

PART TWO
1919 - 1933

1919-20.

The resumption of organised athletics in 1919 was nearly as difficult as the founding of the clubs at the end of the nineteenth century. Club headquarters had been given up during the war, and now many of the clubs were forced to seek new abodes. Willowfield, who had occupied quarters in Foxglove Street, Beersbridge Road, until the outbreak of hostilities, found temporary accommodation at St. Donard's School, Bloomfield Road.

This first post war season saw the inception of a new championship in the North - The War Memorial Junior Championship, "To perpetuate the historic part Harriers had played in the Great War for the vindication of justice and liberty, the Northern branch of the Association decided to inaugurate a war memorial trophy confined to Juniors." The honour of having the first plaque on the base of this new trophy was won by Willowfield. Seven teams competed. Individual winner was J. Crothers (Duncairn). (1) Willowfield, 79 points, (2) Duncairn, 82 points, (5) City of Belfast, 120 points. The championship team was (2) H. McCann, (5) A. Jackson, (10) W. McCormick, (20) J. Jackson, (21) A. McCoyd and (25) W. Burnett.

The Irish National Junior was won by North Belfast with 49 points, (2) Ulsterville, 94 points, (3) Duncairn, 197 points, (5) Willowfield, 211 points. H. McCann finished in fifth position. Individual winner was T. Crowe (Clonliffe)

Ulsterville won the Northern Senior championship with 58 points, (2) North Belfast, 62 points, (3) Willowfield, 146 points. Twelve teams competed. The individual winner was A. Hegarty (City of Derry). The Willowfield team was (8) H. McCann, (9) A. Jackson, (21) W. Gordon, (27) J. Jackson, (40) W. McCormick, (41) W. Burnett.

The Irish National Senior championship was won by North Belfast.

1920-21.

The War Memorial Junior championship was held at Belvoir Park. Nine teams competed. The use of the course was granted to the Association by it's new owner, the Rt. Hon. Sir James Johnston. The Club, faced with the necessity of fielding a new junior team, could not hope for any great success, and as expected the team finished outside the first three positions - fifth place with 246 points. The winning team was Duncairn with 50 points, (2) North Belfast, 60 points, (5) Ulsterville, 98 points.

The Northern Senior Championship was held at Belvoir and 7 teams competed. The Individual winner was A. Topping,

(Ulsterville) and the team honours were gained by North Belfast with 35 points, (2) Ulsterville, 51 points, (3) Willowfield, 176 points.

The Irish National Junior was held at North Road, Bloomfield, a total of ten teams, including Dublin University, Clonliffe and City of Derry competed. North Belfast gained the team championship with 68 points. (2) Ulsterville, 117 points, (3) Duncairn, 132 points, (7) Willowfield, 278 points. The individual championship was annexed by B. B. Bingham (Clonliffe). H. McCann was the first Willowite home in 6th position.

The Irish National Senior Championship was decided without a Willowfield team; North Belfast were worthy winners with the low total of 39 points, (2) Donore, 60 points, (3) Clonliffe, 119 points.

At the Ulster Track Championships, held at Celtic Park during the summer of 1921, Willowfield had some success. In the high jump, A. L. Colhoun tied with G. D. Patterson (Queen's) for 1st place. The Mile Walk was won by W. Campbell and the Putting the Shot by A. L. Colhoun.

1921-22.

Owing to the unsettled state of the country - "The troubles" and all that - plus the difficulty in travelling, no Southern clubs competed in the North during this season.

The War Memorial Trophy was decided at Magowan's Fields, Bloomfield. Ulsterville took premier position with 69 points, (2) North Belfast, 77 points. The individual winner was H. Johnston (Duncairn). D. Steele, in fourth position, was the first man home for the Club.

The Northern Senior Championship, Belvoir Park, saw North Belfast again triumphant with a total of 35 points, (2) Ulsterville, 59 points, (3) Willowfield, 126 points. C. A. Woods gained the individual championship. Willowfield's stock was now rising again. The Team on this occasion was (5) H. McCann, (21) D. Steele, (23) J. White, (24) A. Jackson, (26) H. Scott, (27) H. McEMahon.

