

Drury.

WOMEN'S RACE

The first post-war women's international cross-country championship has been arranged between England and Scotland at Birmingham on March 20. The race will be on the same programme as the triangular races between the North, Midlands and South. The England team will be chosen after the National cross-country championship at Aylesbury on March 6.

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Back to cross-country

PIRIE IS STILL A CLUB MAN

By GEOFFREY SIMPSON

SOME 400-odd athletes, who have been wondering which of them is to take over the National cross-country title from Gordon Pirie, can start thinking again. Champion Gordon, the presumed non-starter, will be in the field.

All this season he has been insisting he must train only for track running, with the Czech wonder, Emil Zatopek and the European championships as his special objectives. But club loyalty pulls mighty hard.

It took Pirie last week-end to the Southern championship to cheer home the winners, South London Harriers. It is the call of club that has resulted in his name being substituted for another's in the S.L.H. team for the National, to be run on Saturday week at Birkenhead.

Broken 3 times

In fact, Pirie's self-imposed ban on cross-country has already been broken three times. He ran in his club championship; he ran for his bank in the Inter-Banks race; he was in his club team in the Surrey championship.

Now his club secretary, Mr. W. D. Thomas, says: "Pirie has decided to run."

Gordon yesterday began his new job as a travelling paint salesman, which gives him greater freedom for training and racing.

It also happens that his club have a very good team this year, with the young Civil Servant, Peter Driver, shaping like a champion of the future. He was only a few seconds behind Pirie in the Surrey race.

South London Harriers have never won the National, but that famous runner, Alf Shrubbs, won the individual title in their colours four years running. Pirie is capable of going one better than that, so why deliberately miss a race because a German coach advises "No cross-country"?

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