

ATHLETICS.

Novice Championship.

CROSS-COUNTRY.

WON BY W. J. HYLAND.

Honours in the 17th annual five miles novice cross-country championship on Saturday were equally divided. St. George Club, for the fifth consecutive year, retained the teams' title. W. J. Hyland, of East Sydney, was the individual winner, and the sealed handicap resulted in a victory for A. Rodgers, of Botany

For the first time the championship was conducted at Kensington racecourse. Since its inauguration in 1911 the East Sydney Club has organised the fixture, and it was again controlled by that body, assisted by officials of the N.S.W. Amateur Athletic Association. Favoured by good weather 63 runners participated of an original record nomination of 80. After traversing the course proper, the runners turned to the tan track, then the route led outside the ground, with the finish on the main racing track.

The majority of clubs having decided their novice championships prior to Saturday, the capabilities of the competitors were fairly estimated, and the results did not create many surprises. J. Paterson, the Botany novice title winner, was earliest to assume command with W. J. Hyland, of East Sydney. At four miles Paterson had left his rival in the rear, but before commencing the last lap the Botany man collapsed. Paterson stated that he was under the impression he had completed the distance, but being unable to recover after his finishing sprint was incapable of proceeding further. Thus Hyland was given a substantial lead over the other runners and he won by 37 seconds in 29m 17s from the St. George representative, M. S. Tumpane, a former University athlete. A. Straney, of St. George Club, ran better than anticipated, and he finished in third place, 7 seconds behind Tumpane. Owing to the variation of

Straney, of St. George Club, had better than anticipated, and he finished in third place, 7 seconds behind Tumpane. Owing to the variation of courses, comparisons of times with past events are valueless.

Hyland has been a consistent performer in East Sydney distance races. He was unfortunate in the novice championship last year, as after winning the event at Bondi the association ordered the race to be re-run. In the first race, owing to an official not being at a turning point, the runners mistook the course. Hyland failed to secure a place in his second attempt, and this left him eligible for Saturday's race.

St. George Club beat East Sydney by four points for teams' honours, although the latter club had its necessary four men in before the last St. George runner. In 1925 the club gained its first teams' success, and it has repeated the victory each year since. This section of the championship was a decided improvement upon past events, as seven clubs finished the requisite four men.

Results:—

INDIVIDUAL TITLE

W. J. Hyland (East Sydney), 29m 17s, 1; M. S. Tumpane (St. George), 29m 54s, 2; A. Straney (St. George), 30m 1s, 3; L. Mobbs (West. Subs.), 30m 11s, 4; J. F. Wills (Kens.), 30m 15s, 5; A. Rodgers (Botany), 30m 16s, 6; C. Bartley (Kens.), 30m, 17s, 7; T. McAlister (East Syd.), 30m 24s, 8; W. Pearce (St. George), 30m 32s, 9; A. McIntyre (East. Syd.), 30m 38s, 10; H. Gapes (West. Subs.), 30m 46s, 11; J. Madden (Botany), 30m 56s, 12.

TEAMS' CHAMPIONSHIP

St. George A.A.C.—M. S. Tumpane 2, A. Straney 3, W. Pearce 9, A. Lavis 15, 29 points, 1.

East Sydney—W. J. Hyland 1, T. McAlister 8, A. McIntyre 10, S. J. Kallin 14, 33 points, 2.

Kensington.—J. F. Wills 5, C. Bartley 7, J. F. Cramsie 16, E. J. Winter 17, 45 points, 3.

Western Suburbs.—L. Mobbs 4, H. Gapes 11, J. Clunas 20, A. C. Heath 22, 57 points, 4.

Botany 68, South Sydney 71, Nepean District 103.

Sealed Handicap.—A. Rodgers (Botany) (all. 3m), handicap time 27m 16s, 1; C. Bartley (Kensington) (3m), 27m 17s, 2; A. Straney (St. George), (2m), 28m 1s, 3.

SOUTH SYDNEY CHAMPIONSHIP

In conjunction with the principal event South Sydney club's novice championship was decided.

Result:—

M. Thompson, 31m, 1; B. Stoddart, 31m 23s, 2; L. Bellamy, 31m 35s, 3.

COMBINED CLUB HANDICAP

For those not eligible for the novice honours a three miles' handicap was promoted. Result:—

R. B. Casimer (West. Subs.), all. 1m 45s, actual time 16m 40s, 1; E. C. Palmer (South Syd.), 2m, 17m 6s, 2; A. J. Hodsdon (West. Subs.), 1m 35s, 3.

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17m 6s. 2; A. J. Hodsdon (West Subs.), 1m 35s.
16m 45s. 3; S. Vance (South Syd.), 1m 55s. 17m
9s. 4; S. R. Hesketh (West Subs.), 15s. 16m 33s.
5; F. H. Bailey (West Subs.), scr. 15m 22s. Bailey
registered fastest time.

ST GEORGE OPEN RACE

Nominations close to-day at noon with the N.S.W.
Amateur Athletic Association for the St. George
club's three miles open handicap, set down for Sat-
urday next at Hurstville.