Phoenix Park Race Course, Ashtown, Dublin, was the course for the Irish National Junior Championship. Ulsterville gained the Championship with 41 points, (2) Duncairn, 104 points, (3) Donore, 113 points, (5) Willowfield, 155 points. The individual winner was J. Ferridge (Donore). H. McCann, in sixth position, was the first Willowfield man home.

The Irish National Senior Championship held at Magowan's Fields, Bloomfield was the first occasion that the Blue Riband of Irish Athletics had been decided in Belfast. The usual venues, prior to 1922, were Dunboyne, Baldoyle, Clonskeagh, Elm Park and Dublin - all South of the Border. On this occasion six teams competed and North Belfast emerged victorious from the fray with 31 points, (2) Ulsterville,

70 points, (3) Willowfield, 133 points. C. A. Woods, (North Belfast) was the individual winner and the Willowfield scoring six were (6) H. McCann, (19) J. Worrall, (24) H. Scott, (27) D. Steele, (28) G. McMahon, (29) J. White. H. McCann was selected to run for the Irish Team in Scotland and finished 41st in the International Race.

1922-23.

The headquarters of the Club were now in Moorgate Street. Here the Club was to remain until the commencement of the 1935-36 season when it took over its present headquarters in the McMahon Memorial Hall, Hyndford Street, Bloomfield. The Northern Junior championship (War Memorial Trophy) attracted the unusually large entry of 12 teams, and was decided at Magowan's Fields, Bloomfield. H. L. Russell was the individual title holder. North Belfast gained the team race with 62 points, (2) Willowfield, 117 points, (3) Ulster-ville, 119 points. The team that was runner-up was as follows - (6) W. McFerran, (14) J. Worrall, (15) G. McMahon, (22) J. White, (25) J. Sampson, (35) W. Smith.

Eight teams - all Northern Clubs - faced the starter in the Irish National Junior Championship at Magowan's Fields. North Belfast annexed the team race with 59 points, (2) Willowfield with 92 points, (3) Ulsterville, 95 points. H. McCann was the individual champion, the rest of the team

finished as follows:- (5) G. McMahon, (12) W. McFerran, (17) J. Worrall, (25) J. Webster, (32) H. Scott.

In the Northern Senior Championship the Club had to content itself with third position. The race, held at Belvoir Park, had an entry of eight teams. North Belfast were successful for the third successive year, thus equalling the Willowfield record of 1907-08, 1908-09, 1909-10 seasons. (2) Ulsterville, 79 points, (3) Willowfield, 114 points. The Willowfield Team was (5) H. McCann, (8) W. McFerran, (21) J. Worrall, (22) G. McMahon, (27) D. Steele and (31) H. Scott. Individual - A. Gilmore (Ulsterville).

The Irish National Senior Championship was decided at Belvoir Park. No Southern Clubs competed. North Belfast gained the title for the third successive year with a total of 52 points, (2) Ulsterville, 69 points, (5) Willowfield, 145 points. C. A. Woods (North Belfast) was the individual winner. The Willowfield scoring six were (16) G. McMahon, (20) J. Worrall, (24) D. Steele, (25) J. White, (26) D. Ralson and (54) J. Webster.

In the Ulster Track Championships, A. L. Colhoun of Willowfield and the R.U.C. won the Discus championship, second place in the Shot, Hammer and High Jump.

1923-24.

From the infancy of Irish Athletics until the present

season, the sport was controlled by The Irish Cross Country Association, and the Irish Amateur Athletic Association, but during the season under review a new Association was founded called the National Athletic and Cycling Association. The Northern Branches of the Irish Cross Country Association, the Irish Amateur Athletic Association and the Irish Cycling Association amalgamated on 9th February, 1924, to form the Northern Branch of the National Athletic and Cycling Association, and together with their opposite numbers in Dublin and district formed the National Athletic and Cycling Association of Ireland.

The Club was represented in all the championships this session but with little success.

