

24/1/76

Reilly storms to Western title

Scotland's cross-country selectors have few opportunities to check on Anglos such as Laurie Reilly. Normally they have to rely on newspaper results from south of the Border, but on Saturday Reilly came north to reinforce the printed word with a victory of impressive dimension.

Slim, pale, scholarly looking, wearing unfashionable spectacles, Reilly gives the impression he would have a struggle lapping a kiddies' playground, far less the four circuits totalling six miles that an immense field of runners undertook at DrumHELLier Park, Coatbridge, in a quest for the Western District senior championship.

Appearances are deceptive. He is superbly fit. Winner last week of the East Lancashire cross-country title, Reilly counted among his victims Ron Hill and Mike Freary, two of the North of England's best-known faces. Last year on the track he dipped under 29 minutes for 10,000 metres, and his summer objective is to beat 28min. 30sec.

Big lead

On Saturday his aim was to stretch the biggest gap possible between himself and the rest. The result was beyond dispute. His ultimate lead was one of about 175 yards, his runner-up the familiar, bearded features of Frank Clement, who had stayed more or less in third place throughout. Phil Dolan (Clydesdale), leader at three-quarter distance, was third in 30min. 46sec., six seconds behind Clement.

Slowly the Scottish team for the International championships next month in Wales is beginning to fall

By RON MARSHALL

together. Reilly looks certain of selection for the third successive year, Ian Stewart, Andy McKean, Jim Brown, and Alistair Hutton are also comfortably placed. The battle for the four remaining places will be finally settled at the national championships on St Valentine's Day. To be sure, no love will be lost on the course that afternoon.

Springburn Harriers continue their domination of the younger age groups. Masters Murray, Williamson, and Barr were top of the class in the youths', senior boys', and junior boys' events, although only one team race brought Springburn victory.

The championships were held with the considerable assistance of Monklands District Council and Clyde Valley A.C. Results:

Senior six miles—1. L. Reilly (Victoria Park), 30min. 17sec.; 2. F. Clement (Bellahouston), 30-40; 3. P. Dolan (Clydesdale), 30-46; 4. D. McMeekin (Victoria Park), 31-00; 5. W. Sheridan (Glasgow Univ.), 31-10; 6. J. Burns (Shettleston), 31-14. Team race—Shettleston, 180 pts. Youths' four miles—1. I. Murray (Springburn), 20-14; 2. B. McSloy (Clyde Valley), 20-26; 3. A. Smith (Shettleston), 20-31. Team race—Clyde Valley, 55 pts. Senior boys' three miles—1. G. Williamson (Springburn), 16-12; 2. G. Adams (Victoria Park), 16-28. Team race—Victoria Park, 15 pts. Junior boys' two miles—1. R. Barr (Springburn), 11-7; 2. P. McIntyre (Springburn), 11-15. Team race—Springburn, 8 pts.

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24/1/76

Reilly beats Clement on last lap

Laurie Reilly (Victoria Park AAC) returned from studies at Manchester University to score an impressive victory, in 30min 17sec, in the Western District six-mile cross-country championships at Drumpellier Park, Coatbridge.

Reilly was the early leader, shadowed by Philip Dolan (Clydesdale Harriers) and Frank Clement (Bellahouston Harriers) for most of the race. He proved the stronger on the last lap, breaking clear to win by 130 yards from a surprisingly strong Clement, the British mile record holder, 30min 14sec who got the better of Dolan (30.46) in the last half-mile.

Shettleston Harriers, who included Lachie Stewart on the comeback trail, won a close team contest scoring 130 points to narrowly defeat the holders, Victoria Park (133) with Cambuslang Harriers 224 points in third place.

