

Scotland

NAT MUIR RESCUES SHETTLESTON HARRIERS

THOUGH they generated a high degree of confidence throughout the afternoon Shettleston supporters were shaken at the start of the final lap of the ninth 'Allan Scally' 4 x 5 miles road relay at Baillieston on October 23rd when their team was only third and 49 secs behind the leaders. However Nat Muir's fourth fastest time of the day took them into the lead with just half a mile to go and eventually established a winning lead of 50y from last year's winners Edinburgh Southern Harriers.

by Colin Shields

Shettleston, who had won this race for the first five years of its existence but yielded to the dominance of the Edinburgh clubs for the next three years, thus continued their string of early season road relay successes. Junior John Graham gave Clyde Valley an early lead in the first lap 60y ahead of Edinburgh Southern with Shettleston in sixth place. Paul Forbes again displayed his unfortunate track record of unpredictability by finishing away down the field in 33rd position, 2:15 behind the leader. Jim Brown, continuing his fine form of recent weeks, achieved a long standing ambition of beating 22:00 for the course by setting a new lap record of 21:55, and giving Clyde Valley a lead of 99 secs at mid-race over Shettleston Harriers with ESH a further 14 secs behind. Douglas Gunstone (22:46) had a fine run, retrieving 24 places for Edinburgh AC while Bill Day (22:59) pulled Falkirk Victoria Harriers up from 11th to fifth.

Clyde Valley had now expended their two star athletes and could only hope to hold on to their

big halfway lead. It was not to be however, as Dave Logue and Lachie Stewart pulled in a substantial margin on Joe Small with the stage set for the exciting final lap that saw Shettleston come through for their well deserved victory and Clyde Valley drop from the lead to fourth place. There was plenty of good running on this final lap with Andy McKean pulling up from 10th to an isolated fifth with a great run that just missed equalling the new lap record by a bare second and Jim Dingwall recording 22:13 to give Falkirk their first ever appearance in the prize list.

A record field of 76 teams entered with 64 teams closing in and a notable and welcome feature was the strong showing by local 'town' clubs such as East Kilbride (six teams) and Cambuslang (five teams). These clubs, initially overshadowed by the recent amalgamations of small clubs in Scottish athletics, are again thriving in all age groups while the amalgamated clubs are struggling to find an acceptable cohesivity.

The Scottish Universities Road Relay Championship attracted an entry of 20 teams from the seven Universities with Aberdeen University recording its first ever victory in the event from Glasgow University and last year's winners Strathclyde University.

- 1, Shettleston (D. Lang 23:23, L. Spence 23:01; L. Stewart 23:17; N. Muir 22:28) 92:09.
- 2, Edinburgh SH (C. Youngson 23:06, F. Murray 23:32, D. Logue 22:39, I. Elliott 23:01) 92:18;
- 3, Falkirk Victoria (I. Brown 24:01, W. Day 22:59, J. McGarva 23:42, J. Dingwall 22:13) 92:55;
- 4, Clyde Valley (J. Graham 22:56, J. Brown 21:55, J. Small 24:01, E. Devlin 24:02) 93:21;
- 5, Edinburgh AC (P. Forbes 25:11, D. Gunstone 22:46, A. Wight 24:02, A. McKean 21:56) 93:55;

6, East Kilbride (H. Wilson 24:30, A. Neal 23:54, A. Partridge 22:58, K. Tayler 23:16) 94:38; 7, Victoria Park 94:52; 8, Springburn 96:08; 9, ESH 'B' 96:16; 10, Shettleston 'B' 96:40; 11, Aberdeen Univ 96:44; 12, Garscube 97:07; 13, Falkirk Victoria 'B' 97:13; 14, EAC 'B' 97:21; 15, Bellahouston 97:39; 16, Glasgow Univ 98:13; 17, Cambuslang 98:36; 18, Strathclyde Univ 98:37; 19, Ayrshire 98:54; 20, Strathclyde Police 100:56. 64 teams closed in.

Fastest: Brown 21:55 (rec), McKean 21:56, Dingwall 22:13, Muir 22:28, Logue 22:39, Gunstone 22:46.

SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES ROAD RELAY CHAMPIONSHIPS (In Conjunction)

1, Aberdeen University (R. Murray 24:53, M. Wynaken 23:30, S. Taylor 24:31, F. Clyne 23:50) 96:44; 2, Glasgow University (A. Hunter 24:11, P. Porter 25:07, W. Sheridan 23:05, W. Reid 25:50) 98:13; 3, Strathclyde University (P. McLagan 24:07, A. McMaster 24:48, D. Burt 24:56, W. Logan 24:46) 98:37; 4, Glasgow Univ 'B' 104:26; 5, Dundee Univ 104:51; 6, Heriot-Watt Univ 105:36. **Fastest:** Sheridan 23:05, P. Kenney (Dund) 23:12, Wynaken 23:30.