

ATHLETICS.

NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIP.

WON BY L. J. BRODIE.

BOTANY TEAMS' CHAMPIONS.

L. J. Brodie, of the St. George A.A.C., won the 12th annual five miles novice cross-country championship of New South Wales on Saturday, and the Botany harriers retained the teams' title.

The East Sydney A.A.C. has controlled this race since its inauguration in 1911, and upon the first occasion it was an individual championship. Since then teams' race and a sealed handicap have been added. No races were held in 1917 and 1918. Men who have not won a prize in any open race over a distance of two miles or further are eligible to participate, and the event serves as an excellent test for youthful runners preparatory to the important distance fixtures. It has been necessary to alter the route upon each occasion, owing to the number of buildings being erected on portions of the course, and thus comparisons of times are valueless.

An entry of 74 was received for the race on Saturday, and of that number 61 men faced the starter at Lyne Park, Rose Bay. Botany, East Sydney, Lidcombe, South Sydney, St. George, and Western Suburbs clubs were well represented for the teams' race, in which the first four were taken, and Manly A.A.C. started three men. The day was favourable for long distance running, without any noticeable wind.

At 2.45 the men were despatched on their journey,

and until they crossed New South Head-road were well together. J. G. Piggott led over the creek, followed by his club mates of East Sydney—F. Mason and T. Lees. L. J. Brodie soon assumed the lead and was away from the field when the first mile had been completed. He increased his advantage as the runners reached the golf links, and at 1½ mile was 20 yards in advance of R. Chadwick, another St. George representative; then followed R. Medlin, L. Hunter, and M. Vanden. At Old South Head-road, about

representative; then followed R. Medlin, L. Hunter, and M. Vaughan. At Old South Head-road, about three miles, the St. George runner was still in front, and J. Waters, of Lidcombe, had reached second place, with S. F. Watters, Vaughan, Hunter, and E. Baker nearest. The order of the three leading men was the same when three and a half miles were covered, but K. Brunker had displaced Vaughan and Hunter was running fifth.

Brodie moved further away, and with one mile to go success appeared assured for him. Coming down the hill leading to Rose Bay the St. George runner was 120 yards in advance of Waters, and a similar distance behind was Vaughan. In the run along New South Head-road Baker passed his club mate, but the positions of the two leading men remained unaltered. Brodie entered the park with a substantial lead, and won by 38 secs. from Waters, who crossed the finishing line six seconds in advance of Baker. The winner's time was 29m 48s, which was 27s faster than the figures recorded by F. H. Bailey last year. Waters with an allowance of 2m secured the sealed handicap, and the other positions were filled by M. W. Wilkins, of Botany, who finished 16th, and T. Hovenden (Western Suburbs), in 11th place. Brodie's success was anticipated, as although he has not been conspicuous in open competition, his club running has brought him to a back mark, and in a three miles road race a week earlier he gained fastest time from the 35s mark. Waters won his club's six miles handicap on June 14, but the Manly representatives have not had the same opportunities in club racing. R. Chadwick, who promised to be a likely winner, encountered difficulties during the race, and J. Murphy failed to run to expectations, but the majority of other popular selections ran to club form.

Botany had won the teams' race upon six previous occasions, but the strength of the St. George representatives indicated that there would be keen competition this year. The anticipations were realised, as the holders with 6th, 9th, 12th, and 14th places secured a victory by only two points. First place to St. George gave that club the opportunity to allow the fourth man to finish well back, for although South Sydney had their team home first with the last man in 18th place, the fourth man for St. George finished 20th, giving the latter club a lead of six points over South Sydney. The margin between the three leading clubs was the closest on record. East Sydney, Lidcombe, and Western Suburbs finished the requisite four men, and had the Manly club been able to start more runners the third and fourth places occupied by that club would have given the Manly

to start more runners the ground was occupied by that club would have given the Manly representatives an excellent start in points.

The race was ably managed by the promoting body, assisted by officials of the New South Wales Amateur Athletic Association. Results:—

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

L. J. Brodie (St. George), actual time 29m 48s 1
 J. Waters (Lidcombe), 30m 26s 2
 E. Baker (Manly), 30m 32s 3
 M. Vaughan (Manly), 30m 40s, 4; E. L. Hunter (East Syd.), 30m 47s, 5; K. Brunker (Bot.), 30m 50s, 6; R. Medlin (St. George), 30m 55s, 7; E. Murrell (South Syd.), 31m 3s, 8; S. F. Watters (Bot.), 31m 6s, 9; A. Hardwick (South Syd.), 31m 10s, 10; T. Hovenden (West. Subs.), 31m 13s, 11; M. Adams (Bot.), 31m 21s, 12; J. Murphy (South Syd.), 31m 22s, 13; D. Lobb (Bot.), 31m 23s, 14; F. Brierley (St. Geo.), 31m 26s, 15; M. W. Wilkins (Bot.), 31m 30s, 16; P. De Saxe (E. Syd.), 31m 43s, 17; J. H. Lane (Sth. Syd.), 31m 46s, 18; E. J. Ward (Bot.), 31m 47s, 19; L. Robinson (St. Geo.), 31m 51s, 20.

TEAMS' RACE.

Botany Harriers: K. Brunker 6, S. F. Watters 9, M. Adams 12, H. D. Lobb 14—41 points, 1.

St. George A.A.C.: L. J. Brodie 1, R. Medlin 7, F. Brierley 15, L. Robinson 20—43, 2.

South Sydney A.A.C.: E. Murrell 8, A. Hardwick 10, J. Murphy 13, L. H. Lane 18—49, 3.

East Sydney A.A.C. 78, 4; Lidcombe Harriers 89, 5; Western Suburbs A.A.C. 132, 6.

SEALED HANDICAP.

J. Waters (Lidcombe), all'd. 2m, handicap time 28m 26s, 1; M. W. Wilkins (Botany), 2m 40s, 29m 50s, 2; T. Hovenden (West. Subs.), 2m 10s, 29m 8s, 3; R. Medlin (St. George), 1m 50s, 29m 5s, 4; E. Murrell (South Syd.), 1m 55s, and G. T. Tozer (South Syd.), 3m 10s, dead heat, 5.

RESULTS OF PREVIOUS RACES.

Individual: 1911, C. H. Foster (E.S.A.A.C.), time 33m 31s; 1912, T. Frazer (Sth. Syd.), 33m 22½s; 1913, K. Foster (East Syd.), 33m 30s; 1914, A. B. Stephens (Hurlstone Park), 28m 10s; 1915, P. Bland (Botany), 26m 56s; 1916, C. Bennett (Botany), 32m 52s; 1919, H. R. Turner (Botany), 30m 27 4/5s; 1920, W. T. May (South Syd.), 30m 40m; 1921, B. Swinbourne (Botany), 29m 3s; 1922, J. G. Greenfield (Botany), 29m 52s; 1923, F. H. Bailey (Sth. Syd.), 30m 15s.

Teams: 1912, South Sydney; 1913-1914, East Sydney; 1915-1916-1919-1920, Botany; 1921, East Sydney; 1922-1923, Botany.