Adrain Weatherhead (Edinburgh AC) has a habit of picking his races carefully, especially in cross-country; but when he does turn out he usually wins. On Saturday he

Scotland's Nat Muir won the junior cross-country race at the 21st International San Sebastian meeting in Spain yesterday.

decided that due to his lack of speed training recently he would concentrate on the East of Scotland race at Cupar rather than the 1500 metres at the national indoor championships at Cosford although his long-term aim is selection over that distance for the Olympics.

Weatherhead left no-one in any doubt of his ability over the country however, with a decisive win. He opened up a lead of 60 yards over the first of three laps, widened it to nearly 150 after the second, and eased off to win by 80 yards from Dundee University's Paul Kenney at the finish. Weatherhead covered the six miles course in 29min 53sec.

RESULTS

Senior six-mile race - 1. A. Weatherhead (Edinburgh AC), 29min 53sec; 2. P. Kenney (Dundee University), 30.6; 3. D. MacGregor (Fife AC), 30.17. Team race - 1. Edinburgh AC (1. 6. 7. 9. 11. 15), 49 points; 2. Edinburgh University, 188; 3. Edinburgh Southern Harriers, 197. Youths' four-mile race - 1. D. Ross (Edinburgh AC), 21.40; 2. L. Walker (Aberdeen AC), 22.2; 3. R. Adams (Falkirk Victoria), 22.8. Team race - Central Region AC, 26; 2. Edinburgh AC, 29; 3. Aberdeen AC, 45. Senior boys (3 miles) - 1. C. Hunt (Teviotdale Harriers), 18.14. Team race - Teviotdale Junior Boys (3 miles) - 1. 1. Steel (Edinburgh Southern), Team race - 1. Falkirk Victoria.

Hislop protest endorsed by TV replay

Viewers of BBC Television in Scotland—who missed most of the best action from Cosford due to the indoor hockey being screened at the same time—were deprived of a chance to judge for themselves one of the most controversial decisions of the British Indoor Athletics Championships on Saturday.

Drew Hislop (Edinburgh Southern), winner of the Cosford Games event a fortnight ago was placed sixth, a decision greeted with disbelief by the Scots in the arena. A protest did result in a change of mind by the judges but only to fifth, though Hislop was given the same time as the winner Chris Monk, and the runner-up Les Piggot (Garscube).

Viewers in England had no doubts, however, that Hislop was no worse than third, a view confirmed by the BBC commentating team with the aid of a replay.

The decision was a vital one as Hislop has never been capped and the first two will almost certainly go into the team for next Saturday's international against East Germany. As it is, Piggot, at 33, has probably fought his way back into the team — a fine achievement.

FIRST CAP

In the 200 metres Hislop's training partner Drew McMaster (Edinburgh AC) almost certainly clinched his first cap by winning by 3 metres in 22.0 secs, a UK national indoor record. It was superb running on the tight board circuit.

Scotland's other home winner was Liz Sutherland (Edinburgh Southern) who improved her best to 8.3 secs, only a tenth outside the UK and Commonwealth best, in winning the 60 metre hurdle, and Anglo-Scot Mary Stewart (Birchfield), who has been clocking impressive times recently, won the 800 metres in 2 minutes 8.2 seconds, despite a slight leg injury.

Scotland's other medallists were Myra Nimmo (Glasgow University), who must have been far from happy with her second place to Sue Reeve in the long jump, with 20 feet 1 inch; Edinburgh AC who were second in the junior men's sprint relay and Ann Robertson (Central Region) and Chris Haskett (Stretford) third in the 400 metres and 1500 metres, respectively.

Paul Kenney richly deserved his second place, fulfilling the earlier promise. There is no doubt that he will be a force to be reckoned with in the senior ranks. Paul, of course, took the junior title also.

Local boy Don McGregor on his first run over this course really looked fitter and more purposeful than for many months. Hoping to make the UK Olympic marathon team for the second time Don used this six-mile "sprint" as part of his preparation for the trial. He fought off a fast finishing Willie Day for third place with a furious last sprint to the finish.

Willie Day is also looking well these days. In this race he beat a host of good much younger runners and at one point near the end looked capable of catching McGregor.

