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the Hon. Secretary, JAMES GUNN, 112 Rogart Street, Glasgow, S.E.

SEPTEMBER 1947

Vol. 2 No. 6

THE SCOTS ATHLETE

PRICE
6^D



Bill Vessie, the great U.S.A. high jumper and now British record holder
with Alan Paterson (6 ft. 7½ in.), takes 5 ft. 10 in. in easy fashion at
Ibrox.

SOUVENIR ISSUE

YOUTH AND RECREATION EXHIBITION
KELVIN HALL, GLASGOW
SEPTEMBER 3rd — 20th

YOUTH AND RECREATION



JAMES GILBERT,
Hon. Secy., S.A.A.A.

AMATEUR ATHLETICS



MOST youths have many and varied recreations. Some have a distinct preference for a particular sport, say, Football, Cricket, Swimming or Cycling, and others prefer recreation of a quieter type, perhaps Reading, Stamp Collecting or Nature Study. Whatever hobby or interest a youth may have—be they singular or many—out of it should develop a healthy mind and a healthy body.

Recreation should cultivate a consciousness of one's own ability; an understanding and appreciation of the efforts of others, and a desire to do always better. One should get to know the greatness of team spirit, and surely all will want to be noted for their sportsmanship.

Recreation develops sportsmanship and, therefore, it should be entered into with a whole-hearted spirit. As a youth grows older sportsmanship will be called "citizenship," but, actually, these words have the one and same meaning.

We who are associated with athletics feel that whilst other sports may compare with ours, there are none that can surpass athletics as a recreation. Through our sport the qualities aforementioned are quickly gained. A happy atmosphere prevailing—through good fun and excitement—in the process of maintaining good health.

The world's greatest sporting event—The Olympic Games—will be held in London next year, and to our shores will come the finest athletes in the world, to contest in the arena, and to strengthen the tradition of sportsmanship throughout the four corners of the earth. So that all can keep intimate with this great coming event, and to give an opportunity to youths of, possibly, representing our country at some future Olympics, our athletic clubs extend a welcome to all interested to join them. Youth! Find where your nearest club trains and JOIN NOW. As a contributor to "The Scots Athlete" wrote a few months ago: "Athletics provide fitness, fellowship, and first-rate thrills."

From Civic Authorities, the athletic movement expects their full support in the granting of facilities, assistance in our Coaching Schemes, etc. Amateur athletics promotes Citizenship.

The Scottish Amateur Athletic Association, which is the controlling body of the athletic movement in Scotland, are most fortunate in having such an efficient, tireless and thoughtful Hon. Secretary as Mr. James Gilbert, 17 Pearce Avenue, Edinburgh 12, from whom full information of affiliation or formation of club, etc., can be obtained.

THE SCOTS ATHLETE

To Stimulate Interest, to Develop Enthusiasm
and to Encourage Sportsmanship in Scotland

Edited by WALTER J. ROSS

Editorial Offices—69 ST. VINCENT STREET, GLASGOW, C.2.

SEPTEMBER, 1947.

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Annual Subscription 6/6

IBROX THRILLS

We are accustomed to expect thrills at Rangers' athletic gala, but surely the 1947 August Carnival surpassed itself in this respect. A record crowd of over 70,000 watched the fascinating and sporting duel between high-jumpers Alan Paterson and Bill Vessie. Paterson came-back with a vengeance to reach Olympian heights. Both he and Vessie tied at 6 ft. 7½ in., to set up a new British record, beating "Corney" Johnson's record of 6 ft. 7 in.

Alan has two marks to aspire to. First, the Olympic record of 6 ft. 9 in., set up by Johnson at Berlin in 1936, and the colossal world mark of 6 ft. 11 in., standing to the credit of Lester Steers, who, we understand, is attempting a successful come-back.

Then, has there ever been a more impressive bit of sprinting that McDonald Bailey's bullet-like exhibition in winning the 100 metres in 10.4 sec., sprinting reminiscent of Jesse Owens at his best.

American distance star, Curtis Stone, put the crowd in good humour with a beautiful piece of striding in the steeplechase, and Edinburgh student, Coffie, repelled the American challenge in the special 400 metres, clocking 48.2 sec (off 10 yds.) to make us wonder why he did not tackle this event in the Scottish Championships.