The Northern Junior (War Memorial Trophy) was held at Magowan's Fields. Ten teams, including a new one from Larne, took the field. North Belfast was again successful in winning the team race with 56 points, (2) East Antrim, 69 points, (3) Duncairn, 128 points, (4) Willowfield, 165 points.

No Southern Clubs competed in the Irish National Junior Championship which was decided at the same venue. North Belfast annexed the championship for the second successive time with a total of 83 points, (2) Ulsterville, 93 points, (3) Duncairn, 104 points, (4) Willowfield, 113 points. The

individual winner was H. L. Russell (Ulsterville).

The Northern Senior Championship, held at Belvoir Park, attracted an entry of eight teams. Ulsterville broke North Belfast's sequence of wins, returning a total of 59 points to North Belfast's 61. (5) Willowfield, 155 points. The individual winner was A. Gilmore (Ulsterville). The Willow's scoring six were, (4) W. McFerran, (25) J. Worrall, (26) H. Scott, (29) G. B. McMahon, (36) D. Ralson, (37) J. Sampson.

The N.A.C.A. which, as we have noted already came into being on the 9th February, 1924, organised their first Senior Championship in Phoenix Park. Nine teams took part plus seven individual entries, including W. McFerran (Willowfield). The championship was won by Cork Athletic Club with 50 points, (2) Ulsterville, 92 points, (5) North Belfast. J. J. Ryan was the individual winner and W. McFerran was fourth. McFerran was selected and ran for the Irish Cross Country team in the International at Newcastle, England, where he finished in thirty-first position and was fourth man home on the Irish Team.

1924-25.

The Association responsible for the following championships during 1924-25 was the N.A.C.A.

The Northern Junior (War Memorial Trophy) saw the Club improving its position from the previous year. Eleven teams competed at Magowan's Fields. East Antrim were, however, too

strong for Willowfield and carried off the team championship with 61 points to Willowfield's 114 points. North Belfast were third with 159 points. The individual was W. W. T. Aherne (County Cavan). The Club's scoring six were (10) J. Blakely, (11) W. Robinson, (14) R. Roy, (24) W. W. Wilson, (27) W. Carvill, (28) R. Boyd.

The Irish National Junior Championship was decided at Baldoyle. Fourteen teams competed for the honours. The team race was won by Clonliffe with 110 points, (2) Willowfield with 124 points, (3) Cork City with 133 points. The individual champion, W. W. T. Aherne, of the Northern Junior, won the individual title. W. McFerran (Willowfield) occupied fourth position and J. Blakely (Willowfield) finished in eighteenth place.

Eight teams contended for the Northern Senior Championship. Willowfield had to be content with another runner-up position. North Belfast won the race with 55 points to the Club's 85 points, with Duncairn in third position, 117 points. The individual champion was J. McGarry (North Belfast). The Willowfield six were (8) J. Blakely, (10) R. Roy, (14) J. Sampson, (15) J. Worrall, (17) H. Stewart, (21) W. Robinson.

The Irish National Senior Championship was held at Baldoyle. Willowfield had two individual entries, W. McFerran and S. Ferris. Clonliffe emerged winners with 52 points, (2) North Belfast with 71 points, (3) Cork City with 91 points.

The individual champion was J. J. Ryan. W. McFerran finished in tenth position.

1925-26.

The N.A.C.A. was only under way a few months when trouble arose in the Northern Provincial Council. Delegates found fault with the rules and with the working of the County Boards. The upshot of the matter was on the 19th September, 1925, when a new Association called the Northern Ireland Cycling and Cross Country Association came into being. They held their first championship race at Belvoir Park during the 1925-26 season. Seven teams, County Antrim, South Lurgan, Celtic, Larne, East Antrim and Duncairn Harriers competed in this initial championship. Thus two associations claimed autonomy in the North. Willowfield, in common with North Belfast, Ulsterville, 9th Old Boys, Derry City, Duncairn Nomads and others still retained their connexion with the N.A.C.A. which had International status.

The Club which had occupied third place in many of the championships during the past few years, now burst forth into a blaze of glory reminiscent of the great 1907-10 years.

