

PIRIE WINS NATIONAL CROSS-COUNTRY

At Reading, a huge field of nearly six hundred gets away to the start of the English Senior Cross-country Championships. It looks like the beginning of the Grand National as they surge downhill with just under ten miles ahead of them of hill, dale and really rough country.

Sixty-six teams from all over Britain are competing in the race. The long and tiring course has already begun to take its toll, and the field's starting to thin out. Somewhere up near the front is the great little runner, Jim Peters, who sent records tumbling last year.

New Gordon Pirie, a 22-year-old bank clerk from Coulsdon, Surrey, is in the lead. A perfect combination of stamina and style has kept him among the leaders most of the way round. His nearest challenger Frank Sando, keeps plugging on - but he won't catch Pirie now.

Pirie's way out in front as he comes up to the finish. He's been going at a terrific pace, but he looks as though he could do the same again and still be as fresh. He wins by more than 300 yards. But there's quite a tussle going on for second place. Frank Sando, and Billy Gray the Midlands champion, fight it out with only a few yards to go. But an all-out burst gives Sando second place, with Gray a gallant third. Britain's brightest cross-country hope is the new champion, Gordon Pirie.