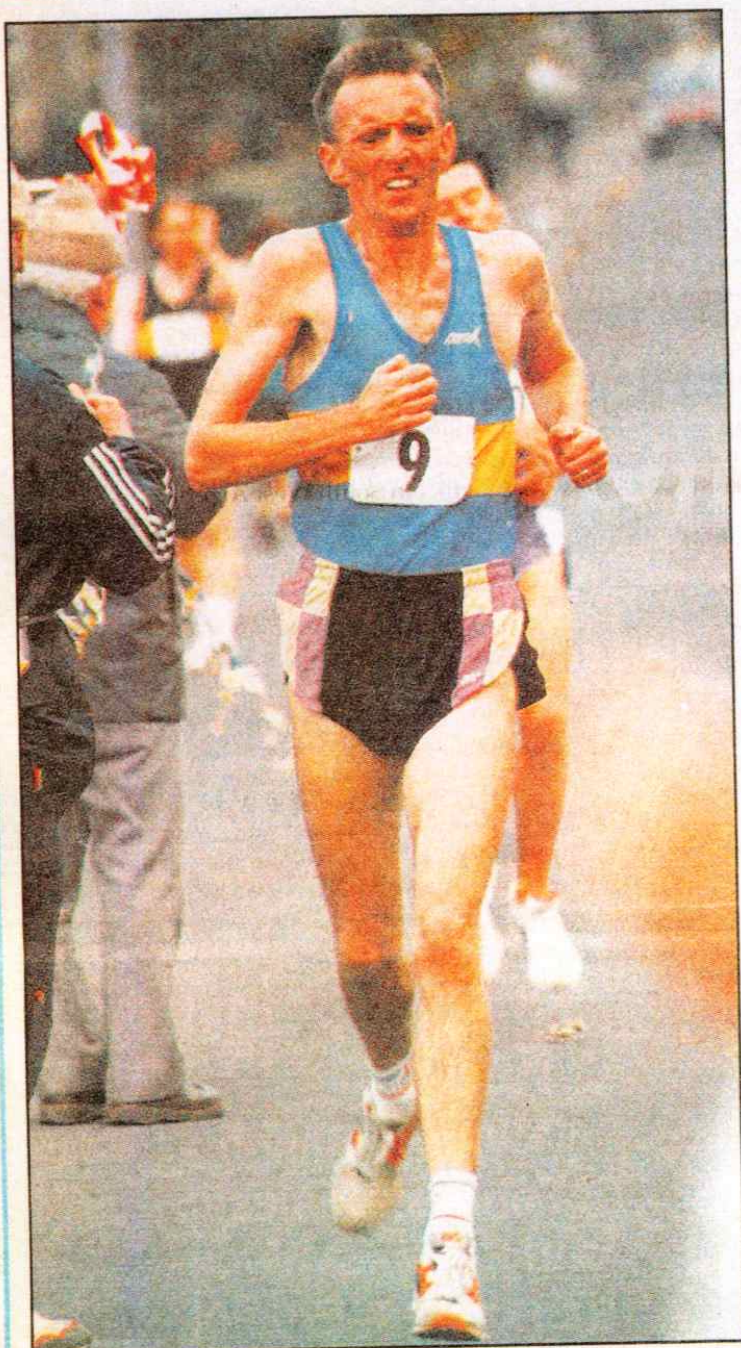




Harriers retain Allan Scally Memorial trophy

As 95 teams toed the starting line for the 27th Allan Scally Memorial Road Relay at Baillieston on Saturday, the stage was set for an epic struggle between last year's winners Shettleston Harriers, and holders for the three previous years, Leslie Deans Racing Club of Edinburgh.

In the end it was the Harriers quartet who won the day and broke the course record by 1m 20 secs - becoming the first team ever to run under 90 mins and the first to have all four runners inside 23 mins per lap. Over the first two laps Harriers' Billy Coyle and John Mackay ran personal bests of 22mins:15 secs and 22:30 respectively to give team-mate Adrian Callan a slender 2 second lead over their East Coast rivals. Adrian ran the 5th fastest time of the day, 22:18, but lost out to Glen Stewart of Rac-

ing Club who ran the fastest individual lap with 21:55.

