as they deserved. Round the last bend Yarrow still had his nose in front but in the straight Robertson started something like his famous final spurt to put daylight between himself and his opponent. But longer-striding Yarrow responded and not only closed the gap but passed Robertson by a clear margin. Tenaciously the latter responded but although narrowing the gap just failed to get on terms for Yarrow to win by the unique margin of one-fifth of a second.

Congratulations are due to Yarrow for his come-back, but sympathy goes out to both men and especially to Robertson the holder and loser, for having to cope with such difficulties at the end of their epic run. It is said, moreover, that Robertson lost more ground than Yarrow round the last bend from obstruction, though from my vantage point this was not obvious to me.

"Dunky" Wright, hero of many races, finished a good fifth. He expected to do better, but who can deny that to finish fifth out of sixty runners is still a splendid performance for one of his long service.

### Lack of Co-ordination

For such an important meeting there was a strange absence of organisation of the events. For some reason the 440 was changed and run prior to the steeplechase. The stadium should be kept in close communication with the marathon leaders and a race like the steeplechase lasting over ten minutes, and having hurdles on the cinder track should be timed to finish long before the possible arrival of the marathon leaders. To see such an epic finish



spoiled fills one with a feeling of irritation and frustration.

As we learn that Oliver, of Reading, winner of the "Poly" marathon and Yarrow, are selected for Oslo to the exclusion of Robertson, this seems a travesty of justice, especially under the circumstances, and surely if expense is the dominating factor for sending two men only, the comparatively trifling sum needed to send Robertson to Oslo would have been forthcoming from some source.

### Paterson's Difficulties

It is not pleasant to criticise, but Paterson himself had not the best assistance in attempting to clear 6 ft. 5 ins., after winning the A.A.A. title.

The closing stages of the pole vault and the high jump were going on at the same time. In the former event the Belgian and Dutchman were fighting out a great duel. Paterson was just about to set himself when one of the pole-vaulters cleared his height to a roar of applause which must have put Paterson off. Then the pistol reports at the start of the sprint were not conducive to concentration. While it may be necessary to have various events going on together for heats and qualifying stages, the closing stages of any event should be given a clear field. This is fair not only to the competitors but to the spectators.

London hopes to stage the Olympic Games in 1948. I hesitate to think of the bad feeling which could be engendered if a British and foreign athlete entered the Olympic stadium at the end of the Marathon and the latter lost in circumstances similar to Robertson.

Let's hope such mistakes will not occur again. The thrills of the 1946 Championships will be long remembered.

\* \* \*

On the same day as the A.A.A. Championships there were two sports meetings in Scotland, one at Dumbarton and the other at Larkhall, though I fear the latter suffered through lack of advertisement.

Features of the Dumbarton meeting were veteran J. Gardner of Bellahouston's win in the open half and F. Sinclair's win in the mile off the low mark of 20 yards. The crowd love to see a back-marker come through his field to win or be placed, and "Fred" has obliged fairly often of late. Not quite at his best in time for the S.A.A.

Championships, he is now travelling in top gear.

Jack Corfield of Tipton again demonstrated that he is difficult to beat by taking the premier award in the 2-mile team race, although J. Stuart, late of Carntyne and now of Shettleston, deserves credit for a plucky show over a new distance. J. N. Cunningham of Bellahouston just failed to win a double in the sprints.

At Larkhall, G. Porteous won the road race. Previously among best roadsters in Scotland, the Maryhill man is gradually regaining form after a spell of steeplechasing at which he is an artistic performer, and a past winner in this event at Rangers' sports.

On July 27th there was excellent sport at various meetings.

### Hart Brilliant

In the International meeting at Meadowbank, the Scots did not exactly set the heather on fire, but G. McDonald of Victoria Park, 220 Scottish champion, had an excellent win in the furlong event, and J. G. M. Hart of Edinburgh University in the hurdles. The latter's performance indeed was the highlight of the meeting, beating a 41-year-old Scottish record; but favoured by a following wind there is little likelihood of the time being accepted. Nevertheless, competition is bringing him well forward and he is a great prospect for this type of event.

J. S. Petty, the youthful Stirling sensation, again defied the handicapper to win the half-mile youth's handicap, off scratch, in 2 mins. 5.3 secs. Less than 4 secs. slower than C. T. White's time in the senior event. The latter was runner-up to Wint in the A.A.A. half-mile.

