

ATHLETICS.

STATE NOVICE TITLE.

J. REID'S EASY WIN.

Teams' Race to Randwick-Kensington.

J. Reid, of Botany Harriers, proved the best of this year's novice long distance runners by an easy victory in the annual State novice five miles cross-country championship controlled by the Amateur Athletic Association at Kensington racecourse on Saturday. The teams' race was appropriated by Randwick-Kensington Club.

With a view to preparing younger athletes for the classic winter distance, races the novice championship was inaugurated in 1911 as an individual event, and was promoted annually by East Sydney Club until 1932. Since then the championship has been promoted by the controlling body. This year's event was the twenty-third, no races being held in 1917 and 1918. In 1912 a teams' race was added. South Sydney won on that occasion, but has not been successful since. Botany heads the list with eight victories, St. George has had five, Eastern Suburbs three, Goulburn one, while Randwick-Kensington's win on Saturday makes that club's total three. From 1911 to 1927 the championship was held at Rose Bay. Rondi was the venue in 1928, and all subsequent races have taken place at Kensington.

Last year 99 entries were received, and nine teams competed. For Saturday's race there were 82 nominators, and six clubs competed for team honours. The number of starters was reduced by 14 withdrawals. From the judge's box on the course proper the runners completed 330 yards, then retraced their steps, and covered a circuit of the track. H. Hergenham led R. Brady, H. R. Stevens, and M. Hickson after a mile. The route then led up the hill along the eastern side of the ground. Hergenham still held command from the three Randwick-Kensington men and H. Fernyhough. They returned to

still held command from the three Randwick-Kensington men and H. Fernyhough. They returned to the track at the southern end, and when the athletes passed the stand J. Reid had taken the lead. He was 20 yards in advance of Brady, who led Fernyhough by five yards, followed by Hickson and C. Stark. Hergenham retired from the race as they reached the St. Leger reserve. Another lap of the course was completed, and Reid had increased his advantage to 100 yards, with Brady, Hickson, and Fernyhough next. Up the hill Reid moved further away, and with seven furlongs to go Reid was nearly 220 yards ahead, the watches showing Brady 34 seconds behind, followed by Hickson and Fernyhough. The positions remained unaltered, and Reid won by 300 yards from Brady.

The winner's time was 27m 32s, and he finished 48 seconds ahead of the Randwick-Kensington man. This was the greatest winning margin in the history of the race. Hickson failed by five seconds to reach second place. Comparisons, owing to variations of courses, do not satisfactorily show the merit of Reid's victory, but the manner in which he out-classed his opponents indicates that he is one of the best novice runners seen here. He is 19 years of age, and it is his first long distance season, as he commenced his track career during the summer. His opening winter effort was in St. George Club's four miles road handicap last month, which he won and also gained second fastest time. He should be amongst the team to represent New South Wales in the forthcoming Australian cross-country championship. Last year G. W. Pont won in 29m 19s, but the course has been modified since then.

Randwick-Kensington by finishing four men in the first eight scored 20 points in the teams' race, and beat Botany by 17 points. St. George, last year's winner, occupied sixth place.

Reid's time was beaten by three senior runners over the same course in a five miles scratch race. J. Sheaves, of Western Suburbs, a triple State cross-country champion, showed a return to his brilliant form by defeating Chris Patterson, of Botany, by 56 seconds in 26m 27s. Thus Sheaves was 1m 5s faster than Reid. J. Patterson in third place ran the distance in 27m 31s, one second faster than the novice championship winner.

Sheaves led from the start. S. Millington, of Myer Park, was second until half-way, with the Patterson brothers nearest. With a circuit of the course to complete, Sheaves was a furlong in advance of the Botany men, and he won by nearly 400 yards. The event was one of a series to guide the State selectors in choosing the team for the Australian championship. Sheaves from scratch was placed fourth in the sealed handicap, won by A. Hayes, of Botany.