There was the bird-like exhibition of hurdling presented by coloured star Harrison Dillard and our own veteran "Don" Finlay, hero of a thousand races, and the magnificent finish in the



T. Perkins (U.S.A.) and D. C. Pugh (A.A.A.) come down the "home" straight together in the great relay race at Rangers F.C. Sports.

800 metres, where British "find," G. W. Nankeville (off 10 yds.), split Americans Trevor Perkins and W. Hulse, in a 1 min. 52.3 sec. race.

What shall we say of the relay, a pulsating race if ever there was one. In the first half-mile sector Bill Hulse, of America, streaked away to hand over a nice lead to colleague Smith, with Fairgrieve chasing. McDonald Bailey set to give Guida perhaps 12 yards thrilled the crowd with a brilliant attempt to catch his man, and Trevor Perkins, of U.S.A., set off with approximately five yards in hand. But the



Alan and Bill pose for the camera-men.

thrill of the race was still to come. Running with tremendous verve and courage Pugh not only caught his man, but forged to the front. A heart-breaking race ensued down the finishing straight, but Perkins proved just the stronger in a desperate finish.

Like other meetings, this year, the five-a-side football served up did not reach the athletic heights. This is not just the opinion of athletic enthusiasts, but according to the leading scribes of the Press who cater for the football public. But, all-in-all, it was a grand day's show and will provide lasting memories.

ERRATUM

The winning time of Donald McNab Robertson (Maryhill Harriers) in the Scottish Marathon Championship, should have been recorded, last month, as 2 hr. 37 min. 49 sec., not "39 sec."

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BRITISH MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS

MY IMPRESSIONS by J. E. FARRELL

In winning the A.A.A. Marathon Championship at Loughborough, on Saturday, 23rd August, Jack Holden, of Tipton Harriers, revealed an outstanding combination of speed and stamina. Running confidently Holden ultimately left his opponents standing in 2 hr. 33 min. 20.2 sec., a time which is superlative when one considers the oppressive heat and the arduous nature of the course.

Tom Richards, of South London, ran the race of his career to finish second in 2 hr. 36 min. 7 sec., and colleague D. McNab Robertson, after encountering a bad spell about 16 miles, recovered to finish in his usual robust style, a good third.

I was more than gratified with my own performance in breaking 2 hr. 40 min., and improving more than three minutes on last time out. To master the heat and gruelling course also increases confidence.

Incidentally the telegram of good wishes which arrived before the start from Mr. Gilbert of S.A.A.A. was a gesture much appreciated by Donald and myself.

Story of the Race

Just prior to the start there were wild rumours that the Turkish champion, Kaplan, would attempt five-minute miles. This fantastic schedule did not worry Holden, who remained, as usual, confident and unruffled. With Olympic Games selection in the offing one sensed an atmosphere of tension as the 64 starters walked to the starting post.

Appropriately enough for what was to follow, the race started up a slight incline, and thus the immediate start was steady. However, this did not last long, and soon a group of over a dozen runners went into the lead with Robertson forcing the pace.

Conscious of the heat and learning that the course was a very stiff one, I decided on a cautious start, a decision reinforced by the advice of experienced campaigner L. Griffiths, of Reading,

who had set himself a schedule of 2 hr. 40 min., and suggested that most of the leaders would come back. This actually did happen.

At five miles Griffiths and I, running together, were one minute behind the leaders, which included, among others, most of the fancied men bunched together. Holden, Robertson, Richards, Ballard, Henning and Humphries were in this group.

The Turk, however, now obviously feeling the pace, had dropped behind the leaders and was one of a group of scattered runners intermediate between my own position and that of the leaders. He was running in most unorthodox fashion—in bursts, attempting to gain downhill what he was losing uphill.

Shortly afterwards the Greek runner, Fantides, caused a diversion by taking

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Training for Road and Cross-Country Running now in progress from the Western Y.M.C.A. Institute at 75 Peel Street, Partick, each Tuesday and Thursday evening at 7.15 p.m.

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New Members welcomed
any training night

the lead, but he flattered to deceive, and soon after was compelled to drop out. At the ten mile mark Holden took the lead from Robertson, with Richards third, and the hot pace and gruelling conditions were obviously taking toll.

