

FORMER Scottish Peoples' marathon winner Priscilla Welch yesterday became the oldest woman to win the New York Marathon. The Englishwoman, victor at the London event in April, completed a remarkable double when she came home in 2-30-17 to land the \$20,000 first prize plus a Mercedes car valued at \$35,000.

Mrs Welch, who declined selection for Britain's world championship team in Rome because she thought the competition inferior, will be 43 in three weeks' time.

The men's race proved another triumph for Kenya. Ibrahim Hussein, a student at the University of New Mexico, caught early pace-setter Pat Petersen shortly past the 14-mile point and coasted home in 2-11-01.

Petersen had been on 2-04, inside world record schedule, at five miles, but faded to finish fourth behind the 29-year-old Hussein, a two-time winner of the Honolulu marathon. Gianni DeMadonna of Italy (2-11-53) and Pete Pfiztinger, the 1984 U.S. Olympic trials marathon winner (2-11-53) were second and third.

Top Briton was Hugh Jones, ninth in 2-14-05, while Edinburgh's Allister Hutton finished a disappointed 43rd with only a vague notion of his time:

between 2-22 and 2-24.

JOHN ROBSON covered the final five-mile stage of the Allan Scally Memorial relay in 21min 50sec, leading his club to victory and restoring their pride, writes **Doug Gillon**.

Edinburgh Southern Harriers,



PRISCILLA WELCH...\$55,000 in prizes

beaten out of the medals the previous week as they attempted to retain their national cross-country relay title, fielded an improved quartet, and though not their strongest, it was sufficiently in tune to win Shettleston Harriers' TSB-backed event.

Robson's performance, which makes him the third-fastest man in the 19-year history of the race, turned a four-second deficit at the final change-over into a winning margin of 49 seconds over Teviotdale.

Southern's time, 90-46, was only one second outside the record they established in 1975 and which they equalled last year. That should be an ominous warning as the battle plans for this month's Edinburgh-Glasgow road relay are drawn up.

Gary Grindlay and Alan Robson were drafted in following last week's cross-country demise at Galashiels, and after



JOHN ROBSON...restored Edinburgh Southern's pride

Grindlay's opening leg on the 4x5 mile trail, last week's title-winners, Cambuslang, and runners-up Springburn, were already buried.

Grindlay brought Southern home six seconds clear of Teviotdale. Cambuslang were a distant sixteenth, 69 seconds down, while Steve Beggan, the national junior cross country champion, brought Springburn in thirteenth, four seconds ahead of Cambuslang. Beggan still has a bit to go to recover his form following a bout of glandular fever.

Craig Hunter extended Southern's lead to 19 seconds by half way before Teviotdale had their only chance of upsetting the script. In a head-to-head duel between two reinstated professionals, Rob Hall (22-56) had the better of Alan Robson (23-15), but the four-second cushion which the Border club had over Southern was never going to be

sufficient to prevent the elder Robson, John, the former Commonwealth Games 1500 metres bronze medallist, from clinching victory.

He did so in style with a time bettered only by Nat Muir and Allister Hutton in the history of the race. His time of 21-50 retained the Eddie Bannan Memorial trophy.

Adrian Callan, recovered from an argument with a car door which was opened into him in training, ran a spirited anchor leg for Springburn, second fastest of the day to take his team from eighth to fifth.

But Billy Roberston proved the hero of the hour for Bellahouston. The postman and international marathon man, taking over sixth, powered up to third place delivering the medals. Significantly it was his club who had the first B string home, tenth overall out of the 129 teams. With eight men required for the Barrs Edinburgh-to-Glasgow event, they have a great chance if they can overcome their usual failing and put their best team on the start line. Results:

1. Edinburgh Southern Harriers (G. Grindlay 22-31, C. Hunter 23-10, A. Robson 23-15, J. Robson 21-50) 90-46; 2. Teviotdale Harriers 91-35; 3. Bellahouston Harriers 92-16; 4. Cambuslang Harriers 92-39; 5. Springburn Harriers 92-43; 6. Fife AC 93-03; 7. Falkirk Victoria 93-10; 8. Edinburgh AC 94-22; 9. Calderglen 95-37; 10. Bellahouston B 95-47. Veterans — Shettleston (27th overall).

Scottish University Championship — 1. Edinburgh University (12th overall) 96-46; 2. Glasgow University (15th) 97-42; 3. Strathclyde University (25th) 100-23.

Fastest Lap — 1. J. Robson (ESH) 21-30; 2. A. Callan (Springburn) 22-05; 3. I. Hamer (Hemel Watt University) 22-21.