

Four Competitors for the Marathon Distance.

Under the control of the Adelaide Harriers, a contest has been arranged for to-day over the full Marathon distance, 26 miles 385 yards, in order to make an attempt on the existing figures, held by Percy Collins, a Victorian. The competitors will be C. Kerr, G. Lockwood, H. E. Wolter, and C. Summerhayes. The contest will start at Victoria-square, and the route will be west along Grote-street, West-terrace, and Anzac Highway to Plympton, thence along Cross-roads to Glen Osmond, and along Portrush-road to Greenhill-road Burnside and Glynde roads, to the O.G. Hotel, North-East-road to Northcote-terrace, Mann-terrace, and McKinnon-parade to the Adelaide Oval. The race is timed to commence at 12.45 p.m., and should conclude approximately at 3.50 p.m. Particular interest is being manifested in the contest, and it is the desire of all local runners that the existing figures for the distance be improved upon.

ATHLETICS.

MARATHON WON BY C. KERR.

The Adelaide Harriers on Saturday conducted the second Marathon (26 miles 385 yards), held in South Australia. The first was conducted by the Walking and Field Games Club in September, 1921, the event being won by P. Collins (Victoria), the time being 3 hrs. 18 min. 25 sec. The object of Saturday's event was to try to lower figures set by Collins. The course was from Kingston's Statue, Victoria-square, along Grote-street, West-terrace, Bay-road, to the St. Leonard's Inn, returning to Cross-roads, Plympton, thence to the Big Tree, Glen Osmond, Portrush-road, Greenhill-road, Glynde-road to the Glynde Hotel, along the Lower North-east-road to Marden-road as far as the O.G. Hotel, along the North-East-road to Northcote-terrace, Medindie, thence Mann-terrace and Finnis-street to the Adelaide Oval. The course is a very difficult one, several hills having to be negotiated, and competitors had to run through rain for four miles of the journey. At 12.45 the three starters set out on their journey. Lockwood went to the front, followed at intervals by Wolter and Kerr. At the turning point, St. Leonards, Lockwood had a 300 yards lead over Wolter, Kerr being a quarter of a mile away. The 10-mile post was passed by Lockwood in 1 hour 6 min. 10 sec., Wolter arriving two minutes later. Kerr was now only 150 yards behind in third position. At 11½ miles, Wolter, who had been feeling the strain, stopped. Kerr had previously passed him. At Glen Osmond Lockwood was nearly three-quarters of a mile in advance of Kerr, and was 10 minutes inside the record at this point. On turning into Greenhill-road (15½ miles), Lockwood twisted his knee, an old injury, and was forced to walk for a quarter of a mile. Kerr was running well and picked up a little on the leader. After crossing Magill-road Lockwood was forced to walk again, and was evidently in great pain, but he struggled on for another mile, when he had to give up the race after going 18½ miles. He was then eight minutes ahead of Collins's time. Kerr was only a quarter of a mile behind Lockwood when he stopped. Kerr battled along gamely alone, running and walking at intervals. At the O.G. Hotel (21½ miles) Kerr had 27 minutes to create new figures. He was obviously very tired now, but struggled gamely on to finish his gallant effort in 3 hours 24 min. 4 sec. Kerr is a member of the Adelaide Harriers, and was warmly congratulated on all sides, for his brilliant performance under adverse conditions. He had very little training for the race. Officials:—Referee, Mr. C. T. Fry; timekeepers, Messrs. G. F. Rumsby, G. Parry, and F. L. McVity; stewards, Messrs. A. O. Prisk, H. Harman, and H. Chester; judges, Messrs. R. E. Graham and A. J. Rumsby; starter, Mr. G. F. Rumsby.

ATHLETICS.

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By Old Ped.

CHARLEY KERR—MARATHON RUNNER.

Charley Kerr is just the right sort to run a marathon course, and his victory was expected by his trainer, C. Summershayes and several other Harriers, who had watched him work over long distances on the road and track. Charley was born at Adelaide 30 years ago, and was educated at Christian Brothers' College. He enlisted in 1915, and saw active service for three and a half years in Egypt and France. When opportunity presented itself, Charley was always ready to have a go at any sports meeting, and at Desruer he won a mile event. After returning to South Australia he played football for two seasons with West Adelaide B, but this year he transferred his activities to the South Adelaide B. It was not until last year that he linked up with the Adelaide Harriers, and during the past 12 months he has won several races. His first success as an amateur was gained in the Glenelg nurses' carnival when he won the mile event in 4.45. He was also successful at the Harriers' opening spring meeting in October, and in the following month he again scored over the mile course. He followed with another trophy in the 1,000 yards run on Christmas Day, and the next time he sighted the judge was on Good Friday, when he was one of the team which scored in the mile relay race. That distance seems to be quite suitable for this athlete, for he scored twice at the Adelaide Oval, his times being 4.50 and 4.40. Some of his minor places have been gained in the State champion-



CHARLEY KERR,

who recently won the marathon contest on the road over 26 miles and 385 yards.

ships and in open events. He finished third in the five-mile crosscountry race, and occupied a similar position in the sealed handicap, run in conjunction with the 10 mile C.C.C.; third prize also came his way in the Glenelg to Adelaide run last July. There are many athletes who can win up to five and 10 miles, but it is only the sound stayer who can get through a marathon run (26 miles 385 yards), and when George Lockwood expressed a desire to have a go at Percy Collins's (Vic.) record established four years ago Charley offered to come in and make a race of it. He was the only one to complete the course, and although he occupied three hours and 24 minutes (six minutes outside Collins's time), he is to be commended for his perseverance and grit in getting through. Concerning the race, Charley gave all the praise to his trainer, who certainly looked after him well during the progress of the race.