There was exciting sport at Motherwell, particularly in the senior relay, where Robin Sharp of Garscube ran a great race to recover ground lost through a dropped baton. It was reminiscent of old times to see P. J. Connelly of Plebeian win the open mile.

"P. J." by the way, is doing his utmost to get his old club back on its feet again.

It was pleasing to see W. Kennedy gain the reward of consistent running to win the 13 miles road race from G. Porteous. A strong runner, his win should increase his confidence.

Handicap award fell to J. Park (Maryhill). In the A.A.A. marathon he ran an excellent race and came into the stadium full of running.

### Hammer Record

In the British Police Championships, at Taunton, there was only one Scottish winner, G. H. Caithness (Edinburgh City) with a grand broad jump of 22 ft. 3½ ins. A. S. Warren (Glasgow) had seconds in both sprints with J. D. Mackie (Glasgow) similarly placed in the high jump, but D. McD. Clark the Belfast policeman, and runner-up in the hammer event at the A.A.A. championships, was the star of the meeting with a tremendous hammer throw of 169 ft. 1 in., which is a police record. A similar performance at the A.A.A. championships would have given him the premier award as the Dutch winner was quite a margin below Clark's latest throw.

Congratulations to Bellahouston Harriers and Maryhill Harriers who were respectively first and second at Bradford police meeting on the same date.

August will again be a busy month for sports promoters and provided the weather is good we hope to see good crowds and good sport at the various meetings.

### A.A.A. Championships Details

**100 Yards**—1. E. McDonald Bailey (R.A.F.); 2. J. Archer (Notts A.C.); 3. A. T. Liffen (South London H.); 2 yds. 9.5 secs.

**220 Yards**—1. E. McDonald Bailey (R.A.F.); 2. J. Archer (Notts); 3. A. T. Liffen (South London H.); 22.3 secs. 2 yds.

**440 Yards**—1. F/Lt. A. S. Wint (R.A.F.); 2. W. Roberts (Salford); 3. D. C. Pugh (South London H.); 48.4 secs. 4 yds.

**880 Yards**—1. F/Lt. A. S. Wint (R.A.F.); 2. C. T. White (Lincoln Wellington); 3. G. A. W. Dove (South London H.); 1 min. 54.8 secs. 1½ yds.

**1 Mile**—1. D. G. Wilson (Polytechnic H.); 2. F. de Ruyter (Holland); 3. G. A. Bunton (Tyrian); 1 min. 17.4 secs.

**Three Miles**—1. S. C. Wooderson (Blackheath H.); 2. W. F. Slykhuis (Holland); 3. S. H. McCooke (East Antrim H.); 4 yds. 12 min. 53.2 secs. (new record).

**120 Yds. Hurdles**—1. P. Braekman (Belgium); 2. P. Van de Sype (Belgium); 3. R. A. Powell (Achilles); 2 yds. 14.9 secs.

**440 Yds. Hurdles**—1. D. R. Ede (Epsom and Ewell); 2. R. Prevot (Belgium); 3. Pt. R. N. Boyd (Army and Scotland); 4 yds. 57 secs.

**High Jump**—1. A. F. Paterson (Victoria Hk.); 6ft. 2½ in.; 2. R. C. Pavitt (Royal Naval Air Command); 6ft. 1½ in.; 3. J. L. Newman (Southgate H.); 5ft. 11 in.

**Long Jump**—1. D. C. V. Watts (Polytechnic H.); 23ft. 4 in.; 2. J. Morrish (Achilles); 22ft. 10 in.; 3. H. E. Askew (Achilles); 22 ft. 7 in.

**Hop, Step and Jump**—1. D. C. V. Watts (Polytechnic H.); 46ft. 10 in.; 2. G. V. Williams (Polytechnic H.); 46 ft. 0½ in.; 3. M. Denis (Belgium); 44 ft. 11 in.

**Pole Vault**—1. G. Lamoree (Holland); 12ft. 10 in.; 2. E. Van Petegham (Belgium); 12 ft. 5 in.; 3. J. H. Dodd (Sheffield United H.); 11ft. 9 in.

**Weight**—1. A. G. J. de Bruyn (Holland); 2. J. D. Byrne (Polytechnic H.); 3. H. E. A. Moody (South London H.); 44 ft. 11 in.

**Hammer**—1. J. H. Houtzager (Holland); 2. D. McD. Clark (Greenock Wellpark); 3. N. H. Drake (Doncaster L.N.E.R.); 159 ft. 0½ in.

