

Veterans CC title to Dick Hodelet

FORMER SCOTTISH half mile champion and record holder, Dick Hodelet, won an engrossing race-long battle to take the Scottish National Veterans Cross Country title over a 10km course at Drumpellier Park, Coatbridge on February 12th.

Hodelet is fulfilling the aims and intentions of Veteran athletics by displaying that there is indeed "an enjoyable life after 40". He surprised many better known rivals when finishing third in the World Veterans 10km Road Race Championships at Perpignan last autumn, and his victory at Coatbridge showed great staying power and a strong finish that left Lachie Stewart, 1970 Commonwealth Games 10,000m champion, trailing on the final lap.

The two Greenockians set a fast pace from the gun, opening a 14 second gap from Roddy McFarquhar, with Stewart a few metres ahead of Hodelet in 7:32 at the end of the first lap. Hodelet started pushing the pace from that point, with his rival hanging on, and they were both 15:18 at half distance with the gap to McFarquhar widened to 34 seconds with Bill Scally and Brian Carty trailing 40m behind.

The leading pair went through the 'bell' in 23:12, with the Shettleston pair 50 seconds back, having passed McFarquhar. Hodelet opened up a decisive gap from Stewart, previously unbeaten in Veteran competition, and went on to win in 30:47, over 50m clear of his rival. Scally finished third and led Shettleston to a clear victory in the team race.

There was a presentation to Walter Ross, the founder of the Scottish Veterans Harriers Club, at the post-race celebrations at Coatbridge Outdoor Sports Centre, at which Emmett Farrell, the 'Grand Old Man' of Scottish athletics, detailed Walter's association with athletics over the past 50 years. His oration finished with the words of a Japanese lady who Walter had befriended at a World Veterans Championships, and her wish of six simple words "I hope you live for ever" was echoed by all present as summing up their own feelings.

1, R. Hodelet (Grenock Glenpark).....	30:47
2, L. Stewart (Spango Valley).....	30:58
3, W. Scally (Shettleston).....	31:57
4, B. Carty (Shett) 32:07; 5, R. McFarquhar (A'deen) 32:19; 6, A. Adams (Dumb) 32:33; 7, M. Craven (ESH) 33:00; 8, P. Cartwright (FVH) 33:10; 9, W. Ewing (Pit) 33:38; 10, A. McCall (Dumb) 33:48; 11, J. McMillan (Bella) 33:58; 12, W. Stoddart (G. W'park-O/50) 34:04; 13, J. Linaker (Pit) 34:10; 14, J. Moore (VP) 34:13; 15, T. Kelly (Shett) 34:17; 16, P. Cowan (Shett) 34:51; 17, T. O'Reilly (S'burn-O/50) 34:56; 18, D. McNeill (G. G'park) 35:04; 19, W. McBrinn (CV-O/50) 35:08; 20, D. Martin (SV) 35:10; 21, D. Fraser (Bella) 35:13; 22, A. Andrews (S'burn) 35:28; 23, G. Brown (ESH) 35:29; 24, I. McWatt (Dumb) 35:31; 25, B. McGonagle (Shett) 35:40; 26, D. McGhee (G. G'park) 35:46; 27, H. Muchamore 35:52; 28, J. Allison (Fife) 35:53; 29, J. Morrison (A'deen) 35:54; 30, J. Ramsay (EAC) 35:56. Teams: 1, Shettleston 22; 2, Dumbarton 40; 3, Greenock Glenpark 45; 4, Edinburgh Southern 62; 5, Bellahouston 75; 6, Spango Valley 77; 7, Victoria Park 95; 8, Springburn 102; 9, Irvine 128; 10, E. Kilbride 134. (O/60): 1, J. Kelly (Shett) 42:36; 2, T. Harrison (Mary) 42:38; 3, E. Farrell (Mary) 42:45. (Women): 1, Robertson (Scot. V) 44:08.	



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