At 12 miles Holden had opened up a gap of 75 yards with Robertson and Richards second and third. The latter then attempted to follow Holden and moved into second place. At this stage I was lying about 20th and running within myself. I started to accelerate despite further caution by Griffiths, I was straining at the leash, and with some of the leading bunch now feeling the strain, I was able to move from the twenties right up to fifth position between 10 and 15 miles. The Turk, Henning and Ballard were among those passed. Humphries, who was running well at this stage, paced me for, perhaps, a mile, before I went into fourth place. The leaders were out of sight.

About 16 miles, however, I caught up on colleague Robertson, who was, obviously, having a bad spell, and at 18 miles had passed him and eventually opened up a gap of over 100 yards. Five miles to go I weakened going up a steep hill and Donald, having recovered, gradually overtook and passed me three miles to go, and running on in vigorous style materially gained on Richards, who, however, finished a gallant second after putting up his best performance ever. Less than two minutes after Robertson I arrived, leg-weary, but in grand physical shape.

Griffiths, who claimed that he had strained his leg muscle, arrived home in sixth place, well-spent after a gallant effort, while the Turk, Kaplan, finished 12th in 2 hr. 55 min. 1 4/5th sec., looking somewhat crestfallen. The big, bronzed, taciturn Turk should have revelled in the warm conditions, but, perhaps the arduous trail was unlike his home course, where he recently set a Turkish record of 2 hr. 34 min. 27 sec., or, perhaps, he just had an off day.

Holden's Chance in Olympics

I am inclined to agree with Guy Butler that Holden is one of our brightest hopes for the Olympic Games

at Wembley next year. He finished the gruelling Loughborough course comparatively fresh, and declared that he had lots in hand. I believe he can hold his form till next year. He has all the requirements of a star marathoner; he has speed, stamina, courage, judgment of pace, and a cool head. He has one weakness—tender feet with a tendency to blister. I go so far as to say that the man who beats him will have to break an Olympic record to win.

Tom Richards surpassed himself, and if he can retain this form will be difficult to displace in Britain's Olympic team.

Donald McNab Robertson, while fairly satisfied with his running at the moment assures me that with the background of a winter's training he will take a substantial slice off this year's time, so those who expect Donald's form to taper off may receive a surprise. Henning and Ballard may again come into the reckoning, and may have paid the penalty, on this occasion, of going too fast at the start. Then there is Oliver, who will have to show something of a come-back to put himself into the picture again. With this season's experience behind me I hope to show further progress next season if I am still running.

DETAILS A.A.A. MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS

	hr.	min.	sec.
1. J. Holden (Tipton H.)	2	33	20 1/5
2. T. Richards (So. London)	2	36	7
3. D. McN. Robertson (Maryhill)	2	37	54 3/5
4. J. E. Farrell (Maryhill)	2	39	46 2/5
5. Dr. Turing (Walton A.C.)	2	46	3
6. L. Griffiths (Reading)	2	47	50 2/5
7. G. A. Humphreys (R.A.F. and Woodford Green)	2	48	56 2/5
8. D. E. Morgan (Mitcham A.C.)	2	49	5 4/5
9. A. Harrington (Clonliffe H.)	2	50	6 4/5
10. H. W. Denis (Thames Val.)	2	50	23 1/5
11. G. A. Freshwater (Polytec.)	2	51	16 2/5
12. M. Kaplan (Turkey)	2	55	1 4/5
Nineteen received standards (3 hr. 5 min.).			

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THE A.A.A. JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Our Trip To Manchester

By ERIC CLARKE (Scottish Junior Champion and Record Holder—Javelin Throw)

The results of the S.A.A.A. Junior Championships, held at Kilmarnock on 28th June, must have impressed the "Delties" of the Athletic Committee such that nine of us were selected to travel south to the A.A.A. Junior Championships at Manchester on Saturday, 10th August, 1947.

At Kilmarnock the Juniors gave of their best and really deserved a stronger gathering of spectators.

Selected were A. Y. Monahan (Renfrew Y.M.C.A.), 100 yards and furlong; J. S. Petty (St. Modan's) and R. Smith (Garscube H.), 880 yards and mile respectively; D. R. B. Grubb (Geo. Heriot's), mile; D. A. Stewart (Geo. Heriot's), broad jump, 120 yds. hurdles; G. A. Bell (George Heriot's) and E. Clarke (Hamilton Academy), javelin; also J. S. Hamilton (Victoria Park), who wangled time off from the Army to take part in 880 yards—quite a "Commando" bunch to challenge the "Sassenachs."

