

# ATHLETICS.

## NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIP, WON BY F. H. BAILEY.

F. H. Bailey, of the South Sydney A.A.C. established an unusual record on Saturday last, when, for the second year he finished first in the five miles novice cross-country championship of New South Wales. In 1922 Bailey gained an easy victory, but as the result of an objection lodged regarding his eligibility to participate, he was disqualified. Having been reinstated since, the question arose whether he was a novice, and this was debated at length by the council of the New South Wales Amateur Athletic Association. That body decided that, having been deprived of last year's event, and his name being eliminated from the list of placed men, Bailey was entitled to compete on Saturday.

The race was the eleventh promoted by the East Sydney A.A.C. Organised in 1911, the conditions are that a competitor must not have won a prize in any open race of two miles or further. In the opening year the event carried only individual honours, but in 1912, a teams' race was arranged in conjunction with the championship, with unlimited nominations, the first four men of a club to count. The race has been held annually, except in 1917 and 1918.

Sixty entries were received, and of that number 47 competed, with five clubs contesting team honours. Although Bailey was voted a sure winner of the individual title, opinions differed as to the ultimate result of the teams' race. Each club possessed talent of higher quality than in some preceding years, but Botany supporters were confident of retaining the honours won last year.

After circling Lyne Park, T. O'Brien, of East Sydney, was earliest to assume the lead, and he crossed the creek with Bailey nearest. L. Tutt and A. Green followed, and they were later joined by C. Souter. Green moved nearer when two miles had been covered, and before the next mile was reached he was leading Bailey, Souter, and Tutt. In New South Head-road Souter and Bailey were together, followed by Tutt. Bailey was confident that he could win, and thus reserved his effort for the final stages of the race. The South Sydney man raced away from Souter on the park, and breasted the tape five seconds ahead of the Botany representative. Dennett, who passed Tutt on the road, filled third place two seconds

ahead of the Botany representative. Dennett, who passed Tutt on the road, filled third place two seconds behind Soutar. Bailey's time was 30m 15s. This is slower than last year, but he could have improved considerably upon his previous effort, had he been seriously tested. Comparisons of past races for the title are valueless, because each year alterations in the route have been necessary owing to buildings being erected on the course. Bailey is the most promising long distance runner seen for many years. He would probably have won the senior title last year, had he been permitted to compete. He is 23 years of age, and has shown that he possesses pace and staying power by his performances on track, road, and cross country. Bailey will be a valuable acquisition to the South Sydney Club in the forthcoming distance championships, and with M. J. MacKenzie and H. L. Sheaves, who last year filled the leading places in the five and 10 miles championships, this club's prospects of securing the teams' titles are very bright. Bailey should be prominent in the State championships, and Australasian honours are quite possible for him in the biennial race fixed for August next.

Botany Harriers' team of four finished inside sixth place last year, and the club's fourth man on Saturday was seventh. A total of 18 points was a most creditable performance, and brought the Botany representatives the teams' supremacy. This club has always been conspicuous in long distance racing, and it is gratifying that the novices each year seek to emulate the deeds of Botany's representatives of the past. In Soutar, the club has a promising runner. He competed in last year's novice race, but did not display his club form in that event. Dennett appears to be suited to long distances, by the manner in which he came through the field in the concluding stages. South Sydney was 22 points behind in the teams' race, and St. George in third place totalled 51 points. The last-named club was unfortunately without the services of its best novice, L. J. Brodie. K. Brierley, the cadet champion, was St. George's club's first man, in ninth place. L. Tutt, who has been conspicuous in East Sydney road races was his club's best man, finishing fourth, and he was followed home by the Rose Bay distance title holder, A. Green. Results:—

#### INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

F. H. Bailey (South Sydney A.A.C.), actual time	
30m 15s .....	1
C. Soutar (Botany Harriers), 30m 20s .....	2
H. Dennett (Botany Harriers), 30m 22s .....	3
L. Tutt (East Sydney), 30m 32s, 4; A. Green (Rose Bay), 30m 43s, 5; A. Campbell (Botany), 30m 54s, 6; K. McAlpine (Botany), 31m 5s, 7; D. Sims (Botany), 31m 10s, 8; K. Brierley (St. George), 31m 43s, 9; P. Madlin	

K. McAlpine (Botany), 31m 5s, 7; D. Sims (Botany), 31m 10s, 8; K. Brierley (St. George), 31m 43s, 9; P. Medlin (St. George), 32m 5s, 10; T. Millard (South Sydney), 32m 30s, 11; B. F. Hunt (South Sydney), 12.