As Olympic steeplechaser Tom Hanlon set off with a 21 second lead on the last lap, Racing Club were fairly confident of victory. Graham Wight of the Harriers had other ideas, though. He and Billy Coyle shared the third fastest individual times of the day to help the home team to victory.

The strength of the two main clubs was highlighted as Leslie Deans B & C teams finished 3rd and 4th respectively with Shettleston B team 1 second behind in fifth.

City of Glasgow won the ladies race in a new record time from Shettleston ladies with ex-Olympian Lynn McIntyre running the fastest individual lap in 26:45.

GLEN Stewart joined the Allan Scally Relay elite on Saturday, only the seventh Scot in 27 years to break 22 minutes for the 4.8-mile course in the prestigious four-stage Shettleston road event.

But his landmark run came too late to gain him inclusion in a new Scottish elite group — indeed, it could not even bring his team, Leslie Deans Racing Club, victory in the race.

When Stewart handed a 21-second lead to Olympic steeplechaser Tom Hanlon, victory appeared a formality. But the host's Graeme Wight produced an inspirational run to capitalise on inexplicable fragility from Hanlon and deliver one of the most memorable successes in Shettleston's history, only their third win in 15 years.

The winning time, 89min 19sec, was a record for the 4 x 4.8-mile race, and three of Shettleston's experienced winning quartet — Wight, John Mackay, and Billy Coyle — clocked their best individual performances. The fourth, Adrian Callan, had his second quickest time. It was also the first time that each member of a winning team had been inside 23 minutes.

Starting off so far in arrears Wight had written off any chance of catching Olympic steeple-chasing superman Hanlon.

But the man most likely to have challenged Stewart's time might have been doped with kryptonite for his lack of response. "I am not tired," Hanlon said afterwards. "There was just nothing there."

Recent good training seems to rule out any hangover from a flu virus three weeks ago, and his clubmates are confident Hanlon will be fit for the Barr's Edinburgh-Glasgow relay a week on Sunday.

"It will turn out all right in a fortnight — easy. You wait and see," predicted Racing Club's



DOUG GILLON

founder, Alan Robson, referring with justification to their prospects in the the eight-stage race which is the winter's principal road event.

Leslie Deans not only finished runners-up, also inside their own four-year-old record, but their B and C squads were third and fourth — the only club ever to fill three places in the first four.

Robson's personal performance gave him less pleasure however. He has decided to drop himself, his first absence in a decade, since recovering from being scythed by a motor bike in Australia in 1984 — an injury which left him with a pin in his leg, and a permanent gait problem.

Racing's Ian Brown had six seconds to spare over Coyle on the opening leg, but Mackay, married to the grand-daughter of the man whom the race commemorates, sprinted past Davie Ross, giving Shettleston a two-second lead.

It was Callan who brought the best out of Stewart, on his heels till half distance, but forced to leak 21 seconds by the final changeover.

Putting Stewart's run into perspective, the only Scots to have run faster are Nat Muir, Allister Hutton, John Robson, and Jim Brown — all at the peak of their careers.

Muir, course record-holder at 21-26, was the world's third fastest 5000m man, Hutton London Marathon winner, Robson Commonwealth 1500m bronze medallist, and Brown world junior cross-country champion.

Those to have run fastest laps over the years, but slower than Stewart's on Saturday, include Commonwealth internationalists Dick Wedlock and Gareth Bryan-Jones, four-times Scottish cross-country champion Andy McKean, and World and European junior 1500m champion Graham Williamson.

Which makes it all the more surprising that Stewart has just learned he does not qualify for the Scottish Athletics Federation's new performance elite group. The 20 names were supposed to have been announced last week, and if Stewart, the country's No.2 1500m runner behind European indoor champion David Strang, can be omitted, then it suggests there could be further glaring anomalies to provoke outrage when the squad is finally revealed.

