

Edinburgh relay squad tune up

By DOUG GILLON

EDINBURGH Athletic Club have nailed their black and white colours to the mast as leading contenders for the Barrs Inn-Bru Edinburgh to Glasgow title a week on Sunday.

They showed that they were in tune on Saturday, making history by winning the 4x5 mile Allan Scally memorial relay for the first time. But more significantly, since the Barr's event is an eight-stage race, their C team, fourteenth overall, were home before any other club even had a second-string quartet over the line.

EAC's B squad were eleventh, just one place behind the A team from Cambuslang who last season swept all before them. Victory was all the sweeter for the capital outfit, since they held off their most bitter rivals, Edinburgh Southern, by just five seconds, winning in 91min. 08sec.

In perfect conditions round Shettleston on a bright and windless autumn afternoon, Nat Muir, making dramatic progress after a career-threatening tendon injury, won the Eddie Bannon memorial award for the fastest lap of the day, 21-44, just 18 seconds outside his own course record. But, his club, hosts Shettleston, could finish only fourth as Teviotdale took third to complete an East clean sweep.

Gary Grindlay gave Southern the lead on the opening leg with EAC seventh after a fine run by 45-year-old Adrian Weather-

head. Centenary celebrators Teviotdale went in front through Dave Cavers as Graham Harker pulled EAC up to second and Southern slipped to fourth. But on the third stage Ian Archibald produced the day's fourth fastest time to give EAC a 65-second lead over their city rivals.

Martin Ferguson ran the race of his life as internationalist John Robson ate into his lead. With a mile to go the gap was down to just 16 seconds, but Robson, whose time was just four seconds slower than Muir's, had gutted himself and he failed by just five seconds to snatch victory.

"The Scally" is used by most clubs as their trial for the Barr's race, but Greenock Glenpark, winners of the national relay championships last weekend, prefer their private trial, over the hilly 5½ miles of the Inverkip-Greenock road. With star men Hammy Cox, Tommy Murray and Alan Puckrin exempt, it was won by Phil Russell, in 26-39. Allan Scally details:

1. Edinburgh AC (A. Weatherhead 23-07, G. Harker 23-51, I. Archibald 22-22, M. Ferguson 22-48) 91-08; 2. Edinburgh SH (G. Grindlay 22-32, A. Moore 23-43, A. Robson 23-10, J. Robson 21-44) 91-13; 3. Teviotdale (B. Emmerson 22-38, D. Cavers 22-59, A. Walker 22-55, R. Hall 23-02) 91-34; 4. Shettleston 92-23; 5. Bellahouston 92-24; 6. Falkirk Vic 93-22; 7. Calderglen 94-33; 8. Fife 94-36; 9. East Kilbride 94-48; 10. Cambuslang 95-12.

Veterans Team — Livingston & District 69-41, Individual — Emmerson.

Scottish Universities championships — 1. Edinburgh 95-27; 2. Glasgow 96-44; 3. Stirling 98-08.