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

J. Reid (Botany), 27m 32s, 1; R. Brady (Randwick-Kensington), 28m 20s, 2; M. Hickson (Rand-

J. Reid (Botany), 27m 32s, 1; R. Brady (Randwick-Kensington), 28m 20s, 2; M. Hickson (Rand.-Kens.), 28m 25s, 3; H. Fernyhough (Manly), 28m 37s, 4; H. Moses (Eastern Suburbs), 28m 50s, 5; C. Stark (St. George), 28m 53s, 6; E. T. Russell (W. Subs.), 29m, 7; H. R. Stevens (Rand.-Kens.), 29m 3s, 8; D. G. Gallon (Rand.-Kens.), 29m 5s, 9; W. Prowse (Bot.), 29m 9s, 10; A. Pearce (Sth. Syd.), 29m 10s, 11; R. A. Batty (West. Subs.), 29m 17s, 12; Chas. Patterson (Bot.), 29m 29s, 13; P. Harris (Myer Park), 29m 30s, 14; F. Carroll (Sth. Syd.), 29m 39s, 15; A. Whillier (East. Subs.), 29m 52s, 16; J. Smith (Bot.), 29m 53s, 17; G. D. Holden (Bot.), 29m 55s, 18; J. Russell (Parr.-Ryd.), 30m 1s, 19; C. Hensley (Bot.), 30m 4s, 20.

TEAMS' RACE.

Randwick-Kensington.—R. Brady 2, M. Hickson 3, H. R. Stevens 7, D. Gallon 8, 20 points, 1.
Botany.—J. Reid 1, W. Prowse 9, Chas. Patterson 12, J. Smith 15, 37 points, 2.

South Sydney.—A. Pearce 10, F. Carroll 13, I. H. Lane 17, L. Williams 18, 58 points, 3.

Western Suburbs, 6, 11, 21, 22, 60 points, 4;
Eastern Suburbs, 4, 14, 19, 24, 61 points, 5; St. George, 5, 16, 20, 23, 64 points, 6.

Five miles test scratch cross-country race.—J. Sheaves (Western Suburbs), 26m 27s, 1; Chris. Patterson (Botany), 27m 23s, 2; J. Patterson (Bot.), 27m 31s, 3; S. Millington (Myer Park), 27m 49s, 4; H. Gibbons (St. Geo.), 27m 56s, 5; D. Farnhill (Manly), 28m 13s, 6; P. Ferguson (Sth. Syd.), 28m 19s, 7; V. I. Smith (West. Subs.), 28m 36s, 8; S. J. McAlister (Sth. Syd.), 28m 37s, 9; R. Sleigh (St. Geo.), 28m 38s, 10; A. Gainsford (St. Geo.) 28m 40s, 11; A. Hayes (Bot.), 28m 56s, 12.

Sealed Handicap.—A. Hayes (Botany), all. 3m, 25m 56s, 1; V. I. Smith (West. Subs.), 2m 20s, 26m 16s, 2; D. Farnhill (Manly), 1m 50s, 26m 23s, 3; J. Sheaves (West. Subs.), scr., 26m 27s, 4.

CLUB RACES.

N.S.W. WALKING.—Six miles road walk handicap (Stewart Cup), at Hurstville: G. Gosling (all. 6m 10s), 51m 49s, 1; S. R. McGie (8m 50s), 54m 37s, 2; W. Hayward (2m 40s), 49m 6s, 3 and fastest; M. Ray (6m 10s), 54m 27s, 4; G. A. Smith (7m 45s), 56m 52s, 5.

WESTERN SUBURBS.—Five miles novice championship, at Kensington: E. T. Russell, 29m, 1; E. E. Phillips, 30m 54s, 2; S. Phillips, 31m 46s, 3; H. E. Sheaves, 4. Sealed handicap: J. Sheaves (scr.), 26m 27s, 1; R. A. Batty (2m 30s), 26m 47s, 2; E. T. Russell (2m 5s), 26m 58s, 3.

BRAYBROOK CUP.

Entries close with the Amateur Athletic Association of New South Wales, at 1.30 p.m. to-day, for the Braybrook Cup, three miles open handicap, to be conducted by South Sydney club on Saturday

for the Braybrook Cup, three miles open handicap, to be conducted by South Sydney club on Saturday next.

Nominations for the State 10,000 metres cross-country championship will be received until next Monday.