**Discus**—1. R. J. Brasher (Holland); 2. J. E. Nesbitt (Northern Ireland); 3. A. J. G. de Bruyn (Holland); 142 ft. 11½ in.

**Javelin**—1. N. B. Lutkevold (Holland); 2. M. J. W. Dalrymple (London A.C.); 3. Bdr. P. G. Pidgeon (Army); 185 ft. 8½ in.

**Two-mile Steeplechase**—1. J. M. Van de Wattyn (Belgium); 2. A. A. Robertson (Reading); 3. E. J. Nankivell (Southgate H.); 18 yds. 10 min. 27.6 secs.

**Two-mile Walk**—1. L. Hindmar (Sweden); 13 min. 59 secs.; 2. H. G. Churcher (Belgrave H.); 14 min. 4.6 secs.; 3. E. A. Staker (Highgate H.); 14 min. 16 secs.

**Seven-mile Walk**—1. L. Hindmar (Sweden); 2. E. A. Staker (Highgate H.); 3. H. G. Churcher (Belgrave H.); holder; 250 yds. 52 min. 20 secs.

**Six Miles**—1. J. H. Peters (Essex Hengles); 20 min. 59.4 secs.; 2. J. Chapelle (Belgium); 31 min. 14.5 secs.; 3. D. M. Wingate (Bournemouth A.C.); 31 min. 37 secs.

**Marathon**—1. S. S. Yarrow (Polytechnic H.); 2 hrs. 42 mins. 14.4 secs.; 2. D. McNab Robertson (S.A.A.A. and Army); 2 hrs. 42 mins. 14.6 secs.; 3. T. Richards (South London H.); 2 hrs. 44 mins. 10 secs.

**Tug of War**—R.E.M.E. No. 1 Central Workshops beat Cranleigh and District British Legion, two pulls to none.

To save clashing with other sporting events, the evening open sports being organised by Shettleston Harriers and Glasgow Eastern Cycling Club jointly, have been brought forward from Wednesday, 14th, to Tuesday, 13th August, at Helenvale Park. The promoters should be complimented on the originality of their programme and excellent fare should be provided. Shettleston Harriers are expecting their own Alan Watt to be home in time to compete in the special sprint. In the youths' half-mile, J. S. Hamilton (V.P.A.A.C. and Scottish Champion) and J. S. Petty (St. Modans and winner of Rangers' Sports open half-mile) should have a real "dust-up." Both have already had a good hard season.

\* \* \*

Arrangements are now well forward for the Perth to Dundee (22 miles) road race on Saturday, 7th September. This race is an established annual, and is sponsored by the two Dundee clubs, Hawkhill and Thistle. Competitors intending to participate should get in touch with the Joint Secretary, Mr. P. Henderson, 59 Blackcroft, Dundee.



## EDITOR IN THE "NEWS"



Exactly one week after the initial publication of *The Scots Athlete* it was commended in the columns of the *Glasgow Evening Citizen*. This was the first press recognition of our effort.

The *Western Pioneer News* is a suburban paper covering the West-end districts of Glasgow. Featured in its columns each week are athletic notes penned by "Marathon." It also carries reports of the activities of Victoria Park A.A.C.

On 29th June, 1946, our contemporary and its companion paper *Springburn News* contained the following front page article on the editor. The heading was "Our Scotstoun Editor" and naturally, the column was savoured with local flavouring:—

"Thanks to the initiative and enthusiasm of Walter J. Ross, a resident of Scotstoun, Scotland has now an athletic magazine of its own. In April of this year *The Scots Athlete* edited and published by him, first appeared and is now a regular monthly. Since its inception, athletes from all over the country have sent him words of congratulation for bringing their sport into the limelight. According to some runners it is the best thing that has happened to their interest for years. Apparently he has imported a great feeling of enthusiasm for athletics throughout Scotland through the medium of his paper.

The young editor must be well-known in the district. He was formerly a pupil at Scotstoun and Victoria Drive Secondary Schools. He stays at 132 Earl Street, with his parents who are residents in the locality for 40 years.

The magazine's sub-title is "To Stimulate Interest, To Develop Enthusiasm and to Encourage Sportsmanship in Scotland," very worth-while and lofty ideals, and it seems as if the ideals are being accomplished.