Mr. Petty enlivened the journey South with selections from Gilbert and Sullivan, while Mr. Hodge kept us spell-bound with his clever conjuring tricks. Being hon. masseur, he explained the action of our various muscles, and I am sure even Madame Tussaud would have been amazed at the spectacle we presented in our various attitudes.

On arriving at Manchester we were taken to our hotel, which, fortunately, was conveniently near to Fallowfield. After a satisfying meal we went to the sports ground to "inspect the wicket," and, on the whole, were quite satisfied with its condition, although at the javelin pitch we were confronted with a flag at the end of 200 feet! Those English "sure are" optimists!

The weather was perfect on the day of the sports and in the morning Mr. Hodge took us into one of the neighbouring parks to coach us for our several events.

Soon we had quite an audience, and I felt we ought to have lived up to our

Scottish reputation and "passed round the hat."

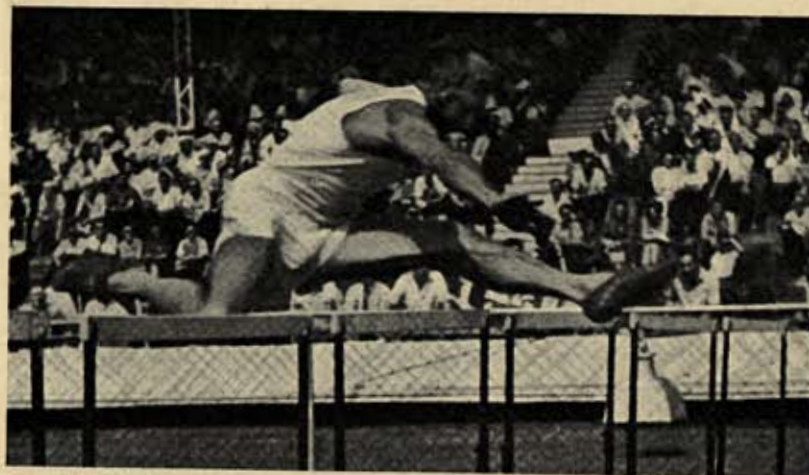
Then to Fallowfield, where we were confronted by most athletic-looking youths wearing the various "colours" of their clubs. However, nothing daunted, we braced ourselves and proceeded to our tasks.

The sports commenced with the broad jump and the 100 yards sprints. D. A. Stewart achieved 18 ft. 10 in., much to his disappointment, as he had been jumping over 20 feet all season. Again fortune frowned upon him in the 120 yds. hurdles (1st heats) when, leading right up to the second last hurdle he crashed into it and was unable to continue. Hard luck, Douglas!

So far, A. Y. Monahan had won his heat in the fastest time, 10.4 sec. (100 yds). In the semi-final he won his heat and in the final, his "bug-bear" a ragged start, caused him to be content with third. This event was won by W. M. Jones (Llanelli Grammar School), in 10.2 sec. Our milers then took the field. R. Smith (Garscube) did not seem to be at all comfortable with the pace. Grubb started off in his heat and sturdily worked up to third place, but on the last bend stumbled and fell. However, he pluckily got to his feet and ran on to finish the race, but the fall had cost him his place. Hard luck, and very well ran, Grubb!

Then the javelin throw! G. A. Bell and myself received quite a jolt when we felt the weight of the Finnish javelin. They are much heavier than the metal ones to which we are accustomed. Although this seems trivial, we athletes are rather temperamental (like opera singers) and we were beaten. Well thrown, Swaisland!

Next came the half-mile. Our entrant, J. S. Petty, ran a very judicious heat (excuse the hyppallage) and was placed for the finals, which were run at a gruelling pace, and on the second last bend, owing to numerous runners, much jostling was seen, which caused Petty



Donald Finlay, Great Britain's veteran hurdler, shows fine technique when winning the 120 yards hurdles at the C.S. v. B.A.A.B. meeting, at White City, London.

to falter for a few strides. However, he picked up and came in third. Very well run, Petty!

