

CROSS-COUNTRY RACE THRILLS.

Lancaster Harriers' Bid For Lead.

The third contest in connection with the **Mid** Lancashire Cross-country Running **League** run from Leyland Motors sports ground on Saturday, produced the most thrilling harriers' team race seen over the Leyland course.

The 56 runners represented the **league** champions, Clayton Harriers, Lancaster Harriers and Athletic Club, Preston Harriers, Leyland Motors Athletic Club, and Rossendale Harriers. Trail took them over about 7½ miles of pasture, woodland and stubble via Leyland **Cross** striking the fields at Worden Park to Runshaw Moor, **crossing** the Preston-Wigan road at Euxton and over the rising **country** to Whittle-le-Woods, and on to Clayton Bottoms, before the return was made across **country** for home via Turpin Green Bridge.

The dry going and an exhilarating high wind rendered conditions ideal for fast running.

The pack got going to a perfect start, E. T. Shepherd, Lancaster, set a hot pace, and after the first mile had got clear of the field, and at the Euxton road **crossing** he gave the spectators plenty to enthuse over by establishing a 100 yards' lead over A. Haydock, of Clayton, to cover the first three miles, which included several water jumps, in 19min.

Next in order were Hayes, Clayton; Edmundson, Lancaster, and Blogg, Leyland Motors. At the next check, a little over half distance, Shepherd, still running strong, had increased his lead to 150 yards in 28min.

At this stage a great struggle was taking place between Lancaster and Clayton for team supremacy, with the latter's counters holding a slight advantage in the first 20. The Clayton team proved the better stayers, and placing their six men in the first dozen to finish, ran out winners, with the lowest average points scored in the league competition this season.

A RUNNER LOST.

Lancaster gained consolation in the fine running of Shepherd, who gained individual honours, to complete the course in 47min. 5sec., a minute ahead of Haydock; A. Edmundson, Lancaster, was third, 48min. 10sec.

Leyland Motors first counter was J. Sumner, sixth, C. J. Bryant, the veteran, who finished 19th, was again first home for Preston, who finished only four men.

On a roll call after the race, which finished in the dark, it was found that a Rossendale runner was missing. He was brought safely home by several runners who pluckily volunteered to re-run the course in the opposite direction.

Team placings: 1st, Clayton H. (A. Haydock 2, J. Hayes 4, J. Dearnley 5, J. Sibbering 10, A. Wilkinson 11, R. Simpson 12), total 44 points; 2nd, Lancaster H. and A.C. (E. T. Shepherd 1, A. Edmundson 3, R. Carradus 8, R. Brown 14, R. Quick 15, J. Plumbley 18), 59 points; 3rd, Leyland Motors (J. Sumner 6, A. Blogg 7, A. Betty 17, F. Crompton 25, R. Redwell 26, L. Hunt 27), 108 points; 4th, Rossendale H. (J. Riley 9, J. Hayhurst 21, J. Stansfield 23, T. Clarke 31, T. West 43); 5th, Preston H. (C. J. Bryant 19, J. McLoughlin 30, T. Watson 34, H. Davies 40. Rossendale and Preston failed to finish full teams.