

# PATTERSON CUP

The Patterson Cup, competed for between Calliope Harrier Club and Hamilton Harrier Club (now Hamilton Hawks) was described in 1972 as the oldest interclub harrier competition held in the North Island. This cannot be independently confirmed, but the fact is that Calliope competed against Hamilton twice in the first year of its official existence, 1930, and has competed each year since then with the exception of three War years 1942 to 1944, when Calliope was in recess. The exact reason for the immediate and intense rivalry between the two clubs and the accompanying warm relations is not known, but Calliope was the first harrier club in Auckland, with the Hamilton Club its nearest neighbour. It appears natural that regular competition should have developed between them.

A fact of great interest is that it was reported in the New Zealand Herald for June 30 1930 that an invitation had been received from Mr L Turner, secretary of the Hamilton Harrier Club, stating at least twelve members would be making a trip to Auckland on August 23. It was intended to compete in a team race of no less than five a side. It was reported the following week that Calliope had accepted the invitation from Hamilton, and that a trial to select a team would take place on August 2. This was all before the official opening of Calliope which took place on July 12. It is mere supposition, but was this a clever pre-arranged scheme to help ensure that Calliope got off to a flying start? It is intriguing

that John Silvester who was a foundation member of Hamilton in 1928 also was a foundation member of Calliope. He later became a foundation member of Wesley.

On August 23 1930 the contest over five miles between the clubs took place at Birkenhead. There were eight participants and the placings were: S Andrews (Cal) 1, J Shaw (Ham) 2, P Duffy (Ham) 3, C Jewell (Cal) 4, A C Rowland (Cal) 5, G O Gilchrist (Ham) 6, N Roberts (Ham) 7, J Silvester (Cal) 8. The points for each team added up to 18 – a tie. This however appears not to have been for the Patterson Cup. On September 13 Calliope traveled to Ruakura for a return contest over five and a half miles. The result was: S Andrews (Cal) 1, J Shaw (Ham) 2, E Darlington (Ham) and P Duffy (Ham) 3=, A C Rowland (Cal) 5, G O Gilchrist (Ham) 6, W S Taylor (Cal) 7, J Silvester (Cal) 8. The winner was Hamilton. It is interesting that Messrs Darlington and Duffy conspired to finish third equal rather than third and fourth, so giving Hamilton one less point. Very shrewd. There may be a few Calliope harriers trying the same trick in future contests. There is no mention in Calliope's records that this was for the Patterson Cup. It was not until 1931 that the event was called the Patterson Cup. However as the 1931 event was held at Birkenhead, and since then in alternate years at Hamilton and Auckland Calliope is happy to concede that the first contest was held on September 13 1930 at Ruakura and the



*Patterson Cup 1957*

*Ross Smith, Neil Calcott, —, Don Skelton, Laurie Haysom, —, Lloyd Darroch, Graeme Darroch, —, Ron Wareham  
Frank Taylor, Harry Chiron, Rex Brickland, Murray Lisk, Trevor Cowley, Graham Clayton, Brian Madgewick, Don Willoughby,  
Alf Clayton, JA Darroch.*

## PATTERSON CUP *cont.*

Hamilton won. Mr W E Patterson who presented the Cup was President of Calliope Harrier Club until his death in 1940.

The rules for the competition were drawn up by Calliope and accepted by Hamilton. Modifications take place from time to time, to the extent that harriers can now turn up to races not knowing what the rules actually are. For Calliope the general instruction is don't let Hamilton runners get ahead of you and if they do, pass them. At times easier said than done.

The fields in the early days were often small and as was said in Hamilton's 1978 History (acknowledgements to Editor Clive Southwick) in those depression days it was likely that some members may not have been able to afford to travel. It was rare to go by private car. Usually travel was on the back of a club member's truck, at 1/6 a head, or sometimes by train. In 1932 Calliope members set off to Hamilton by bus. Unfortunately the bus broke down just twenty miles into its journey and in the end only a few harriers got there by car. Standards may have varied over the years, but the

competition has always been keen. Possibly the 1945 field was the strongest ever. At the National cross-country championships that year, Calliope had three runners – Ambler (2nd), Crabbe (4th) and Darroch (6th). Hamilton had Potter (1st) Trow (5th) and Taylor (12th). In the Patterson Cup, Calliope finished 1, 2, 3 – Ambler, Darroch, Crabbe, but through good teaming Hamilton won the Cup.

Calliope is behind in terms of wins but not for want of trying. A tactic used with a little success over the years has been putting Hamilton over the hardest courses on the North Shore. In 1972 Calliope attempted to put Hamilton to the sword on a notorious course at Greenhithe. Four years earlier Jack Ralston had got permission from the owner for the club to run on the

farm, and in both 1968 and 1970 Calliope had defeated its arch-rivals on the course. Victory was again deemed to be inevitable. The course after heavy rain was worse than ever in 1972, including in each of the two laps a 600 yard stretch of pure North Shore clay bog which at times was over knee-deep. This posed all sorts of problems as shoes were soon sucked off or became

heavy as the mud stuck and refused to be shaken off. At the end of each race, all runners were close to exhaustion because of the effort of climbing with very heavy legs the steep hill at the end of the bog. Calliope unfortunately gained no advantage because their harriers were just as affected as the Hamilton runners, and Hamilton ended up winning narrowly. Searching for something positive, one Calliope stalwart was heard to say "Well, at least we sent them home tired". On another occasion, Jack Ralston, course supervisor, put an extra loop up and down a near cliff face. "That'll fix them," he said. Not only did it fix Hamilton – it also fixed Calliope because most of its harriers had no idea the course had been changed. In 1978 thick, slippery mud marked the approaches to the creeks on the gruelling

course and many a runner came to a sticky end. That was the year Calliope's Ian Barnett put his foot right through a submerged rotten sheep. Despite this setback Calliope won the day.

Other courses included Tank Farm, so-named because it almost became the site in 1942 of 50 fuel tanks each to hold 400,000 gallons of oil. Work started but was stopped when the Japanese onslaught was halted in 1943. However, bulldozed tank foundations remained. One harrier considered it so dangerous that he refused to run on it in an international cross-country race. "It looks quite good until you get on it, but there are holes all over the place". Prominent Auckland coach Jack Ralston agreed. "I jogged over the course with a couple



*Allan Harrison feared by Hamilton*