Then the furlong, the only other event in which Scottish runners took part. Our A. Y. Monahan again won his heat, and we all waited breathlessly for the finals.

At the crack of the starter's gun they were off! Up that last stretch Monahan and Willoughby fought it out, with

Monahan just that yard in front, and so he careered through the tape to win in 23 sec. J. McGregor (Victoria Park) was third. Congratulations, Scotland!

So our day was over—most of us were disappointed by our failures, very proud of Monahan and Petty, and most grateful to Mr. J. Gilbert, Hon. Sec., for encouragement and sympathy on that exceedingly enjoyable experience at Manchester.

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Arthur Wint leading at the "bell" from A.A.A. Champion, C. J. White, in the Combined Services v. British Amateur Athletic Board match, at the White City, London. Wint won in 1 min. 50 sec., only one-fifth of a second outside Olympic record time.

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E. McDONALD BAILEY (Polytechnic)
breaking the tape when making British record time of 9.6 sec. for 100
Yards at Motspur Park, 28th June, 1947.



The "Straddle" as demonstrated by Les Steers. He holds the world's record at 6ft. 11in.

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There is no one who has done more to uphold the prestige of athletics in this country than Sydney Wooderson. He has thrilled crowds throughout Britain and other parts of the world.

Though Sydney has attained the peaks of fame, he has always maintained a great yet simple team-spirit. This makes him the athletic genius of our generation.

A few months ago, a small message from him to Junior Readers of "The Sporting Record" was published. This message, here reproduced, portrays the great spirit of the man.

"To all who wish to do well in Athletics, I would suggest they join a club, as they will derive great benefit from this.

"They will obtain sound advice from experienced members, who will help with their training and make sure they don't over-race when still juniors, and not fully grown. They will also have the chance of representing their club in team races.

"From personal experience I can say that a far greater kick is obtained from helping one's club win a team event than in winning national or even international championship races."



YOUTH AND RECREATION EXHIBITION

We expect to meet all our readers in the Glasgow and surrounding districts at the "Amateur Athletics" stand at the Exhibition.

There is a grand display of Shields, Trophies, Medals and Photographs, etc., worthy of the greatest interest.

The Stand represents great publicity for our sport.

Photographs by Roy Robinson, which have been reproduced in "The Scots Athlete" can be obtained. S.A.A.A. 1947 Handbook also on Sale.

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WHY "MARATHON" . . . ?

By G. S. BARBER.

I have often been asked during many "Talks," why anything in the form of long exacting strenuous effort is termed "marathon," and why long distance races are called "marathon races"; also, why should the distance of the Olympic marathon race be 26 miles 385 yards.

Have you ever tried to walk, not run, 26 miles; now consider your feelings should you attempt to cover the distance in two hours and a half. This is about ten miles an hour, the average speed of a touring cyclist. Then you can realise the effort that is exerted in this type of race, and why anything strenuous of a duration is called "marathon."

The first runner of the marathon was Pheidippides, who was a Greek soldier. When the news reached Athens that the Persians planned to attack the Greeks, Pheidippides, a noted runner, was selected as a courier to seek aid from the Spartans. He ran 150 miles across country, swimming streams and climbing mountains in two days and nights—returning with the word that the Spartans would ally with the Greeks.

Pheidippides later gave his life that his countrymen at Athens might know that the Greeks were successful in the battle of Marathon against the Persians, who sought to conquer them. He ran alone—exhausted after 22 miles—he collapsed at the outskirts of Athens—and died.

In honour of this feat the marathon race of to-day is run.

The first revival of the marathon was at the Olympic Games in 1896, in Athens, over the famous road, Marathon to Athens. In this revival not a single event had been won by a Greek athlete, so for the glory of Greece, Spiridon Loues, a Greek shepherd, came down from the hills to run in the last event, the marathon race. He lined up with trained runners from all over the world and, seven kilometres from the



G. S. Barber in running strip with Sam Ferris. Ferris ran in the Polytechnic marathon nine times, was second to "Dunky" Wright in his first race, then won seven times in succession. He missed a race through being in Egypt—came home and won again. Eight wins and a second in nine races. A grand record!

finish, he took the lead. When he ran into the Stadium the crowd went mad. Women tore off their jewellery and flung it at his feet. Prince George of Greece leaped from the Royal box and ran down the home straight with him. The time for the 22 miles was 2 hr. 55 min. 20 sec., not fast compared to modern standards. For the remainder of his life Loues lived as Greece's greatest hero.