The War Memorial Trophy - The Northern Junior championship - was held at the Old Knock Golf Links, Sandown Road, Belfast. Nine teams competed, compared with eleven the

previous session. Willowfield took premier place with 55 points, (2) City of Belfast, 82 points, (3) Ulsterville, 101 points. The individual winner was J. McIntyre (St. Peter's). The Willowfield six were, (4) J. B. Andrews, (5) G. H. Thompson, (7) J. Briggs, (11) W. Carvill, (12) J. McClelland, (14) S. Crothers. Here is a brief newspaper extract - "The Willowfield combination stuck together through the race, and at no time was there any doubt as to who would secure team honours."

The Irish National Junior at Baldoyle attracted a record entry of some nineteen teams of which eighteen faced the starter. Willowfield secured the championship with 110 points to Ulsterville's 121 points, and Dublin City Harriers' 138 points. Reporting the race the Ireland's Saturday Night said, "The winners who ran a well judged race, got their six men home in the first 28." The individual winner was K. Coard (Donore). The following list of finishing teams shows how representative of the 32 counties the championship was: Clonmel, North Belfast, Tipperary, Donore, City of Belfast, St. Mary's (Drogheda), Clonliffe, Navan, Army Metro, D. M. Guards, Duncairn Nomads, City and Suburban, Civil Service, Lurgan and Naas.

Redburn Demesne, Holywood, was the venue of the Northern Senior championship. Five teams competed, but if there was not quantity there was quality - Ulsterville, the Irish

National Senior Champions, and Willowfield, the National Junior Champions. Willowfield achieved a great victory over the Irish Senior champions with 45 points to Ulsterville's 60 points, North Belfast were third with 84 points.

The Irish National Senior race was held a few weeks before the Northern Senior Championship, and resulted as I have already stated in a victory for Ulsterville with 51 points to Clonliffe's 74 points. North Belfast were third with 147 points and Willowfield fourth with 169 points. Twelve teams competed including a club from London, The Irish Athletic Club. The individual winner was J. J. Ryan for the third successive year.

The N.A.C.A. inaugurated a Novice road race at Lisburn for the Lisburn Cup and Medals during this 1925-26 season. Ulsterville "A" won the race with 64 points, (2) City of Belfast, 107 points, (3) Willowfield, 119 points. Eight teams competed in the event. F. Lavery, T. Brown, S. Lavery of Willowfield received medals.

1926-27.

Thirteen teams competed in the Northern Junior at Magowan's Fields. City of Belfast gained the championship with 47 points to Willowfield's 81 points. Ulsterville were third with 106 points. T. Frazer (City of Belfast) was the individual winner. Willowfield's first three men

were (4) R. Murphy, (6) R. Hossach, (10) S. Patterson. The other three placings were 18, 19, 24.

The Club which had annexed the Irish National Junior the previous year did not fare so well this season in the race. Twenty-two teams battled for the coveted title which was won by Dublin City Harriers with 97 points, (2) Tipperary, 235 points, (3) Suir Rise A.C., 249 points, (5) Willowfield, 258 points, Clonliffe were last with 919 points.

The Association introduced a new feature in athletics this year, - a Youths' Cross Country Championship. This race was run the same day as the Northern Senior at Bloomfield. Ulsterville had the honour of winning the Youths' race with 66 points. Willowfield were second with 69 points, and North Belfast third with 97 points. S. Penny, in fourth place, was the first Willowfield youth home.

The Northern Senior Championship was largely a battle between Ulsterville and Willowfield with Ulsterville getting the verdict with 43 points to 69. North Belfast occupied third place. Six teams competed and the individual winner was J. Stewart (Ulsterville). Willowfield men well placed were (3) J. Blakely, (5) J. B. Andrews, (7) G. B. McMahon.

