

Shettleston Repeat Edinburgh to Glasgow Road Relay Victory

November 20th

AT the function following the 31st Edinburgh—Glasgow classic sponsored by *The News of the World*, the script—as usual—was re-written a dozen times but most of these hypothetical versions still produced a happy ending for Shettleston, the holders. Certainly Victoria Park could point to the cruel twist when Colin Youngson went off course on the fourth stage: not only did he lose half his lead to Paul Bannon, but he gave the Shettleston youngster a big boost to morale at a critical point, and did incalculable damage to his own. And although Joe Reilly, 60 yards down on Norman Morrison when he took over the baton, made a great recovery for Victoria Park, the margin of his lead over the Shettleston man might have been greater. Joe knew of Norman's recent recovery from a nasal operation but what he didn't know was that his opponent had been in bed earlier in the week with a heavy cold. After bridging the gap, he was wary of his formidable opponent and it was only when he crushed the sub-four-minute-miler's finishing challenge that he realised that he might well have "tested" Norman earlier.

Jim Logan reports

Stage 1: The green vest of Edinburgh University later to drop into obscurity, was in the van on the person of quick-striding Jim Dingwall and



The start of the Edinburgh to Glasgow Road Relay, with Jim Dingwall (M1) of Edinburgh University in the lead. Fergus Murray

although he was being hauled in at Maybury Cross he finished in 26.52, just 2 seconds off the record held jointly by John Myatt and Mike Bradley. Veteran Bill Stoddart, second in 27.00, confessed he had mis-judged the distance, and had something in hand. More significantly, Hugh Barrow (27.03) put Victoria Park in third place, 25 seconds up on Shettleston's Tom Patterson (6th) and 50 seconds up on Edinburgh Southern's Joe Raeburn (11th). Frank Clement, Strathclyde University (27.05) was just 2 seconds better than Law's near-veteran Andy Brown, still a stage record-holder.

Stage 2: Marathon champion Pat MacLagan was quickly into the lead for Victoria Park but behind him Lachie Stewart was steadily picking off opponents, and with a mile or so to go the Commonwealth Games gold medallist had Pat in his slipstream. MacLagan held on tenaciously and was only 6 seconds behind at the change-over. John Myatt brought Strathclyde to third, 9 seconds further back and Doug Gunstone, in a fine flourish, put the quartered vest of Dundee Hawkhill in 4th place, 16 seconds behind Strathclyde. Mike Bradley brought Springburn from 8th to 5th, and Martin Craven put Edinburgh Southern into a more respectable 6th. Thus early, lack of depth was betrayed by the snakes-and-ladders movements of some clubs—Ron MacDonald sent Monkland racing up from 16th to 9th and Edinburgh University tumbled from 1st to 16th!

Stage 3: This was crucial for Shettleston, who had spent hours deliberating on the deployment

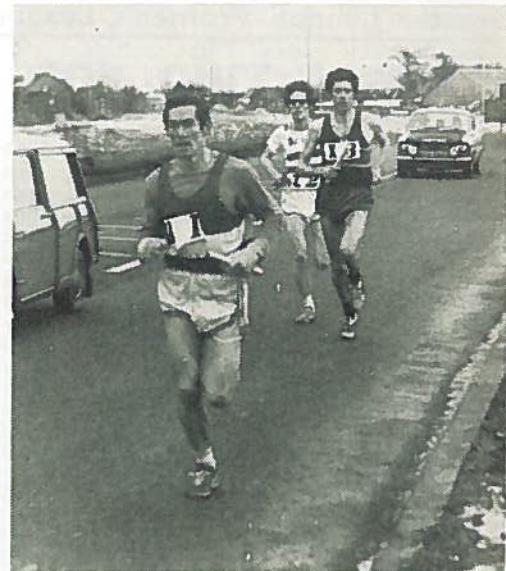
of their resources, and then had to re-arrange their runners after a late call-off by Bill Mullett. For Les Meneely, it was obviously a holding operation against the classy young McMeekin of Victoria Park and although quickly losing his initial advantage he kept the deficit from stretching to dangerous proportions. Even with a fastest-of-the-day stage run by McMeekin, Victoria Park were only 21 sec ahead at the change-over, and in fact Meneely was fourth fastest. Third fastest Stewart Gillespie moved Springburn to third, Convery made a huge advance for Edinburgh AC from 10th to 4th, with the second fastest leg, and Tom Coyle brought Edinburgh Southern to 5th. Clydesdale had climbed quietly from 12th on the first stage to 8th on the second and 6th on the third, and these six clubs occupied the top six places at the end, although not in the same order. Biggest fall of the day was Dundee Hawkhill, from 4th to 19th.

