

SIX inches of snow combined with a tough hilly course which rapidly turned into ankle deep mud for most of the trail made the Scottish Championships one of the most demanding of recent years.

Tommy Murray confirmed his status as Scotland's leading cross country runner this season with a brave display of front running which carried him to his first ever Scottish cross country title. After a short park land loop of around half a mile, pre-race favourite Murray and Anglo-Scot Neil Tennant were already to the fore of a tightly packed group of runners including Steve Ovett who was competing in his first ever Scottish Championship. By the end of the first lap of two and a half miles Murray and Tennant had forged a slight lead over another Englishman Paul Evans.

Moving out into the country for the second time Murray

broke away from Tennant and was on his way to victory. By the end of second lap the Greenock man had a 50 yard lead over Evans, while Robert Quinn had moved into third. Ovett meanwhile had worked his way into sixth position and was slowly closing on Peter Fox, the Dundee doctor, and Tennant who was gradually losing ground.

Murray continued to slowly build his lead during the final two and a half miles circuit and eventually emerged a popular winner by 100 yards.

During the last two miles the minor positions changed hands several times, with Evans eventually out sprinting Fox for second. Quinn meanwhile was passed by Ovett in the last 200 metres with a disappointed Tennant finishing an isolated sixth. In the team race Cambuslang confirmed their position as Scotland's leading

RESULTS

Men - 1, T Murray (Green) 44:52; 2, P Evans (Spring) 45:15; 3, P Fox (Dund) 45:20; 4, S Ovett (Annan) 45:30; 5, R Quinn (Kilb) 45:33; 6, N Tennant (ESH) 46:06; 7, C Haskett (Dund) 46:11; 8, D Cavers (Teviot) 46:19; 9, A Callan (Spring) 46:21; 10, S Hale (Perth) 46:32; 11, S Bradstock (Living) 47:11; 12, C Donnelly (Cambus) 47:15; 13, I Steel (ESH) 47:19; 14, A Walker (Teviot) 47:24; 15, P Dymoke (Living) 47:29; 16, K Lyall (ESH) 47:31; 17, A Beatty (Cambus) 47:36; 18, A McLellan (Calder G) 47:39; 19, I Mathieson (A'deen) 47:41; 20, C Thompson (Cambus) 47:43; 21, S Gibson (HBT) 47:49; 22, C Little (Vic P) 47:50; 23, B Emerson (Teviot) 47:52; 24, M Wallis (Vic P) 47:55; 25, O McShane (Cambus) 47:59; 26, G Getty (Cambus) 48:04; 27, R Hall (Teviot) 48:10; 28, A Gilmore (Cambus) 48:11; 29, D Frame (Law) 48:13; 30, R Stone (Hel) 48:13; 31, B Scally (Shett) 48:17; 32, I Archibald (EAC) 48:20; 33, C Runciman (Cambus) 48:24; 34, W Robertson (Bella) 48:27; 35, K Logan (Teviot) 48:27; 35, A Jenkins (EAC) 48:35; 37, M Ferguson (EAC) 48:40; 38, T Hearle (Kil)

48:42; 39, W Coyle (Shett) 48:42; 40, C Spence (Spango) 48:47; 41, J Wilkinson (Gala) 48:47; 42, J Bowman (Iness) 48:49; 43, D Donnet (Spring) 48:51; 44, E Stewart (Cambus) 48:55; 45, R Creswell (A'deen) 48:57; 46, R Cary (Annan) 48:59; 47, P Faulds (Falk) 49:03; 48, J Musgrave (A'deen) 49:05; 49, B Chinnick (Cambus) 49:09; 50, J Pentecost (Falk) 49:11; 51, R Boyd (Edin) 49:13; 52, D Cameryn (Shett) 49:13; 53, J Quinn (Glas) 49:17; 54, D Halton (Clyde) 49:19; 55, A Fair (Teviot) 49:20; 56, K Conley (Annan) 49:30; 57, B Potts (Clydes) 49:35; 58, J McKay (Shett) 49:42; 59, D McGonigle (Dund) 49:46; 60, D Murray (Kilm) 49:49; 61, M Gallagher (Mary) 49:49; 62, H Nicholson (Edin) 49:54; 63, J Graham (Help) 50:00; 64, P Dolan (Clyde) 50:00; 65, G Barklet (Heriot W Univ) 50:06; 66, A Swan (Shett) 50:08; 67, G White (Ayr) 50:08; 68, A Graham (Help) 50:13; 69, G Croll (E Kilbride) 50:13; 70, T Walker (Calder) 50:27; 71, M McQuaid (Cent Reg) 50:27; 72, D Ross (ESH) 50:30; 73, A Russell (Law) 50:42; 74, A Letham (Forth) 50:46; 75, D Peel (Glas) 50:49; 76, A Reed

Tommy Murray coped best with the demanding conditions at Hawick. Bill Blair reports.

distance club in recent years having all their finishers in the top 30. Local club, Teviotdale Harriers also packed well to finish second well clear of Shettleston in third.