In the Irish National Senior Championship at Phoenix Park, Willowfield made a great effort to defeat their Belfast rivals - Ulsterville, and to win the Blue Riband of Irish athletics, but Ulsterville were just able to hold

off the Willows' challenge, gaining the title with five points to spare. Ulsterville, 73 Points, Willowfield, 78 points and Dublin City third with 101 points. The individual champion was P. Coyle (Navan). The Club's scoring six were (5) J. Blakely, (8) J. B. Andrews, (12) G. B. McMahon, (15) J. Mahood, (17) R. Murphy.

1927-28.

The Club's first success was that of Northern Junior Champions. The first race of the season was the Northern Junior at Magowan's Fields. Willowfield annexed the championship with a total of 55 points to Ulsterville's 105 and Duncairn's 149 points. W. McCune (City of Belfast) was the individual winner. The complete scoring six of Willowfield is not available, but S. Patterson was third, R. Hossach sixth, S. Penny eighth, and J. Smyth ninth.

Sixteen teams finished in the Irish National Junior championship at Baldoyle. New Barracks, Limerick, won the championship with 86 points, (2) Army Metro, 152 points, (5) North Belfast, 172 points. Willowfield finished in sixth position. W. McCune (City of Belfast) was third in the race. T. Fenning (Limerick) was the individual winner.

A snow-storm and an Arctic wind caused great discomfort to athletes and spectators alike on the day of the Irish National Senior championship. Eleven teams faced the starter

and in spite of the adverse weather conditions ten teams finished the course, a true sign of the runners' determination. Dublin City Harriers emerged winners from the titanic struggle with an aggregate of 121 points to Army Metro's 127 points, Willowfield were third with 154 points. The individual champion was P. Coyle (Navar) for the second successive year. A number of individual runners competed, because then, as now, the International Cross Country team was selected after the National Senior. The Willowfield team placings, excluding the finishing places of the individual runners were, (12) J. Blakely, (13) G. B. McMahon, (22) W. McFerran, (34) R. Murphy, (36) W. Carvill and (37) S. G. Patterson.

The Northern Senior and Youths Championships took place at Bloomfield. Willowfield annexed both titles.

The Youths' Race - three miles - attracted an entry of seven teams. The Club won the race with 42 points to North Belfast's 113 points, Ulsterville were third with 135 points. W. McCune (City of Belfast) was the individual winner. The Willowfield team were (2) S. McBride, (4) R. Ronan, (5) J. McCaffy, (6) G. McCreevey.

The Senior race had a small entry of four teams. H. L. Russell (Ulsterville) was the individual winner. Willowfield's total points were 52 to Ulsterville's 70, and North Belfast's 79 points. The championship team was (4) W. McFerran, (7) W. Carvill, (8) W. Robinson, (9) J. C. Blakely, (11) S. Patterson

and (13)

The Lisburn Novice Race resulted in a win for Duncairn Nomads "A" with 49 points, (2) Albertville "A" 76 points, (3) City of Belfast, 120 points, (4) Willowfield, 145 points.

1928-29.

As a Senior Team, Willowfield were without equals this year. The elusive Irish National Senior Championship was captured at last and the Northern Senior along with it. The Junior teams were second in the Northern Junior and the Irish National Junior Championships. Truly a great season for the Club, if not the best to date.

Ten teams competed in the Northern Junior race at Bloomfield, and nine of them finished the course. Ulsterville won the title with 71 points to Willowfield's 94 points. The York and Lanos. Regiment were third with 104 points. The individual winner was J. Acheson (Albertville). The Willow's team were (2) R. J. Galbraith, (8) T. Adamson, (11) R. Ronan, the other placings were 21st, 25th and 27th.

The Irish National Junior was held at Limerick Junction, but the change of venue was not the success that it was hoped because the local clubs did not enter teams. Pte. Kinsalla (Army Metro) won the individual title, and the team race was won by the same club with 63 points to Willowfield's 95 points. Donore was third with 106 points. The team that secured

runners-up were (4) W. McCune, (11) W. Carvill, (13) J. Galbraith, (17) S. C. Patterson, (24) (26)

Fourteen teams competed and thirteen finished the course.

