

ATHLETICS.

NOVICE TITLE.

Ballard and Randwick-Kensington.

Randwick-Kensington held all honours in the 19th five-miles novice cross-country championship promoted by the East Sydney Club at Kensington racecourse on Saturday. The brilliant 17-years-old youth, T. E. Ballard, beat his club mate, N. A. Merchant, for the individual title, the latter finished in front of another Randwick-Kensington man, J. G. Morton, in the sealed handicap, and their members scored an easy victory in the teams' race. It was Ballard's seventh win in eight starts.

The field of 79 was composed of representatives of seven metropolitan clubs, with teams from Goulburn, Newcastle, and Penrith. Starting from the two furlongs post on the course proper, the runners were soon spread out, and the first time past the Stands, Watts, Wills, and Mola were the leaders. Upon the completion of the next circuit Wills, Fullarton, and Ballard had taken command. Then the competitors left the track, and covered the surrounding hills, Fullarton moving to the front from Ballard and Dent. Another lap of the main racing track was completed with Fullarton still leading Ballard, whilst Merchant had moved into third position. There was little change amongst the forward division as they again ran around the eastern slopes, and with a circle to complete on the grass Fullarton held command from Dent and Merchant. Dent for a brief period disputed Fullarton's position, but fell back, and Ballard turned into the straight followed by Merchant. Ballard completed the distance in 28m 20s, slow time compared with J. Patterson's course record of 27m 50s, established last year. Merchant was timed to finish a second behind the winner, and 13 seconds later Fullarton beat the Goulburn representative, Cooper, by a similar margin.

With four men inside the first nine Randwick-Kensington beat St. George by 27 points for teams' honours, whilst Botany, last year's winners, failed to gain a place. Merchant had an allowance of 2m 20s, and this permitted him to secure the sealed handicap with a margin of 50s.

of 2m 20s. and this permitted him to secure the sealed handicap with a margin of 59s on Morton. It was a meritorious performance by members of the youngest Sydney club competing, and an organisation which has made splendid progress since its formation.

J. H. Sheaves, of Western Suburbs, who holds the State three miles title, and on Monday last created three records, gave one of the finest exhibitions of his career. This was in the five miles open cross-country handicap decided prior to the novice event. It was the first allotment of starts by the new association handicapper, Mr. H. Lyon, who kept a reasonable limit to the competitors, and this resulted in the unusual happening of a scratch man gaining the principal position.

Thirty-three runners participated. M. J. Mackenzie, the New South Wales 10,000 metres and 10 miles champion shared the mark with Sheaves, but an internal trouble prevented him from competing. M. Stevens, of South Sydney, was on the limit mark of 4m 45s, and the back markers gradually passed through the field until with a circuit of the course to complete Sheaves was leading from Chris Patterson, who started from the 20s mark. The champion won by seven seconds from Patterson in the remarkable time of 26m 9s, which is but 1m 4 2-5s slower than A. A. Shrubbs record for the flat, made at the Sydney Cricket Ground 26 years ago.

Results:—

FIVE MILES NOVICE CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP.

T. E. Ballard (Randwick-Kensington), 28m 20s, 1; N. A. Merchant (Randwick-Kensington), 28m 21s, 2; A. Fullarton (East Sydney), 28m 34s, 3; C. Cooper (Goulburn), 28m 35s, 4; R. T. Dent (West Subs.), 28m 45s, 5; J. G. Morton (Randwick-Kensington), 28m 46s, 6; R. Batty (West Subs.), 28m 50s, 7; G. Keep (St. George), 29m, 8; H. R. Stevens (Randwick-Kensington), 29m 14s, 9; W. Lawrence (St. George), 29m 19s, 10; T. McAlister (South Syd.), 29m 28s, 11; W. Prowse (Botany), 29m 29s, 12; G. Gosling (St. George), 29m 30s, 13; E. Johnson (St. George), 29m 46s, 14; C. Stark (St. George), 29m 52s, 15; J. Taylor (South Sydney), 30m 34s, 16; E. McGuinness (South Sydney), 30m 35s, 17; C. King (Newcastle), 30m 36s, 18; W. Stoddart (South Sydney), 30m 39s, 19; H. Chaston (St. George), 30m 40s, 20.

Teams' Race.—Randwick-Kensington: T. E. Ballard, 1; N. A. Merchant, 2; J. G. Morton, 6; H. R. Stevens, 9 (18 points), 1.

St. George: G. Keep, 8; W. Lawrence, 10; G. Gosling, 13; E. Johnson, 14 (45 points), 2.

Western Suburbs: R. T. Dent, 5; R. Batty, 7; G. Thomas, 22; C. Howie, 24 (58 points), 3.

South Sydney: T. McAlister, 11; J. Taylor, 15; E. McGuinness, 16; W. Stoddart, 18 (60 points), 4.

Sealed handicap: N. A. Merchant, 28m 21s, 1.

South Sydney. 1. McAlister, 11; J. Taylor, 15; E. McGuinness, 16; W. Stoddart, 18 (60 points), 4. Sealed handicap: N. A. Merchant, Randwick-Kensington (allowed 2m 20s), handicap time, 26m 1s. 1; J. G. Morton, Randwick-Kensington (1m 45s), 27m, 2.

Five miles senior open cross-country handicap: J. H. Sheaves (West. Subs.), scr., actual time, 26m 9s, 1; Chris. Patterson (Botany), allowed 35s, 26m 57s, 2; C. Bartley (Rand.-Kens.), 1m 50s, 28m 38s, 3; S. McAlister (South Sydney), 1m 15s, 28m 10s, 4; D. Birrell (South Sydney), 55s, 27m 58s, 5; H. Gapes (West. Subs.), 1m 45s, 29m 4s, 6; W. Barrett (Rand.-Kens.), 2m 50s, 29m 58s, 7; D. Roddan (South Sydney), 1m 30s, 28m 58s, 8; S. Gainsford (St. George), 1m 20s, 28m 59s, 9; A. Fell (Rand.-Kens.), 2m, 29m 43s, 10; A. Straney (St. George), 2m, 30m 4s, 11; J. Patterson (Botany), 20s, 28m 30s, 12.

PENRITH CLUB.

Five miles sealed handicap: R. Smith (allowed 1m 20s), 29m 48s, 1; A. Elliott (1m 50s), 30m 5s, 2; T. Tanner (scr.), 31m, 3.

SOUTH SYDNEY CLUB.

Five miles novice cross-country championship: T. McAlister, 29m 28s, 1; J. Taylor, 30m 34s, 2; W. Stoddart, 30m 39s, 3.

N.S.W. WALKING CLUB.

Twelve miles scratch race at Marrickville: W. J. Clark, 1h 55m 22s, 1; H. W. Barrett, 1h 58m 58s, 2; R. N. Hayes, 2h 12m 20s, 3; W. J. White, 2h 12m 23s, 4.

Sealed handicap: H. W. Barrett (allowed 20m), handicap time, 1h 38m 58s, 1; R. N. Hayes (30m), 1h 42m 20s, 2; W. J. White (28m), 1h 44m 28s, 3; W. J. Clark (10m 30s), 1h 42m 54s, 4.