

# **SOUTH WESTERN RELAY CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Kirkstyle, Kilmarnock.**

**7th November, 1953.**

**T**ORRENTIAL rain during the first lap made conditions even more arduous for the runners and it was a strong going Davie Lapsley of West Kilbride who handed over a twenty yard lead to Jim Reid. Beith were in second place through plucky Ken. Phillips who handed out a thirty-five yard beating to the up and coming Archie Napier of Paisley. Plebeian were fourth, Kilmarnock third string fifth and Irvine Y.M.C.A. sixth. The holders—Greenock Wellpark H.—represented by the hardy George King had to be content with ninth place two hundred yards behind the leader.

Meantime George Lightbody was making things difficult for Jim Reid and despite the latter's dogged spirit soon opened up a gap. Internationalist and ex-mile champion Frank Sinclair was using that long graceful stride of his to some purpose however and with superb judgment brought Wellpark from ninth to a second position only twenty-five yards behind the leaders Beith. The locals, Kilmarnock first team, thanks to a splendid

run by J. Martin came from seventh to third—eighty yards behind Wellpark. Fifteen yards later came Paisley's W. McNeill. Irvine crept to fifth but were 120 yards further in the rear and had on their tail Kilmarnock's second team.

With young John Stevenson, Wellpark's second internationalist, doing duty in the third leg things began to look good for the Struthers Shield returning to Greenock and he handed over to brother Tom (number three Scotland runner) 120 yards clear of Beith who were second. Kilmarnock followed 85 yards behind with Paisley fourth. Gilbert Adamson running a very fast lap had taken West Kilbride from eighth to fifth place.

At the first change-over it seemed to be all over bar the shouting but the tenacity of young Ian Harris, the eighteen-year-old Beith boy, was good to see and when Tom Stevenson injured himself at a fence the lead was rapidly cut down. Stevenson hung on however to record a victory of fifty yards for Wellpark.

#### Results :

1. **Greenock Wellpark H.** (G. King, 17.10 ; F. Sinclair, 16.00 ; J. Stevenson, 16.16 ; T. Stevenson, 16.43)—**66m. 09s.**

2. **Beith H.** (K. Phillips, 16.35 ; G. Lightbody, 16.30 ; J. W. Armstrong, 16.45 ; I. Harris, 16.29)—**66m. 19s.**

3. **Kilmarnock H.** (W. Morton, 16.54 ; J. Martin, 16.32 ; R. Millar, 16.41 ; J. McPheely, 17.07)—**67m. 14s.**

4. **Paisley H.** (A. Napier, 16.42 ; W. McNeill, 16.47 ; J. Deveney, 16.56 ; J. Campbell, 16.59)—**67m. 24s.**

5. **Irvine Y.M.C.A. H.** (D. Andrews, 16.47 ; J. Leash, 17.07 ; E. Allan ; 16.52 ; S. Cuthbert, 16.52)—**67m. 38s.**

6. **West Kilbride A.S.C.** (D. Lapsley, 16.31 ; J. Reid, 17.47 ; G. Adamson, 16.20 ; T. Coleman, 17.07)—**67m. 45s.**

7. **Kilmarnock H. & A.C. "B"** (W. More, 17.01 ; G. Martin, 16.59 ; G. Wilson, 16.47 ; J. Burns, 17.29)—**68m. 16s.**

8. **Irvine Y.M.C.A. H. "B"** (J. Dempster, 17.57 ; J. Dunlop, 17.27 ; J. Lawson, 17.46 ; K. Alexander, 17.02)—**70m. 12s.**

9. **Plebeian H.** (A. Small, 16.43 ; J. McCann, 17.25 ; T. Monaghan, 18.12 ; T. McQuade, 18.07)—**70m. 27s.**

10. **Paisley H. "B"** (J. Feeley, 17.22 ; T. Fellowes, 17.31 ; G. Crerar, 18.06 ; J. Sellars, 17.54)—**70m. 53s.**

11. **Kilmarnock H. & A.C. "C"** (J. Young, 16.45 ; L. Scott, 18.42 ; D. Todd, 17.51 ; A. Connar, 18.12)—71m. 30s.

12. **Ayr A.A.C.** (J. Ferguson, 18.11 ; M. Goodwin, 17.33 ; C. Neill, 18.00 ; T. Gerrish, 17.48)—71m. 32s.

13. **Greenock Glenpark H.** (R. Cox, 17.23 ; A. Deas, 18.10 ; D. McFarlane, 17.51 ; J. Taft, 18.44)—72m. 08s.

14. **Beith H. "B"** (H. Walker, 18.00 ; S. Maxwell, 17.40 ; A. McGookin, 17.33 ; H. Maxwell, 19.08)—72m. 21s.

15. **Paisley H. "C"** (C. McCart, 17.35 ; W. Miller, 17.38 ; E. McLaughlin, 18.59 ; A. McGinn, 18.53)—73m. 05s.

16. **Plebeian H. "B"** (F. Cassels, 18.31 ; H. Love, 19.14 ; P. McDermid, 19.09 ; A. Robertson, 18.05)—74m. 59s.

17. **Kilbarchon A.A.C.** (R. Douglas, 19.18 ; T. Millar, 18.36 ; W. Douglas, 19.05 ; J. Gardiner, 19.02)—76m. 01s.

18. **Auchmountain H.** (J. Cairns, 17.19 ; J. K. Bryce, 18.50 ; J. Findlay, 20.38 ; J. McLean, 19.29)—76m. 10s.

#### Fastest Times :

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| 1.—F. Sinclair (G. W. H.).   | 16m. 00s. |
| 2.—J. Stevenson (G. W. H.)   | 16m. 16s. |
| 3.—G. Adamson (W. K'bride)   | 16m. 20s. |
| 4.—I. Harris (Beith H.). ... | 16m. 29s. |
| 5.—G. Lightbody (Beith H.).  | 16m. 30s. |