The Irish National Senior championship - the one championship which had so far eluded the Club, although it had gained runners-up on three occasions - was annexed during this season. Twelve teams competed and finished the course. The race developed into a titanic struggle between Willowfield and Limerick Army, with the Club gaining the title with the narrow margin of five points. T. Fanning (Limerick) was the individual champion. Willowfield, 75 points, (2) Limerick Army, 80 points, (5) Army Metro, 123 points. The championship team were (2) W. McCune, (9) J. B. Andrews, (14) J. Briggs, (15) W. Carvill, (18) J. Blakely and (21)

The Northern Youths' Championship resulted in a win for Willowfield with 43 points, (2) Albertville, 107 points, (5) 9th Old Boys. A. McBride of the Club was individual champion and R. Worrall finished in fourth position.

The Club completed the double, winning the Senior Championship on the same day with 43 points to Ulsterville's 73 and Yorks and Lancs. Regiment, 95 points. The individual winner was H. L. Russell (Ulsterville). The Willowfield scoring six were (2) J. C. Blakely, (4) J. B. Andrews, (7) W. Carvill, (9) S. Penny, (10) W. Robinson and (11) G. B. McMahon.

The Novice race at Lisburn resulted in a win for Albertville with 41 points to Willowfield's 112 points, the City of Belfast and Ulsterville tied for third place with 145 points. J. Mol was the first Willowfield representative in eighth position.

1929-30.

All Clubs have their successful years. The natural law of athletics seems to be if a Club perseveres, its turn to sweep the boards will come. Willowfield had its great successes in the 1907-10 period, but to my mind the most outstanding successes were in the season under review. Of the five Championships, Willowfield won four and were second in the fifth. Holders of the Northern Junior, the Irish National Junior, the Northern Youths', the Irish Senior, and second in the Northern Senior and the Lisburn Novice Race.

The Northern Junior Championship decided at Redburn, had a field of twelve starters. Willowfield, in a commanding fashion annexed the team championship with a total of 63 points. (2) Yorks. & Lincs. Regiment with 116 points and (3) Inniskilling Fusiliers, 179 points. The individual winner was E. R. McTrierty (Ulsterville). It is interesting to recall that three British Army teams took part in the race and finished well among the leaders. The Willowfield team were (2) E. McBride, (4) J. Mills, (6) J. Allen, (9) R. Worrall, (20)..... and

(23)

Eighteen teams including one from Queen's University, contested for the Irish National Junior title at Parkmount, Belfast. Willowfield again demonstrated their superiority as a Junior combination with a clear cut win over our great Dublin friends and rivals, Donore Harriers. Willowfield, 148 points, (2) Donore, 170 points, (3) Ulsterville, 192 points. The names of the Club's scoring six are not available. A newspaper report of the race said, inter alia, "Willowfield's achievement in carrying off the team honours astonished no one, for the club is at the zenith of its fame... The packing of the team was admirably controlled."

The Northern Youths' championship saw the Club "cock of the walk" with an aggregate of 41 points to the 9th Old Boys 115 points and North Belfast's 124 points. Eight teams competed. The Willowfield winning team was (1) R. Worrall, (4) R. Watters and (5) S. Bittles. This was the third successive win in this event. Present day youths of Willowfield, you have a proud heritage to uphold.

The stage was now set for the Northern Senior championship. The question on all lips was "Could Willowfield capture their fourth successive championship in one season?" But it was not to be. Fortune took a hand in the game. Ulsterville gained the verdict with 59 points to Willowfield's 84 points, with the Inniskilling Fusiliers in third place with 119 points.

H. McFall (North Belfast) was the individual winner. The Willowfield scoring six were, (2) J. C. Blakely, (8) A. McBride, (12) W. Robinson, (16) (20) (25) The Ireland's Saturday Night, reporting the race said "... the tragedy of the Senior race promoted by the Ulster Provincial Council of the N.A.C.A. was the accident to young McCune, when he was shaping as a winner, and when his supporters flattered themselves with the thought that he had nothing to do but stick it, and the Shield was his. He passed the judge in his second circuit with a comfortable lead from McFall and the others, and there was almost consternation when it was later discovered that he had retired from the race. It seems that his left foot caught in a ridge, and was twisted so severely that he could not move. He lay helpless until his plight was discovered. Everyone felt sorry for the youth who has come along with almost meteoric strides." I know full well that "if" is a most unsatisfactory word to use, but if McCune had not injured himself I feel sure the Club would have achieved the almost impossible feat of winning five championships in one season.