Stage 4: Former Aberdeen star Colin Youngson, now teaching in Glasgow, looked as if he would show the fabled Aberdonian tight-fistedness with his precious lead until the incident described earlier, and we can only conjecture on what it represented beyond the 50 yards or so actually lost. Eddie Knox kept Springburn in third place, and Bryan-Jones for Edinburgh Southern nudged Edinburgh AC's Alex Wight out of fourth place. Jim Brown briefly put Monkland in the top six with the fastest run of the stage, 9 sec outside Andy Brown's record of 27.37.

Stage 5: Joe Reilly, as described earlier, turned a 60y deficit into a lead of ten yards or so, Craig Douglas put Edinburgh Southern into third with the fastest run of the stage, knocking Springburn down to fourth, with Edinburgh AC retaining fifth place and Brian McAusland restoring Clydesdale to sixth.

Stage 6: Wedlock for Shettleston was quickly up on Alastair Johnston's shoulder, and clever Dick, with the sleet falling fast now, used his rival as a weather shield until he decided to move forward and hand over a lead of 70y to Tom Grubb. It was as-you-were for Edinburgh Southern, Springburn, Edinburgh AC and Clydesdale.

Stage 7: Tom Grubb was caught with only his top set of pants down, and ran the stage in his tracksuit bottoms. Surprisingly, he lopped 19 sec from Craig Douglas' 1969 record of 25.54 and



The leaders after 2 miles of the second stage: Lachie Stewart from J. Myatt and Pat MacLagan. Fergus Murray

18-year-old Fraser Logue of Victoria Park was also inside the figures, as was Edinburgh Southern's Brown. Edinburgh AC and Springburn swapped places and Clydesdale stayed in sixth place.

Stage 8: "Do you think Henry's limping?" Henry Summerhill, with a lead of over half-a-minute quickly dispelled this hopeful thought from the opposition and was just one second short of a minute to the good when he smiled his way down Ingram Street, with a new stage record. Springburn and Edinburgh AC again changed places. Greenock Glenpark, brought in as a replacement, were tenth and won the medals for the most meritorious performance.

1, Shettleston (T. Patterson 27.28, L. Stewart 28.33, L. Meneely 21.46, P. Bannon 28.48, N. Morrison 27.40, R. Wedlock 31.57, T. Grubb 25.25, H. Summerhill 27.31) 3:39.08.

2, Victoria Park (H. Barrow 27.03, P. MacLagan 29.04, D. McMeekin 21.19, C. Youngson 29.19, J. Reilly 27.29, A. Johnston 32.10, F. Logue 25.46, A. Smith 27.57) 3:40.07.

3, Edinburgh SH (J. Raeburn 27.53, M. Craven 29.37, T. Coyle 21.58, G. Bryan-Jones 28.46, C. Douglas 27.09, F. Murray 33.04, G. Brown 25.29, K. Ballantyne 28.01) 3:41.7.

4, Springburn (C. Falconer 27.30, M. Bradley 29.25, S. Gillespie 21.43, E. Knox 29.35, H. Gorman 28.16, I. MacIntosh 33.29, T. O'Reilly 26.22, W. Ramage 29.38) 3:45.58.

5, Edinburgh AC (E. Fisher 28.33, J. Alder 29.32, J. Convery 21.22, A. Wight 28.42, A.

continued on page 32

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SCOTTISH continued from page 5

Mathieson 29.09, J. Wight 32.43, D. Taylor 25.57, J. Keenan 30.22) 3:46.26.

6, Clydesdale (P. Dolan 28.16, D. Gemmell 29.33, R. Paton 22.27, I. Leggatt 30.28, B. McAusland 29.03, A. Faulds 33.27, R. Shields 26.11, I. Donald 28.32) 3:48.07.

7, Aberdeen 3:54.47; 8, Law & Dist. 3:55.59; 9, Monkland 3:56.18; 10, Greenock Glenpark 3:57.02; 11, Edinburgh Univ. 3:57.45; 12, Glasgow Univ. 3:57.46; 13, Bellahouston 3:58.04; 14, Dumbarton 3:59.14; 15, Greenock Wellpark 3:59.22; 16, Strathclyde Univ. 4:00.26; 17, Dundee Hawkhill 4:00.46; 18, East Kilbride 4:02.34; 19, Aberdeen Univ. 4:09.36; 20, Teviotdale 4:12.35. **Fastest:** (Stage 1) J. Dingwall (Edin. U) 26.52; (2) Stewart 28.33; (3) McMeekin 21.19; (4) J. Brown (Monkland) 27.46; (5) Douglas 27.09, (6) A. McKean (Edin. Un) 31.36; (7) Grubb 25.25 (Rec); (8) Summerhill 27.31 (Rec).