

Mizuno lose out to Bog Trotters

ATHLETICS

MIZUNO Racing Club, aiming for a fourth consecutive win in Shettleston Harriers Allan Scally 4 x 4.8-mile road relay race at Bailieston, were foiled by a surprise win from Hunters Bog Trotters.

In a race where the prize winners were handicapped by the absence of many of their top runners, the verdict was decided by which club could make the best of the runners at their disposal on the day.

Though the Bog Trotters finished only eighth on the opening lap, over half a minute down on the leaders, Phil Mowbray, one of Scotland's most underrated distance runners, hauled them into a 46-second lead over Mizuno at half distance when recording 22min 28sec for the fastest lap of the day.

Ian Harkness gained another 29 seconds from John Ross (Mizuno) on the third lap and a disconsolate Glen Stewart watched Donald Naylor set off on the final lap with a lead of 75 seconds. Though Stewart had hoped to catch the leaders with his usual storming, grandstand finish, the gap, and the enforced solo run in wind and rain proved too much for him, especially when Naylor recorded the third fastest lap of the race to yield only 25 seconds to the chasing Stewart.

Usually taken as a firm indicator to establish the favourites for the eight-stage relay race from Edinburgh to Glasgow later this month, both Mizuno and Shettleston claimed that they had up to five of their top runners missing and Hunters Bog Trotters also stated that they had some of their stars in reserve.

Shettleston Ladies, with two of the top runners of the day in their team, recorded their third win in four years in the women's three stage race defeating Edinburgh University by over seven minutes.

Results:

1, Hunters Bog Trotters (G Brown 24min 40sec, P Mowbray 22-28, I Harkness 23-26, D Naylor 23-19) 1hr 33min 53sec; 2, Mizuno Racing Club (M Colligan 24-15, M Carroll 23-39, J Ross 23-55, G Stewart 22-44) 1-34-33; 3, Shettleston (G Kirk 24-55, G Wight 23-53, F McGowan 24-34, J Mackay 23-46) 1-37-08; 4, Kilbarchan 1-37-19; 5, Mizuno RC B 1-38-14; 6, Ronhill Cambuslang 1-39-23. Fastest Laps: 1, P Mowbray 22-28; 2, G Stewart 22-44; 3, D Naylor 23-19; 4, I Harkness 23-26; 5, M Carroll 23-39; 6, T Hearle (Kilbarchan) 23-43. Women: 1, Shettleston Ladies: E McBrinn 27-52; P MacKay 29-50; L McNeil 28-34) 1-26-16; 2, Edinburgh University 1-33-40; 3, Edinburgh University B 1-37-22; 4, City of Edinburgh 1-37-39. Fastest Laps: 1, E McBrinn 27-52; 2, G Palmer (Edinburgh University) 28-05; 3, L McNeil 28-34.

Scottish Universities Road Relay Championships.

Men: 1, Edinburgh University 1-44-22; 2, Aberdeen University 1-48-13; 3, Strathclyde University 1-57-38. Fastest Lap: A Mercedes (Edinburgh) 25-29. Women: 1, Edinburgh University 1-33-40; 2, Edinburgh University B 1-37-22; 3, Edinburgh University C 1-47-33. Fastest Lap: G Palmer (Edinburgh) 28-05.

There was a surprise result at the weekend when a team, which started out as a tongue-in-cheek bunch of mavericks, ended up wrong-footing the hot favourites in the Allan Scally memorial four-man road relay.

Edinburgh team Hunters Bogtrotters powered up a 40-second lead over hot favourites Mizuno, as Phil Mowbrey pulled up an impressive 30 seconds passing Mizuno's Mike Carroll in a storming second leg.

Not taking anything away from the Bogtrotters, who have turned out competent performances in the past picking up 2nds and 3rds, it has to be said, however, that both Shettleston Harriers, hosting the event, and arch rivals Mizuno failed to field their top teams. Shettleston's Eddie Callan, Billy Coyle and Stuart Gibson were conspicuous by their absence, while Mizuno's Tom Hanlon seems to have hung up his boots. The team was further weakened as Davey Ross was out for a toe operation and Scott Cohen was off on a Marathon mission in the States.

The result broke a string of successes for Mizuno's Glen Stewart, who has had fastest times for the past five years in the memorial meeting.

So, while Shettleston may have been pleased to see the run taken from Mizuno, they must surely be smarting at the Bogtrotters' success.

The message for Shettleston has to be could do better.