In an interview Mr. Ross said, "I have taken a great interest in athletics since I was at school. My brother William was Hon. Secretary of Garscube Harriers Club and first introduced me to harrier circles. I have witnessed almost every major race and sports meeting held in the past 14 years. I want to create interest in a most exciting sport, at present there is practically a boycott on athletics by the daily press. There are many fine runners in Scotland, worthy of more publicity and an appreciative public. My intention is to make *The Scots Athlete* a link between the public and the participants. There is no doubt about it the various harriers clubs have welcomed it and shown great co-operation, the task is getting the general public interested."

Regarding his own running ability he rather humbly said: "I have a unique record: In three successive years I finished last in my club's youths' cross-country championships." Still he has knowledge and ability but these qualities are nothing compared with his abounding enthusiasm and love of sportsmanship. Readers of the *W.P. News* will wish him well in his laudable objects.

There are different contributors to the paper, including J. E. Farrell, the Scottish 3, 6, and 10 miles champion.

It is a most interesting paper and if you have the slightest interest in sport you should write direct to the Editor for copies."

This short but complimentary notice appeared in *Harpers Sports and Games Weekly*, which is published at 8 Lloyds Avenue, London, E.C.3, in the issue of 10th July, 1946:—

"We have received the first three issues of *The Scots Athlete*, a three-penny monthly which has been started in order to encourage sportsmanship in

Scotland, more especially in track-work and open country running. The statistical and tabular matter is up-to-date, and the memoirs of past championships by team or individual reflect credit on the editor, Mr. Walter J. Ross."

As readers know our June issue contained a history of Bellahouston Harriers written by Mr. W. R. McNeillie. Acknowledging *The Scots Athlete*, this history was reprinted in the *Govan Press* on 26th July, 1946. This is good for the sport. Publicity gives stimulus.

Incidentally, our June issue aroused tremendous interest. It was sold out within one week of publication. We had it reprinted but the new supply was sold out within another week. Another reprint was impossible and so we had to disappoint many readers especially those who had intended keeping files. There is just a chance that some secretary or reader may have some unused copies on hand. We would welcome their return so that we could at least meet some of the requests from abroad.

## Our Athletic Standard (A COMPARISON)

By ONLOOKER

Each year, following the S.A.A.A. Championships, one hears varied opinions as to the state of athletics in Scotland. The 1946 meeting having been reviewed by George Dallas in the July issue, I have no intention of going over the same ground, particularly in regard to individual performances.

On the day following the championships, however, I was surprised to read in a Sunday paper that the meeting showed Scottish athletics in a very poor light.

Obviously the writer was not in touch with the athletic world, but that did not prevent him from spreading the impression that athletes here were in a very bad way.

Now, I must say that my immediate reaction to the Hampden meeting was that our athletes had given quite a good account of themselves. After all, it was the first championship fixture for seven years.

This being the case, how were we to assess the value of the running efforts?

To go back to the last meeting in 1939 was not enough. Obviously, then, we had to go further back—to 1919, when the series was revived after the 1914-1918 break.

Even then, the comparison favoured the earlier championships, which were resumed after a break of only four years.

Here, then, is the result of my check-up:—

	1919	1946
100 Yards —	11 s.	10.1 s.
220 Yards —	24.8 s.	22.9 s.
440 Yards —	53.6 s.	51 s.
880 Yards —	2 m. 5 s.	1 m. 59.3 s.
Hurdles —	16.2 s.	16 s.
High Jump —	5 f. 6½ i.	6 f. 2 i.
Broad Jump —	21 f. 4 i.	21 f. 6 i.
Hammer (Wire) —	145 f. 10½ i.	163 f. 9 i.
Putt —	38 f. 4 i.	41 f. 4½ i.

It will thus be seen that in all eleven events which figured on both programmes, the 1946 results were better in every single instance.

At the same time it is only fair to point out that the 1919 meeting at Celtic Park was held under conditions much more unfavourable than at Hampden. This is obvious from the sprint times, both being run into a strong S.W. wind, as recorded in "50 Years of Athletics."

However, there are the figures for you to form your own opinion, which, I think, will agree with mine.

As a matter of fact, I think the S.A.A.A. were very fortunate to find the sport in such a healthy state after it having been left to fend for itself for seven whole years.

Not only so, but the governing body were further in luck, in that the gate at Hampden topped £500; being, I understand, the best in the history of the Association.

**Aberdeenshire Harriers Club** have training quarters at Rugby Park, Hazlehead. Meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

**West of Scotland Harriers** have resumed activities. Training, Stanalane, Thornliebank, Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

**Bellahouston Harriers** will welcome new or demobbed members any Tuesday or Thursday evening at Bellahouston Sports Ground, Dumbreck Road.