

CROSS - COUNTRY RUNNING.

Lancaster Win Coveted Trophy.

A HOT PACE.

CRIT determination, and particularly team-spirit, enabled the Lancaster Harriers and Athletic Club to carry off the Meyer Cup, which is presented to the champions of the **Mid-Lancashire Cross-Country Running League** the final of which took place at Lancaster on Saturday.

Lancaster needed twelve points to beat last year's champions, Clayton Harriers, and on Saturday they succeeded in winning by 23 points, their pointage of 31 representing a record since the **League** was inaugurated.

SHEPHERD WINS INDIVIDUAL HONOURS.

The race was also a deciding factor for the individual honours, E. T. Shepherd, of Lancaster, and A. Haydock, of Clayton, being equal with seven points each. Shepherd made sure of the individual honours by winning the race and Haydock could do no better than finish in the third position.

About 60 runners, representing Lancaster, Clayton, Leyland, Rossendale, and Preston, contested the race, which was started by the chairman of the Lancaster Club, Mr. J. T. Fisher. The course—a distance of about eight miles—took the runners towards the Lune Banks, about two miles along the old Glasson railway, across Ashton Road, past Burrow Heights, and back on to Ashton Road, to finish near the Infirmary. Lancaster had 21 runners in the field, and Shepherd, who has won four of the five races, completed it in 40mins 16secs., was followed closely by his clubmate, W. Park, who was appearing for the first time.

GOOD BEGINNERS.

Another Lancastrian, W. Nixon, who competed for the first time, was sixth, with R. Carradus, who has been showing good form in the eighth position. A. Edmondson was fourth, and Lancaster's sixth counter, R. Brown, came in at the tenth position.

YOUTH'S FINE PERFORMANCE.

Thus Lancaster had their essential men in the first ten, but it was necessary that their back-men should play their part in pushing the Claytonians further back. This they did in no uncertain manner, J. Plumbley finishing 12th, and H. Quick 14th. The latter was taking part in his first senior open race, and when it is considered that he is only 16 years of age, his feat is very creditable. At one time in the race he was in the sixth position, but towards the last mile his stamina failed him and he lost his position.

Rossendale and Preston failed to finish a team, and the final placings were:—

Lancaster: E. T. Shepherd (1), W. Parks (2), A. Edmondson (4), W. Nixon (6), R. Carradus (8), R. Brown (10). Total, 31 points.

Clayton Harriers: A. Haydock (3), W. Wilkinson (5), J. Heys (7), H. Simpson (11), J. Dearnley (13), A. Hoyle (15). Total, 54 points.

Leyland Motors: A. Blogg (9), L. Robinson (17), F. Crompton (23), G. Bailey (36), R. A. Rodwell (37), J. Sumner (39). Total, 161 points.

PRESENTATION OF THE CUP.

Mr. J. Higginson, the President of the League, in the absence of Captain Meyler, the donor of the trophy, presented the Cup to Lancaster in their headquarters at the White Cross Hotel.

Amidst all the rejoicing of the Club, there was one regretted feature, and that was that Lancaster's captain, Mr. George Topham, was unable to be present either to receive the cup or take part in the race.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT.

Mr. Higginson remarked that after he had seen the way in which Lancaster's headquarters were fitted out, he was not surprised that they had won the League. To provide headquarters of that nature for youths to spend their winter evenings and Saturday afternoons in training for the wonderful sport of cross-country running, required determination in the

extreme. "I am sure that that determination has developed in Lancaster more than any other district," he commented.

Mr. Higginson also referred to the part played in the competition by Rossendale Harriers, and said that it gave the officers of the League great encouragement when they saw Rossendale Harriers making a fifty mile journey when they did not stand a "ghost" of a chance. He mentioned that several applications had been received from other clubs in the district, and there was every possibility that the League would be extended next year.

LANCASTER HOPE IT WILL BE THEIRS FOR EVER.

Receiving the cup on behalf of the Lancaster Harriers, the vice-captain, Mr. Walter Moore, expressed sincere thanks and complimented the losers on the "hot" fight they had made for the trophy.

Handing the cup over to Mr. R. A. Raybould (President of the Lancaster Club), Mr. Moore remarked, "I hope it is ours for ever."

Mr. J. T. Fisher said that no one was more proud of Lancaster's feat than himself, and he sincerely thanked the other teams who had contested for the true sporting spirit they had shown. He also congratulated Mr. Higginson on the way in which he had carried out his duties and Mr. J. R. Rhodes, the secretary of the League.

A GREAT PERFORMANCE.

Replying, Mr. Rhodes said that Lancaster had shown a great performance, not only that afternoon, but throughout the whole competition. Next season, he hoped Clayton would give another "hot" fight, and be successful in retrieving the cup.

The final placings were: Lancaster, 243 points; Clayton, 255 points; Leyland Motors, 618 points. Medals will be presented in due course to the six most consistent runners of the Lancaster and Clayton Clubs.

YOUTH AND AGE.

Mr. Albert Gardner, the 46-year-old veteran of the Lancaster Club, and J. Dowthwaite, the youngest active member of the same club, laid the "trail."