When the Olympic Games were held in London in 1908, it was thought that the most fitting place to start was Windsor Castle, where King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra were in residence. To enable the Royal family, including their grand-children, to see the race, it was decided to start a distance in the Windsor Park so that the

73 runners would be strung out before passing through the gates of the Castle.

The race was to finish in front of the Royal box in the Stadium at the White City Exhibition, London, where the Queen waited. On a final measurement taken of the total course, the exact distance was found to be 26 miles 385 yards. So it was from this standard (not because the original marathon runner, Pheidippides ran that distance) that the future distance of the marathon race was decided.

According to the Amateur Athletic Association rules, no race under 25 miles should be termed "a marathon race." The distance of the marathon race varied. At Athens, in 1896, it was 24 miles 1504 yards; Paris, 1900, 25 miles; St. Louis, 1904, 24 miles 1500 yards; and Athens, 1904, it was 26 miles, so the length of the 1908 race was taken by the Olympic as standard.

I saw this race in 1908, following the runners on a cycle. The futile efforts of the English runners who had no experience of running such races before. The hot day, inches of dust on the roads and the varied head-wear of the runners. The sign-posts in different languages telling the competitors the mile-ages. The race started in the Windsor Park, and the first mile—downhill—misled the runners, as it always does, but soon they settled down on their long grind. Each runner was allowed an attendant who rode a cycle and carried the number of the runner, and all sorts of refreshments were given away. Towards the end of the race an Italian Dorando Pietre led the field, and misled by wrong instructions from spectators, he pushed ahead too fast and over-did himself. I cycled on ahead to see the finish and reached the Stadium where all other competitions had ceased, and a crowd of 100,000 waited breathless for the first man to arrive.

A megaphone man with top hat and tails announced that number 19 was leading and would shortly enter the track. A loud roar from the crowd outside heralded the approach of a runner. Suddenly, up the slope leading to the track came the runner, who wore black



The closest marathon on record. S. Yarrow and D. McNab Robertson finish almost abreast.

shorts, white singlet, with a handkerchief tied over his head. He followed the rope leading to the inside of the track and started to run right hand inside. Suddenly he stumbled and fell, the cheers changed to a confused murmur of dismay.

Struggling to his feet the crowd roared encouraging cries and he continued in a faltering walk. He fell again, the crowd hushed, then, again, as the outside roar announced another runner, Dorando rose to his knees, slowly to his feet, and with his knees bending under him he faced the winning tape. At the bend down the home stretch he fell again, a yelling crowd had now welcomed another runner—J. J. Hayes, of America.

Dorando lay squirming on his face on the track, an Official carrying a large megaphone placed his arm under the fallen runner's arm and assisted him to his feet and with a shuffling gait he continued over the line past Queen Alexandra in the Royal box to collapse amidst tremendous excitement. Then came Hayes, who was only 28 seconds behind.

The sequel to the finish was that America protested that the Italian had been assisted to the finish and the official result was that the race was awarded to Hayes, America, whose official time was 2 hr. 55 min. 18 sec.

Next day Dorando was presented with a gold cup by Queen Alexandra for his gameness.

The first Englishman was W. T. Clarke, who finished 12th.

This was the beginning of a great series of marathon races, run all over the country, and a special trophy valued £500 was given by a well-known newspaper for an annual race over the distance. The first race was run in 1909 from the very same spot in the Windsor Park to Stamford Bridge grounds in London, a tree had been planted to mark the starting post. I ran in this first race, and ran again in 1939 to note, with interest, the growth of the tree.

Next year the Olympic Games are to be held again in London, first time since 1908, and we in Scotland will have a distinct interest in the marathon because there has been a Scotsman in each race since 1924.

Our nearest to the winner was D. McL. Wright, at Los Angeles, in 1932, where the closest finish was ever held. The first four men were on the track at the finish the same time, and the fourth—Wright—was a little over a minute behind the winner, who was Juan Zabala, Argentine. His time was 2 hr. 31 min. 36 sec.; Sam Ferris, Great Britain was second, 19 sec. behind.

