

Dykers flocked to Gatehouse

20/8/92

THE STEWARTRY Dry-stane Dyking Branch of the Dry Stone Walling Association held the Boulder Dyke Competition at Laghead, Gatehouse-of-Fleet recently and despite the atrocious weather conditions, a total of ten competitors took part in an event which attracted entries from as far a field as Derbyshire and Wales. Each man had to strip and rebuild a length of dyke, two yards long by five feet high.

All the competitors finished within the four hours allowed, and were judged in the two classes by Miss Helen Drew M.B.E. and Mr. Hugh Drysdale B.E.M. Marks were awarded for the five stages of construction and the best use of stone and general quality of work.

The winner of the professional trophy with 82 points was James Nicol of Minnigaff, Newton Stewart. George McLachlan of Borgue was the winner of the

amateur trophy with a final score of 73 points. The Alex Smith Boulder Dyke Trophy which is awarded to the best dyker on the field from the Stewartry was won by James Nicol. Second and third in the professional class were Trevor Wragg from Buxton and Allan Airley of Dalbeattie.

●DYKER Allan Airley of Dalbeattie has his sights set firmly on becoming the best in Britain.

At the moment, with two competitions to go, Allan is placed third best dyker — but he is determined to try and claim the top spot.

In a few weeks' time, Allan and partner Andy Craig will be having a crack at the pairs title at the major English championships in Settle, Yorkshire.

Andy, a Rotherham man, is currently working full-time with Allan and living in Dalbeattie.

Dyking near Gatehouse in 1992

