

MIDLAND DISTRICT
RELAY CHAMPIONSHIPS
LOCHINCH 4TH NOVEMBER 1972

Shettleston's relay domination ends

By RON MARSHALL

For the first time in six years the name of Shettleston Harriers will not go down as winners of the Midland District relay championship. Even less likely will it be recorded anywhere that they lost without flickering an iota of interest in any of the few dozen bystanders at Lochinch playing fields, Dumbreck.

The domination, the ease belonged for a change to Victoria Park, who, in Shettleston fashion, took the lead on the first of the four legs and never relinquished it. Three of the four who appeared for Shettleston would not blanch at the description "stand-in," for they were no more than that. Absent were Blamire, Stewart, Wedlock, and Bannon, and no team can afford this loss.

This, according to a leading official of the club, was not considered one of their priority meetings — the absentees were being "rested" for next week's club and International race at Parliament Hill, London, being televised by BBC. Only Norman Morrison of their London team pulled on a pair of running shoes, and his effort was far from full.

blooded, lifting them from thirteenth to eighth on the third leg. Their last man, Daniel O'Kane, slipped once more to thirteenth.

Victoria Park were extremely well served by David McMeekin and Pat Maclagan. McMeekin led in the 45 starters on the first leg in 12min. 26sec., third best of the day as it turned out. Hugh Barrow, one of the most familiar figures in an athletics vest these last few years, conserved first place, and then Maclagan sealed the victory by carving out an unbeatable lead for his last man, Colin Youngson. Maclagan, timed at 12min. 26sec., was second fastest of the race.

The honour of being fastest fell once again to the amazing workhorse of Monkland Harriers. 20-year-old Jim Brown. He thrives on adversity. Running the last leg, he strode off in tenth place and covered the two-and-a-half miles of true cross-country terrain in 12min. 7sec., overtaking four runners on the way. Indeed, he only just failed to catch one of Springburn's veterans, Eddie Sinclair, by two seconds on the run-in.

Clydesdale Harriers had

every reason to be delighted at taking second place and all the more creditable in the absence of Allan Faulds, usually their leading man. Ian Donald ran nobly as Faulds's replacement on the second leg, surrendering only two places in dropping to sixth. Philip Dolan lifted them to third and then Douglas Gemmell made Clydesdale's day by passing Alec Brown (Law and District) on the final, at the same time turning in the sixth best time of the championship.

FINE POLICING

The trail markings and stewarding were exemplary — they could hardly be otherwise, manned by Glasgow Police cadets. The Lochinch ground is the police sports ground and if anyone was disappointed with the work done by those sports-conscious policemen, Harry Stephens and George Boyes, he must be hard to please.

1. Victoria Park (D. McMeekin 12min. 38sec., H. Barrow 12-30, P. Maclagan 12-36, C. Youngson 12-46), 50-20; 2. Clydesdale Harriers (A. Marshall 12-47, I. Donald 12-54, P. Dolan 12-41, D. Gemmell 12-32), 50-34; 3. Law and District (T. McCann 12-39, D. Simpson 12-36, Andrew Brown 12-48, Alec Brown 12-46), 51-4; 4. Dumbarton A.A.C. 51-43; 5. Springburn Harriers, 52-1; 6. Monkland Harriers, 52-4.

Fastest individuals — 1. J. Brown (Monkland), 12-7; 2. Maclagan, 12-26; 3. McMeekin, 12-28; 4. J. McCollie (Larkhall), 12-29; 5. McCann, 12-30; 6. Gemmell, 12-32.

**Midland Dist. Cross Country Relay, at Glasgow,
November 4th.** 1, Victoria Pk (D. McMeekin
12.28, H. Barrow 12.50, P. McLagan 12.26, C.
Youngson 12.36) 50.20; 2, Clydesdale (A. Marshall
12.47, I. Donald 12.54, P. Dolan 12.41, D. Gemmell
12.32) 50.54; 3, Law & Dist. (T. McCann 12.30, D.
Simpson 12.56, Andrew Brown 12.48, Alex Brown
12.46) 51.00; 4, Dumbarton (W. Cairns 12.49,
R. Chapman 12.48, H. Martin 13.33, C. Martin
12.33) 51.43; 5, Springburn (T. O'Reilly 13.00, H.
Gorman 12.53, E. Knox 12.59, E. Sinclair 13.10)
52.02; 6, Monkland (E. Devlin 12.53, W. Drysdale
13.33, P. Preston 13.27, J. Brown 12.11) 52.04;
7, Glasgow Police 52.49; 8, Glasgow Univ. 53.04;
9, Cambuslang 53.30; 10, Bellahouston 53.51; 11,
E. Kilbride 54.22; 12, Victoria Park 'B' 54.25;
13, Shettleston 54.44; 14, Springburn 'B' 54.46;
15, Larkhall YMCA 55.06. Fastest: J. Brown
12.11, McLagan 12.26, McMeekin 12.28, J.
McLuckie (Larkhall) 12.29, McCann 12.30, Gem-
mell 12.32.