Edinburgh Southern's first finisher was that grand club man Martin Craven in fifth place. With a good last lap Craven overtook Doug Gunstone and drew clear with a strong finish.

Doug Gunstone was 6th and Danny Knowles 7th, behind Adrian Weatherhead laid the foundation of Edinburgh AC's winning team. Ian Orton ran into 8th place to give Edinburgh University the basis of a popular second place in the team competition. Then came John Kerr (EAC), Graham Laing (AAAC), Robin Morris (EAC) and Mel Edwards (AAAC) in 12th place.

A shadow of their usual selves Edinburgh Southern Harriers were third, Fife AC fourth, Falkirk Victoria fifth and Aberdeen AAC sixth.

WESTERN DISTRICT CC CHAMPIONSHIPS COATBRIDGE, 24 JANUARY, 1975

The feature of these championships was the triple success of Springburn Harriers who took the Junior Boys, Senior Boys and Youths individual titles. In addition they won the Junior Boys team title.

The meeting was graced by the presence of STV cameras whose limitations necessitated Lawrie Reilly (VP) running his victory finish in the senior race three times no less until they got it "in the can" (I think that's the correct lingo).

JUNIOR BOYS

It was all Springburn here with R. Barr winning in 11.07, R. McIntyre 2nd in 11.13, A. Callan 4th and E. Ward 5th. P. Martin of Clyde Valley split them up in 3rd place in 11.20. A. Gaughan (St. Col) was 6th in 11.38. Victoria Park took second place and Clyde Valley third.

SENIOR BOYS

G. Williamson was the Springburn here here with a fine win in 16.12 from G. Adams (VP) 16.28. A. Douglas also Victoria Park in third place pretty well ensured the team title for his club. G. Millar (St. Col) was 4th in 16.53, F. Stewart (CV) 5th in 16.56 and D. Kirk (Dumb. AC) 6th in 17.05. Clyde Valley took second team place and St. Columba's third.

YOUTHS

The West district is fortunate too in having a number of top class youth runners. Among the best of these are Ian Murray (Springburn), Brian McSloy (Clyde Valley) and Andrew Smith (Shettleston). They are at home in the country or on the track and being of similar calibre enjoy the advantages of good healthy competition between themselves.

In the four-mile youth race the three stalwarts pushed each other to very fine performances with Ian Murray emerging the winner this time in 20.14. Brian McSloy who beat Ian in the Glasgow race the previous week, had to be content with second place in 20.26. Steeplechase star Andrew Smith was a close third in 20.31.

Strong-going Clyde Valley AC won the team title with 35 points. East Kilbride were second with 41 points and Shettleston third with 43.

G. Paterson (CV) was fourth in 21.06, W. McDonald (EK) fifth in 21.52 and G. Braidwood sixth in 21.55.



IAN MURRAY winner of West District Youth title

SENIORS

Victoria Park's Lawrie Reilly made the journey from Manchester to his native Glasgow to win the title. He is obviously going to make a successful transition from junior to senior ranks and could easily spark off a revival of Victoria Park's fortunes.

Taking an early lead Lawrie set a hot pace but found Phil Dolan of Clydesdale a tenacious rival. Frank Clement (Bellahouston) was always in contention and overtook Dolan with speedy finish. David McMeekin kept Victoria Park in the picture with a fine fourth place followed by Willie Sheridan (GU) and Jim Burns (Shettleston) who was the first junior.

Helped by Lachie Stewart in 22nd place Shettleston Harriers just clinched the title with 130 points from Victoria Park who scored 133. Cambuslang Harriers were third with 224 points.

MONTREAL CLIFF-HANGER

18 JANUARY 1976 The Quebec Cabinet Minister responsible for the construction of Canada's Olympic Games facilities in Montreal said that the Games would open on time on July 17. "There is no question of asking for a postponement of the Games".