In the junior race former British junior 5000 metre champion Clark Murphy scored

a fine win over Ian Tierney of East Kilbride. The younger age groups were notable for the continued dominance of Clydebank who picked up both youths and senior boys team titles and provided a convincing winner of the youths race in Malcolm Campbell.

(Cost) 50:49; 77, A Costigane (Kilb) 51:01; 78, D McDougal (Kilb) 51:03; 79, R Johnstone (Calder) 51:03; 80, I Johnston (Falk) 51:03; 81, G Harker (EAC) 51:07; 82, P Simpson (Pet) 51:08; 83, J Boardman (Dumfries) 51:13; 84, J Ross (Help) 51:17; 85, G McMaster (Falk) 51:17; 86, G Bell (Bella) 51:17; 87, S Hurley (Cambus) 51:21; 88, D Duguid (A'dean) 51:21; 89, R Fitzsimmonds (Bel-la) 51:24; 90, G Lane (A'dean) 51:26; 91, G Colvin (E Kilb) 51:30; 92, S Dempsey (Living) 51:34; 93, D Williams (Clyde B) 51:34; 94, M Gormley (Cambus) 51:34; 95, W Anderson (Gala) 51:34; 96, S Cohen (EAC) 51:38; 97, W Weir (Moth) 51:38; 98, I Seggi (Living) 51:38; 99, S Connaghan (Spang) 51:43; 100, G Grieve (Falk) 51:49. **Teams:** 1, Cambuslang 128, 2, Teviotdale 162; 3, Shettleston 353. **Juniors** - 1, C Murphy (Pit) 31:23; 2, I Pierney (E Kilbride) 31:41; 3, A Murray (Kilm) 31:57; 4, J Moody (Pit) 32:08; 5, P Reed (Dund) 32:51; 6, J Houston (Mother) 33:40; 7, A Gallagher (Mary) 33:20; 8, P McEwan (Kilm) 33:29; 9, R Blair (Vict P) 33:35; 10, C Vernon (St And) 33:42; 11, M Cameron (Kilm) 33:49; 12, G Higgins (Clyde) 33:55. **Teams:** 1, Kilmarnock 43; 2, Motherwell 63. **Youths** - 1, M Campbell (Clyde) 24:35; 2, S Barnett (Vict P)

25:01; 3, A McBeth (E Kilb) 25:31; 4, N Freer (Clyde) 25:45; 5, G Reed (Kilm) 25:48; 6, D McCartheny (EAC) 25:49; 7, M Friel (Kirk) 25:52; 8, S Wylie (Hamil) 26:04; 9, A Russell (Clyde) 26:16; 10, S McCaffery 26:17; 11, A Kinghorn (EAC) 26:22; 12, D Johnstone (Swin) 26:23. **Teams:** 1, Clydebank 24; 2, East Kilbride 124; 3, Pitreavie.

Senior Boys - 1, M McBeth (Cambus) 18:48; 2, M Kelso (Pit) 19:39; 3, E Toner (Kilm) 19:48; 4, S Meldrome (Pit) 19:51; 6, P Mowbray (Fife) 19:54; 6, D Griffin (Ness) 20:00; 7, D Watt (Clyde) 20:01; 8, N Western (Annan) 20:08; 9, M Dobbin (B'gate) 20:09; 10, A Noonie (Fife) 20:10; 11, D Fotheringham (Clyde) 20:17; 12, G Johnstone (Falk) 20:18. **Teams** 1, Clydebank 74; 2, Falkirk 88; 3, Cambuslang 107.

Junior Boys - 1, B Kerr (Spango) 12:46; 2, G Toner (Kilm) 12:53; 3, P Allen (Ayr) 13:11; 4, T Carty (B'gate) 13:24; 5, S Allen (Black I) 13:26; 6, B Maclean (Spango) 20:27; 7, S McNellan (Vict) 13:33; 8, M Anderson (Fraser) 13:34; 9, M McKeever (Law) 13:42; 10, C Wilson (A'dean) 13:49; 11, M Smith (Vict P) 13:54; 123, R Hay (EAC) 13:57. **Teams:** 1, Law 61; 2, Fraserburgh 75; 3, Victoria Park 35.