

How Sweeney is Handicapped

SWEENEY is undoubtedly the fastest man in Britain at present, but it is doubtful if he will do better than 9.9-10sec.

What athletic enthusiasts do not seem to realise is that the R.A.F. officer has to work in his training at odd times while attending to his somewhat heavy duties at Hendon.

In the circumstances his form is truly amazing, particularly when it is revealed that a lot of his track work has to be done at a very early hour in the morning, undoubtedly the worst time of the day for athletic exertion.

Sweeney's task in both sprints is formidable. In the furlong he has to meet Bergner, Sir, M. B. Osendarp (Holland), and J. Kovacs (Hungary), who in this order filled first four places in the European 200 metres championship.

Plenty of Class Quarter-milers

ALTHOUGH Rampling is not to run in defence of the quarter-mile title, and Godfrey Brown (Cambridge University) has elected to stand down with a view to reserving himself for the match with Harvard and Yale next week, there will be no lack of triers.

Naturally, everyone is banking on W. Roberts (Salford A.C.) adding the National title to the Northern one which he took from John Anderson at Ilkeston three weeks ago.

The Salford athlete is a beautifully-actioned runner, who never shows any semblance of loss of form even at the end of a hard-run race, when the watch is showing 49 seconds or under.

He did 48.3-5 seconds against Oxford University, 49.3-10 seconds for a new Northern Counties championship record, and ran through comfortably in 48.4-5 seconds against the Finns in Glasgow.

Frenchman May Extend Roberts

ROBERTS is almost certain to win, but there are several capable of keeping him busy, particularly Lieut Stoneley (Milocarians), the 1932 winner and runner-up to Rampling last year, Warren (S.L.H.), the Southern champion, and possibly R. Boisset, the French champion, who did 49 seconds for 400 metres on Sunday.

Boisset and Warren clash in one heat. Stoneley has a fairly easy draw, as also has Roberts, but Anderson (Middlesborough H.), the old Northern champion, and Horsfall (Achilles), the Australian Empire Games runner, provide an interesting meeting.

F. A. R. Hunter (L.A.C.), Moor (Poly H.), and the Frenchman, Krombach, should make things lively in another heat.

Jack Powell Will Have to Run

EVEN more intriguing are the four heats in the half-mile.

The Scottish and Welsh champions, Stothard (Cambridge Univ.) and J. W. L. Alford (Roath H.), London A.C.'s stout-hearted trier, B. F. MacCabe, and A. C. J. Poole (Blackheath), the Kent champion, should have a thrilling encounter.

Jack Powell (L.A.C.) will have to show all the improvement possible to win in this championship. Even in his heat he has stout opposition, including the Pole, Kucharski, who can do 1min. 54sec., and the new Scottish discovery, A. D. G. White (Thames Valley H.).

A terrific race will be seen in the third heat. Arthur Collyer (Watford H.), the Southern champion, will be put through the mill, for he is to line up along with M. Szabo, the Hungarian holder of the European title, a runner capable of doing under 1min 53sec. Mike Sullivan (Achilles), who beat him in the A.A.A. v. Cambridge University match, Henri (France), Scrimshaw (Belgrave H.), who is persevering with his come-back effort,

A Race for the Frenchmen

ONE of the best races of the meeting may be the three miles. Frank Close, the National cross-country champion, is missing. He has run himself into a condition of staleness, and wisely decided to take a long rest. But the home field will be a class one.

If Rochard, the French 5,000 metres champion, competes, I shall expect him to win. He is already in racing trim, and may put up sensational time if pushed from the outset.

Having decided that the "three" would be his objective in preference to the mile, Aubrey Reeve, the wispy Poly. stayer, had a try-out in the three miles at Ravensbourne on Saturday, and, in winning, put up the fastest three miles of the season—14min 26.3-5sec. The Southern champion, Reg Thomas, retired before the finish.

Don't Overlook Walter Beavers

IN weighing-up this race one must not overlook the sturdy Northern champion, Walter Beavers (York H.), who after building up a tradition of inconsistency, has blossomed forth this season with a fine run of fast winning times at two and three miles.

Walter will keep the best going, and if there is to be a hectic tussle with the foreign invaders we may rely on the Yorkshireman doing considerably more than his share of the "terrier tactics."

Stan Scarsbrook (Surrey A.C.), the steeplechase champion, is running inconsistently just now. He has only to make one mistake to let in such men as George Bailey and Tom Campbell (Salford H.), or the old champion, Jack Webster (Birchfield H.).

Best of the European Hurdlers

TWO European championship finalists, J. Kovacs (Hungary), winner, and W. Kaan (Holland), fourth, are to go in the high hurdles, and the former should bring out the best in our champion, Donald Finlay (R.A.F.), who is still in a class of his own so far as Britain is concerned.

John Gabriel (London A.C.) lost his Southern title to Pilbrow, but on Saturday turned the tables on his Oxonian rival when beating him by a narrow margin in the Ravensbourne invitation race over the high obstacles.

More open but less interesting is the quarter-mile hurdles championship, where I expect to see Ralph Brown (Achilles) lose possession of the title.

The Milocarian, J. Sheffield, making his first appearance in an extended test "over the sticks," won the Southern title in promising fashion, and if he has made any progress in the interval, will keep the best of the others on their toes.

It should not be overlooked that there are two good European low hurdlers in the field—B. Mandikas (Greece), who may do 54sec, and G. Nagy (Hungary).

Cosmopolitan Field for the Marathon

BEST of the Marathon runners will be the holder, Donald Robertson (Maryhill H.); J. Galambos (Hungary); S. Kyriakides (Cyprus), who has been training for some weeks from the White City; Bert Norris (Poly. H.), winner of "The Sporting Life" race; Harold Wood (Makerfield H.); Sammy Dodd, of Wirral A.C.; R. F. J. Nichols (Reading A.C.), Joe Beman, the Birchfielder; A. C. Chamberlain (Sheffield Utd. H.), and T. F. Lalande (Herne Hill H.).

Eight of the British high-jump entrants have done six feet or over this season, and one of these should keep out the foreigners.