The Blue Riband of Irish athletics - The National Senior championship - was held in Dublin. Twelve teams and a number of individual runners competed. The finishing position of the individuals as in former years, was disregarded in compiling the teams' aggregate points for the championship. Willowfield

repeated their 1928-29 success and carried off the race with 101 points to Donore's 114 points and Dublin City Harriers' 132 points. The individual winner was T. F. Smythe (O'Callaghan's Mills) - the only Irish man to date to win the individual race in the International Cross Country Race. The Willowfield team were (5) W. McCune, (13) J. Briggs, (18) W. Robinson, (20) J. C. Blakely, (21) J. B. Andrews, (24) R. Worrall. W. McCune represented his Country in the International Cross Country race this year.

To round off the season the Club gained second place in the Lisburn Novice race. The 9th Old Boys gained first place with 77 points to the Club's 82 points with Albertville third with 86 points. The Willowfield team were (8) J. Connelly, (10) W. McKenzie, (12) D. Jackson, (13) R. Watters, (19) G. Rothwell, (20) J. Boyd.

1930-31.

This season proved that the Club was in a very flourishing state, and particularly strong in reserve strength. Even the task of fielding a new Junior team did not deter the officials, and the Northern Junior Championship remained for another season in the East side of the city.

Nine teams competed in this race at Ashfield. Willowfield emerged winners with 80 points to Ulsterville's 125 points and North Belfast's 131 points. G. Hamill (City of Derry) was the

individual winner. The Willowfield team were (6) J. Connelly, (11)..... (13) (14) (16) (20)

The Club did not run up to expectations in the Irish National Junior championship. Nineteen teams took part in the race. P. O'Reilly (Army) was the individual champion, and the team race resulted in a win for O'Callaghan's Mills with 81 points to Army (Metro) 108 points and Donore Harriers' 125 points. The Willowfield combination was relegated to ninth place with 377 points.

Winners of the Northern Youths' championship for the past three years the Club was looked upon as favourite for the title this year. The result was a draw for first place between the Club and the City of Derry with 81 points each. S. McCutcheon (Ulsterville) was the individual winner. The first three Willowfield men home were (5) S. G. Bittles, (6) E. Martin and (11) E. Hillis. The other three places were (12) D. McMillen, 24th and 25th.

The Club regained the Senior (Northern) championship held the same day as the Youths' championship, with an aggregate of 40 points to Ulsterville's 84 points and North Belfast's 118 points. H. McFall (North Belfast) was the individual winner. The Willowfield team were (2) W. McCune, (4) J. C. Blakely, (6) R. Worrall, (7) J. B. Andrews, (9) J. Allen and (12) W. Carvill.

The National Senior race attracted a field of twelve

clubs and was decided at Dublin. The individual winner was T. F. Smythe (O'Callaghan's Mills) for the second successive year. The team championship was won by Army (Metro) with 68 points to O'Callaghan's Mills' 97 points and Dublin City Harriers' 140 points. Willowfield finished in sixth place with 228 points. J. C. Blakely was the Club's first man home in 21st place.

1931-32.

The task of fielding a new Junior team in an endeavour to retain the Northern Junior Championship proved too much for the Club's resources this season. The race was decided at Ashfield Dairy, the course being placed at the disposal of the Ulster Council by the Club's patron, N. Agnew, Esq. Nine teams competed. North Belfast won the team championship with 80 points to the City of Derry's 87 points and the 9th Old Boys' 144 points. The Club was fourth with 147 points. The individual winner was C. Doherty (City of Derry.)

