

Sherban's late surge fails to reel in Robson

By DOUG GILLON

FOR the third successive year, John Sherban clocked the fastest lap in the Allan Scally Memorial Relay, yet for the third successive year his club, Falkirk Victoria, had to be content with the runners-up berth behind Leslie Deans Racing Club.

Only the hosts, Shettleston Harriers, had ever previously won the event three in succession.

Racing led from the start, building on a two-second lead secured by Scott Cohen on the first stage, and finally won by 57 seconds in 1hr 31min. 31sec.

Sherban, a former England internationalist who has recently declared for Scotland on residence grounds, was chasing a lost cause if he had any thought of victory on the final leg of the 4x4.8 miles course round Baillieston. But just 16 seconds covered the next four places as Sherban took off in third.

Racing's anchorman, John Robson, had an unassailable lead of 67sec. over Dundee Hawkhill at the final changeover. But Sherban, a further 10sec. down, overhauled policeman Ian Cambell, the 33-year-old former world junior internationalist, who had been pressed back into the blue and white

while on holiday from Essex.

Sherban's time of 22.33 in perfect conditions was 67sec. slower than Nat Muir's eight-year-old course record, and his club showed impressive depth with four teams from the first 16 of the 106 starters. But Racing, fifth and ninth with their three teams, showed the kind of depth of quality which makes them very short-priced favourites for the Barr's Edinburgh to Glasgow race a week on Sunday.

The hosts had something special to celebrate on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the event. A women's race was held for the first time, Shettleston proving the winners with Scally's granddaughter, Elaine Mackay, running the anchor leg.

Twenty-five years ago, in the inaugural race, her father, Bill, anchored Shettleston to victory. Details:

1, Leslie Deans Racing Club (S Cohen 22min. 42sec., D Ross 22-56, I Brown 23-00, J Robson 22-53) 91min. 31sec; 2, Falkirk Victoria (I Johnstone 22-49, S Binns 23-24, G Grindley 23-42, J Sherban 22-33) 92-28; 3, Dundee Hawkhill (D Storey 23-44, I Campbell Jr 23-00, P McColgan 23-01, I Campbell Sr 22-48) 92-33; 4, Cambuslang 92-42; 5, LDRC B 93-56; 6, Shettleston 94-13.

Veterans — Cambuslang (C McDougal 23-58, R McCleery 25-05, J Bates 26-16, I Gordon 26-21) 101-40.

Fastest laps — 1, Sherban 22-33; 2 (equal), Cohen and G Stewart (Edinburgh SH) 22-42; 4, J Mackay (Shettleston) 22-44; 5, G Croft (Cambuslang) 22-45.

Women (3x4.8m) — 1, Shettleston (K Scobie 27-46, J Harvey 28-59, E Mackay 31-33) 88-18; 2, Glasgow University 96-08.

Universities — 1, Edinburgh 96-43; 2, Strathclyde 99-52.

Black Isle Festival of Running (Fortrose).

Marathon: 1, D Lancaster (Rowntree) 2-30-41; 2, P Baxter (BT Pitreavie) 2-37-14; 3, P Laing (Springburn) 2-39-13. Team: Pitreavie, 25.

Women: 1, T Thomson (Pitreavie) 2-53-09 (record); 2, J Thomson (FMC Carnegie) 3-10-53; 3, P Lemoncello (Fife, veteran) 3-20-29. Team: Carnegie.

Half marathon: 1, S Ogg (Carnegie) 1-11-29; 2, G Laing (Inverness) 1-14-99; 3, P Shirley (Moray) 1-15-22. Veteran: T Quigley (Strathay) 1-18-45. Team: Moray 12.

Women — 1, L Bain (Garioch, veteran) 1-23-01; 2, M Robertson (Dundee RR, veteran) 1-23-09; 3, J Stephen (Garioch) 1-31-28. Team: Garioch.

10,000m: 1, S Weir (Pitreavie) 30-22; 2, G Herbert (Inverness) 30-26; 3, J Ross (LDRC) 30-36. Veteran: T Graham (Fife) 31-58. Team: Inverness H 22.

s the title

TSB Scottish Schools Primary Road Relay Championships (Grangemouth).

Boys. Seniors: 1, St John's (Perth) 17-49; 2, Townhill (Dunfermline) 17-51; 3 equal, St Joseph's (Greenock) and Hamilton College 18-06. Juniors: 1, Lawmuir (Bellshill) 18-33; 2, Lawmuir B 18-40; 3, Queensferry 18-52. Fastest lap: J Watt (Elrick) 5-55. Girls. Seniors: 1, George Watson's (Edinburgh) 19-16; 2, Conon Bridge 19-28; 3, Trinity (Hawick) 19-45. Fastest lap: A McKay (Giffnock) 5.40. Juniors: 1, George Watson's 20-24;