What are the chances of a Scot representing Great Britain this time? Though "Dunky" Wright is now out of the game, six times British champion, Donald McNab Robertson is still a power to be reckoned with. Last year Robertson was beaten by a "short head" in the British championship in probably the closest-ever finish in a marathon race. As Squire Yarrow (the winner) and Robertson together entered the arena that day to cover a lap to finish, they encountered hurdles erected for the steeplechase event which was proceeding. This caused a real mix-up, which can now be recalled with humour, though at the time it was very unsatisfactory.

Another Scot, J. E. Farrell, who has had a fine career over shorter distances, is a likely Olympic contender. Last year he beat Wright over 22 miles in

the fastest race of his career, and has showed up well in this, his first season of marathon racing.

Will the coming season bring to light any new blood to the marathon game, or must we depend on the "old uns" to serve us again? Marathon running is not a young man's game. It takes not so much superhuman stamina as superhuman will-power to run. It seems the only men capable of racing over the distance at present are men about the forties.

Jack Holden, winner of the recent British championship, who is fancied very much to win the Olympic title for Britain, has had a long and splendid career. Donald McNab Robertson ran in the 1936 Olympics at Berlin. Our other prominent marathon men have been running a long time, but how they enjoy running marathons. In the famous Boston marathon race, which has been run for over 51 years, they have a runner by the name of Peter Foley, who is 85 years of age; he has a white beard, and this year finished the course of over 26 miles in four and a half hours.

Try this, you youngsters, and see how long you take! An 85-year-old running makes our own Jimmy Macnamara, of 60, seem like a youngster.



JIMMY MACNAMARA

ROYAL BURGH OF LINLITHGOW

Amateur Athletic Sports

By A SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

No finer scenic setting could be found in all Scotland for a sports gala than that which was selected by Burgh Surveyor G. V. Renton, on behalf of the Entertainments Committee of Linlithgow Town Council, for their inaugural amateur athletic sports promotion, held on August 9th.

Within the Palace grounds and situated in a natural amphitheatre, a five lap grass track had been laid out. Grassy slopes reaching down from the ruins of the Palace to the edge of the athletic arena formed a picturesque background, whilst in the immediate foreground lay the waters of Linlithgow Loch, shimmering under the rays of a summer sun. To complete this idyllic scene swans glided with leisurely grace over the surface of the Loch, supremely indifferent to the unusual stir of athletic activities which were intruding upon their habitat.

It was under such picturesque surroundings that Linlithgow's first venture in sports promotion was carried through. Rarely has a first effort met with such signal success. A programme of 21 events—embracing running, jumping, wrestling and tug-of-war—was run through without a hitch, and the "feature" item of the gala—"A Race Round the Loch"—some two miles in extent, was a bright inspiration.

True, there were no "stars" in this athletic firmament, but before an attendance of 3000 people every item received its full measure of warmest appreciation. Moreover, there were no oft-reiterated exhortations from the air to "Sit down," "Clear the Field," "Get off the Field," or such-like remonstrances so often heard with varying degrees of inflexion at sports meetings. Here, indeed, was an ideal athletic gathering—though modest in its ambitions, yet fulfilling all the purposes of its sponsors, and maintaining admirably the true quality and tone of the spirit of amateurism.

At the conclusion of the sports, officials were the guests of the Town Council, at a social function held in the Star and Garter Hotel, when Provost A. C. Ford, with Mrs. Ford, and municipal colleagues, expressed their gratification at the complete success of the Gala, and thanked the acting officials of the S.A.A.A. for their ready co-operation. The Provost also announced that it was the intention of the Council to make the Sports an annual fixture in the Burgh's scheme of summer entertainment.

On behalf of his colleagues of the S.A.A.A., Mr. D. A. Jamieson replied. He congratulated the municipal leaders on the success of their enterprise, and paid tribute to Messrs. W. Carmichael (Eastern District Secretary, S.A.A.A.), and H. Scott (E.H.), to whom had fallen the responsibility of the preliminary spade-work of organisation. It was such practical efforts that reached to the very core of the policy which now exercised the minds of the S.A.A.A. General Committee, namely, the encouragement and development of amateur athletics in the rural districts of Scotland.

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