Stewart's father, the former Commonwealth 10,000m champion, Lachie, a dental technician, said he would provide the financial backing which his son will be denied as a result of exclusion. "After all," he said pointedly, "Glen is already a good deal faster on this course than I ever was."

Lynne McIntyre, the former Olympic 1500m finalist, clocked the fastest individual time to lead City of Glasgow to victory in the women's race, Strathclyde took the Scottish Universities' relay title, and Teviotdale the Blair Trophy, presented by Springburn for a contest open only to Scotland's 100-year-old clubs. Details:

1, Shettleston Harriers (W Coyle 22-15, J Mackay 22-30, A Callan 22-18, G Wight 22-15) 89mins 18secs (course record); 2, Leslie Deans Racing Club (I Brown 22-09, D Ross 22-38, G Stewart 21-55, T Hanlon 23-25) 90-07; 3, LDRC B (F McGowan 22-33, J Robson 22-52, A Robson 22-30, I Veitch 23-45); 4, LDRC C 93-59; 5, Shettleston B 94-00; 6, Falkirk 95-15. Veterans: Cambuslang 99-50. Fastest lap: 1, G Stewart 21-55, I Brown 22-09; 3 equal, G Wight and W Coyle 22-15; 5, A Callan 22-18; 6, J Mackay 22-30; 7, F McGowan 22-33; 8, I Johnston (Falkirk) 22-36; 9, D Ross 22-38; 10, S Cohen (LDRC C) 22-39.

Women: 1, City of Glasgow (L McIntyre 26-45, J Thompson 28-23, A Sym 27-09) 82-17; 2, Shettleston 85-40; 3, Strathclyde Univ. 89-36. Fastest laps: 1, L McIntyre 26-45; 2, A Sym 27-09; 3, E McBrinn 28-03; 4, A-M Hughes (both Shettleston) 28-15; 5, J Thompson 28-23.

Scottish Universities' Championships: 1, Strathclyde (G Kirk 24-01, E Calvert 24-09, M Fichie 26-38, I Tierney 22-58) 97-46; 2, Aberdeen 100-46; 3, Glasgow 102-55.

Kilner in control

DEBBIE Kilner won the opening race of the Scottish women's cross-country league, incorporated in yesterday's Hydrasun Open meeting, and led her club, Aberdeen, to victory in the team contest. Internationalist Allan Reid (Peterhead) won the men's after trailing tenth at halfway. He outsprinted Hawkhill's Charlie Haskett whose club lost the team race by just one point, to Metro. Results:

Men: 1, A Reid (Peterhead) 26-21; 2, C Haskett (Dundee HH) 26-23; 3, N Milovsorov 26-43. Veteran: K Varney 26-50 (both Metro). Junior: J Chalmers (Aberdeen) 30-35. Team: Metro. Under-17: M Smith (Tayside) 18-28. Team: DHH. Under-15: C McMackin (Law) 15-20. Team: Arbroath. Under-13: D McDonald (DHH) 9-47. Team: Minolta. Under-11: G Oudrey (DHH) 6-03. Team: Moray.

Women: 1, D Kilner (Aberdeen) 19-49; 2, A Carr (DHH) 20-17; 3, H Grant 20-50. Veteran: K Mearns 21-34 (both Aberdeen). Team: Aberdeen. Under-20: S Fairweather (City of Glasgow) 16-11. Under-17: C Broad (Moray) 16-49. Team: Aberdeen. Under-15: J McRorie (JGB Central) 12-38. Team: JGB Central. Under-13: J Logie (Moray) 10-31. Team: Aberdeen. Under-11: S Gibb (Fraserburgh) 6-25. Team: Aberdeen.

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Record-breakers: John Mackay (9) of the winners, Shettleston, and Davie Ross (10, Leslie Deans Racing Club) both of whose teams broke the Allan Scally course record. Mackay had the better on this stage, with a sprint finish. 4/11/95

Picture: MAURICE McDONALD