The Northern Youths' championship was held at Ashfield. For the first time in the long history of the Club our team did not finish the course. To fail only once in a period of fifty years to stay the course is a great achievement. The Club, up to the moment of writing, has never had an official motto, but one of the foundation members, the late Bob Carey of Henderson, New Zealand, suggested one to my mind when I read his letter to the editor of the Ireland's Saturday Night. He said, in his day the following words were proverbial in Club circles "Willowfielders always finish" . I don't think we could do any better than re-adopt that old war-cry, and make it our aim and object for the next fifty years - "Willowfield always finishes". But to return to the Youths' race, the City of Derry won the title with 66 points to North Belfast's 71 points and Ulsterville's 96 points.

In the Senior championship, however, the Club proved that it was still supreme in the North. Seven clubs competed. Two Teams "A" and "B" represented the Club. Our "A" team annexed the championship with 34 points to North Belfast's 99 points and Ulsterville's 111 points. H. McFall was the individual champion for the second year in succession. The Willowfield winning team were (2) R. Worrall, (3) J. C. Blakely, (4) J. B. Andrews, (7) S. Penny, (8) W. Robinson (10) J. Briggs.

The Irish National Senior title was won by Army (Metro)

with 71 points to O'Callaghan's Mills' 86 points and Willowfield's 107 points. T. F. Smythe (Dublin Guards) was the individual champion for the third successive year. The Willowfield team were R. Worrall, (9) J. B. Andrews, (15) J. C. Blakely, the other placings were 19, 28 and 29.

1932-33.

The Northern Junior Championship held at Ballymacconnell, Co. Cavan, was won by Tom Regan Harriers (Co. Cavan). The Club finished in third place, R. Watters was third in the actual race.

The Irish National Junior was won by O'Callaghan's Mills, the individual winner was J. Dundas of the same club. No Willowfield team took part, owing to the expense involved in sending a team South.

The Irish National Senior Championship, decided at Phoenix Park, Dublin, resulted in a win for O'Callaghan's Mills with 38 points to Army (Metro) 89 points and Curragh's 123 points. Willowfield were fourth with 168 points. Eight teams finished the course. The individual winner was J. J. O'Connor (Limerick). The first Willowfield man home was J. B. Andrews in eleventh position and R. Worrall was 24th and the sixth man home was 45th.

The Irish National Senior Championship was held before the Northern Senior this season, because snowy conditions

necessitated the postponement of the local race until the 8th April, 1933. Six teams contended for the title.

Willowfield emerged victorious with 50 points to Divis View's 101 points and Tom Regan's 102 points. The individual winner for the fourth successive year was H. McFall now running in Divis View colours.

The Northern Youths' race, which attracted five teams, resulted in a win for Corrigan Harriers with 63 points to City of Derry's 64 points and Divis View's 92 points. Willowfield were fourth with 106 points. D. Jebb of the Club finished in sixth place.

The winning Senior Team was (4) S. Penny, (6) W. Carvill, (7) R. Watters, (8) R. Worrall, (12) L. Firth and (13) H. C. Ralph.

The Lisburn Road Race, the last race of the season, was held on Easter Tuesday, the Club finished 2nd to Corrigan Athletic Club. The Willowfield placings were (3) S. Agnew, (4) J. Martin, (12) D. Orr, (15) A. Richardson, (16) G. Cole and (18) B. Auld.

In the Ulster Flat Championships (N.A.C.A. Laws) J. Davis was runner-up in the 100 yards, W. Carvill was runner-up in both the half mile and the mile, and B. Shillington won the high jump and the Hop, Step and Jump.

Up to 1933, i.e. from 1924, the N.A.C.A. had International recognition, supplying the team to represent Ireland in the

International Cross Country race. But in 1933, the N.I.A.A.A. received permission to enter a team in the race to be called Northern Ireland. Naturally, the N.A.C.A. took this as a challenge to their authority, for the Association claimed authority through its various councils to rule athletics in the four provinces. When the race was held on the 25th March, the N.A.C.A. who were in attendance at the course refused to participate if the Northern Ireland team competed. The refusal of the N.A.C.A. to accept the ruling of the International Board ultimately lead to their suspension.