

ALLAN SCALLY ROAD RELAY

THE 17th Allan Scally Memorial Road Relay, held on a dry but crisp November 2nd, attracted a record entry of 139 teams and provided promoting club Shettleston Harriers with their first victory in the event since 1980. Nat Muir, incidentally the only survivor from that team, made a promising start to his 1985-86 cross country season by slicing two seconds off his course record with a time of 21:26, while another member of the 1980 team, Lawrie Spence, now with Spango Valley, produced the second fastest clocking of the day (22:05), thereby trimming seven seconds off his personal best for the course, dating back to 1975.

On the opening leg, the up-and-coming Steve

Doig of Fife Southern Harriers employed the same tactics he used in the McAndrew Relay by being up at the front of the pack in the early stages, before taking off for home just before halfway. Up until the two miles mark, Doig was in a group consisting of John McKay, Tony Coyne, Alastair Douglas and Shettleston's Brian Scally, the grandson of Allan Scally, to whose memory the race is dedicated. However, on the steep incline leading to Edinburgh Road, the Fife man moved up a gear and began to stretch out the field to come home clear, 11 seconds ahead of Cambuslang's Callum Murray, who in finishing strongly over the last mile gave indication that he is returning to full fitness after being plagued for two years with recurring stress fractures. McKay (22:38) held third ahead of Coyne and Douglas, with fastest Junior Scally in seventh place (22:54), knocking 76 seconds off his pb and giving the host club a 40 seconds cushion over Scottish Cross Country Relay champions Spango Valley.

Spence through to second

On leg two, Spence exhibited his best form of the season so far, as he moved his club up from 19th to second with only an outstanding performance by Alan Wilson of Glasgow University (22:11) preventing the Greenock man from taking the lead. John Pentecost slotted Falkirk Victoria into third, and although originally given 22:19, his time was later amended to 22:47 — the 28 seconds difference being explained by first leg runner Donald Bain not initially entering the correct finishing funnel. Shettleston, with Muir still to run, were handily placed in fifth through John Mudie (23:27), while sixth placed Edinburgh Southern 'B' were 54 seconds ahead of their 'A' team.

On the third circuit, Muir stamped his authority on the race as he stormed round the 4.8 miles trail in record time to give the promoting club an 86 seconds advantage over Falkirk, for whom Gordon Mitchell contributed a useful 22:53, finishing one second ahead of Spango's Peter Conaghan (23:25). Glasgow University were fourth and on course to retain the Scottish Universities' title incorporated into this event, with Robert Fitzsimmons (23:13) easing Bellahouston into fifth, ahead of Edinburgh Southern 'A', who had at last managed to overhaul their 'B' team thanks to Ian Steel (23:03).

The big question on the final lap was could Shettleston's club captain Peter Carton hold off Spango's Chris Robison, who had been the star runner in the previous week's Scottish Relay Championships. Although the Royal Navy runner pulled back 38 seconds over the first two miles, the local man stemmed the tide and lost only 16 seconds over the last 2.8 miles to bring his club safely home in a time of 23:18; Robison still 23 seconds adrift. Not surprisingly, Carton, who had got married only the previous Saturday, was

delighted with his team's victory, especially since he had postponed his honeymoon till later in the year in order to represent his club in their own promotion. Falkirk were an unpressed third through Gary Grindlay (23:08), ahead of last year's winners, Bellahouston, Edinburgh Southern and Glasgow University.

Once again Shettleston Harriers are to be congratulated for displaying their usual efficiency and expertise in organising this popular event, and producing typed copies of the full results within one hour of the last runner crossing the line.

David Coone

- 1, Shettleston.....1:31:00
(B. Scally 22:54, J. Mudie 23:27,
N. Muir 21:26, P. Carton 23:18)
- 2, Spango Valley.....1:31:20
(T. Wilkie 23:34, L. Spence 22:05,
P. Conaghan 23:25, C. Robison 22:24)
- 3, Falkirk Victoria.....1:32:10
(D. Bain 23:23, J. Pentecost 22:47,
G. Mitchell 22:53, G. Grindlay 23:08)
- 4, Bellahouston 1:33:44 (T. Coyne 22:44, A. Daly
23:45, R. Fitzsimmons 23:13, D. Bryson 24:02); 5,
Edinburgh Southern 1:34:02 (C. Hunter 23:40, A.
Robertson 23:39, I. Steel 23:03, E. Cameron
23:40); 6, Glasgow Univ. 1:34:04 (M. Batley
23:23, A. Wilson 22:11, J. Cowan 23:44, T.
Gillespie 24:46); 7, Victoria Park 1:35:04 (A.
Douglas 22:47, P. Wilson 23:53, D. McMeekin
24:01, T. Wiseman 24:23); 8, Springburn 1:35:15
(S. McLean 23:59, D. Donnet 23:13, A. McIndoe
23:59, J. Cooper 24:04); 9, Edinburgh AC
1:35:16; 10, Dundee Univ. 1:35:23; 11, Fife
1:35:46; 12, E. Kilbride 1:36:17; 13, Falkirk
Victoria 'B' 1:36:26; 14, Dundee Hh. 1:37:02; 15,
Aberdeen 1:37:07; 16, Dumbarton 1:37:33; 17,
Kilbarchan 1:37:35; 18, Edinburgh AC 'B'
1:37:38; 19, Edinburgh Southern 'B' 1:37:51; 20,
Cambuslang 1:37:59; 21, Springburn 'B' 1:38:06;
22, Falkirk Victoria 'C' 1:38:18; 23, Edinburgh
Univ. 1:38:22; 24, St. Andrews Univ. 1:38:38; 25,
Spango Valley 'B' 1:38:47. **Fastest:** Muir 21:26;
Spence 22:05; A. Wilson 22:11; S. Doig (Fife S)
22:22; Robison 22:24; C. Murray (Cam 'B')
22:33.