

Moving portrait of an artist

By DOUG GILLON

SCOTT Cohen, artist and athlete, is influenced by physical and emotional barriers. Early in the New Year he has his first exhibition on the barrier theme. On Saturday, he ran like a man inspired by them, paving the way for Racing Club Edinburgh's upset victory in the Allan Scally Relay.

Falkirk Victoria, the favourites, strengthened by the acquisition of former Commonwealth silver medalist Steve Binns, could finish only second after Cohen's stunning opening leg had left them an impossible 68 seconds adrift. Shettleston, the hosts, took third place.

Falkirk's quartet for the 4 x 4.8 mile event had looked invincible, but they reckoned without Racing's main man, Cohen. Ear-ringed, vast black ponytail flying in the wind, his opening stage of 22-35 was third fastest of the day and saw him 21 seconds clear of Springburn's Adrian Callan and 10 places ahead of Falkirk's Don Bain.

Cohen drew on internal rivalry for motivation. His B team clubmate, Alan Robson, snapped at his heels for most of the route. Robson had upstaged Cohen in previous relays, but Edinburgh-Glasgow team places were now at stake, as well as the Scally Trophy.

The size of his lead was a huge encouragement to Racing's second man, Brian Kirkwood. Although Scottish internationalist Gary Grindlay picked off six places, he made no impression at all on Kirkwood, the day's fastest veteran.

And although Falkirk debutant Binns took 23 seconds out of David Ross on the third, it was not enough to



Pursuit pack: Racing Club, the eventual winners, have already broken clear on the opening stage of the Allan Scally Relay and are chased by Edinburgh Southern's Keith Lyall (34); Gordon Tenney (52) of Kilbarchan, and Tony Coyne (2) of Shettleston

put England internationalist John Sherban in touch with Racing's John Robson, the former Commonwealth 1500m bronze medallist and Scottish record holder. Sherban, however, on a cold, raw afternoon, clocked the day's fastest time, 22-16, which is 50 seconds outside Nat. Muir's seven-year-old record.

Cambuslang could field only one of the squad which won the national cross-country relay title a week earlier and finished seventh.

Cohen, at 27, is now developing the promise which was overlooked as a youngster. During the same three years in which the now European 3000m champion, Yvonne Murray, was winning the Lethian Schools' girls' 1500m title, Cohen achieved the same treble among the boys.

"But unlike Yvonne, there was nobody to coach me at

North Berwick High School," said Cohen.

Cohen's career as a full-time artist is in its infancy, though mature enough to have won him a first exhibition at Moray House's Chessel Gallery in January. We may never know how good Cohen the athlete might have been, but recent training with marathon runner John Graham is beginning to flesh in the hidden picture.

Shettleston, the organising club, had only one runner among the 10 fastest, but demonstrated what relay running is all about in taking third spot. Behind the scenes, their computerised results service was fastest of the year. Other clubs, please note. Results:

1. Racing Club (S. Cohen 22-36, B. Kirkwood 23-15, D. Ross 23-07, J. Robson 22-35) 91min 33secs; 2. Falkirk (D. Bain 23-44, G. Grindlay 23-15, S. Binns 22-44, J. Sherban 22-16) 91-59; 3. Shettleston (J. Mackay 23-

06, N. Muir 23-17, D. Cameron 23-04, B. Goyle 22-39) 92-35; 4. Edinburgh Southern 93-43; 5. Teviotdale 94-08; 6. Racing Club B 94-26; Veterans: Cambuslang 106-05.

Fastest laps: 1. Sherban 22-16; 2. J. Robson 22-36; 3. Cohen 22-36; 4. Binns 22-44; 5. A. Walker (Teviotdale) 22-46; 6. equal; 7. Callan (Springburn) and G. Stewart (Edinburgh Southern) 22-57; 8. A. Robson (Racing Club B) 23-03; Mackay 23-05; 10. Ross 23-07.

Scottish Universities championship: minimum overall, Edinburgh 11, Delahouck 24; 46; 5. Burch 23-42; T. Healy 23-55; J. Pyrah 23-58; 95-59; 22nd, Strathclyde 100-01, 3/32, Glasgow 102-56.

VETERANS dominated the marathon in the Black Isle Festival of Running at Fortrose. Andy Stirling (Bo'ness) won in 2hr 36min: 15sec., more than a mile in front of Scottish 100k champion Donald Ritchie (Forres, 2-42-08) with Jim Douglas (2-45-58) third, leading Carnegie to victory in the team contest. The Dunfermline club, led by Steven Ogg, also won the half-marathon team contest. Results:

Marathon, Women — 1. G. Pollard (Gleat

Feet Triathletes) 3-05-24 (record); 2. T. Thomson (Pithead) 3-05-45; 3. A. Strachan, (Dundee Road Runners) 3-31-40. Half-marathon — 1. S. Ogg (Carnegie) 1-12-50; 2. E. Grant (Moray) 1-14-18; 3. C. Law (Carnegie) 1-15-36. Women — 1. M. Robertson (Dundee RR) 1-26-25; 2. F. Thin (Minolta Black Isle) 1-27-26; 3. S. Baichop (Pithead) 1-34-32. Team — Dundee RR, 10,000m — 1. R. Arbuckle (Keith and District) 31-30; 2. J. Bowman (Inverness) 32-06; 3. B. Fraser (Inverness) 32-17. Team — Inverness — 1. G. Barber (Birchfield) 35-55; 2. S. Gellan (Inverness) 36-52; 3. G. Hanco (Dundee Road Runners) 39-39. Team — Inverness.

EAST of Scotland claimed all four titles in the Scottish Schools AA primary schools road relay championships at Grangemouth. Results:

Boys Seniors — 1. Stewart Melville's 17min 43sec; 2. St Matthew's, Bishopbriggs 18-05; 3. St Matthew's, Beith 18-11. Fastest — K. Brown (Lawmuir) 5-40. Juniors — 1. St John's Perth 19-10; 2. Ewington 19-21; 3. Hamilton College School 19-24. Fastest — C. Barlas (Ardgowan) 5-55. Girls Seniors — 1. Dean Park, Balerno 20-01; 2. Conon Bridge 20-08; 3. George Watson's 20-13. Fastest — H. Norman (Aberdour) and L. Campbell (Conon Bridge) both 6-04. Juniors — 1. Trinity, Hawick 20-23; 2. Conon Bridge 20-39; 3. St David's 20-52. Fastest — C. Couper (Linhithgow) 6-29.