

Shettleston Come From Behind

A SIGNIFICANT factor in the success of Shettleston Harriers' famous football neighbours Glasgow Celtic is their ability to win matches when the team is under strength or below form. Shettleston showed this characteristic in retaining their Edinburgh to Glasgow Relay honour on November 18th: an apparently disastrous first leg which left them trailing in 16th position in a field of twenty, and nearly 1½ minutes behind the leaders, put them in a difficult position but amidst all the fitful brilliance of the opposition, they punched steadily through the field until a record breaking fifth leg by Dick Wedlock put them in the lead, which they continued to consolidate until the finish in Ingram Street.

Ian Stewart's electrifying second leg for Aberdeen was the individual feat of the day, giving a lift in two senses to the club, and comment at the dinner-presentation afterwards centred on the influence of the Anglo-Scots on the results. A sharp distinction was made between "exiles" who came back to run for their clubs of origin and long-established Anglos whose Scottish club affiliations were subsequent to their emergence as top performers.

Stage 1: The resurgent Dick Hodelet, national 880y champion in 1964, went from the front but the fast-improving Alastair Hutton of Edinburgh Southern caught him at Barnton. The experienced Greenock Glenpark man, however, came again just before the finish and had an advantage of 2 sec. at the changeover. Milne of Aberdeen was a further 21 sec. away in third place, while Les Meneely of Shettleston was 16th, 1:41 behind Hodelet.

Stage 2: The race was set alight by Ian Stewart, who smashed clubmate Alastair Wood's 1968 record by 78 sec. Norman Morrison, bringing Shettleston to fifth, Doug Gunstone, hauling Dundee Hawkhill from 13th to 5th, and Lawrie Spence taking Strathclyde University all the way from last to 12th, were also inside the old record. Fergus Murray, 4 sec. outside Wood's old record, kept Edinburgh Southern in second place. Jim Dingwall picked up five places for Edinburgh University to put the students into third spot, and Colin Martin defended the fourth place won for Dumbarton by Hugh Elder on the first leg.

Stage 3: One of Edinburgh AC's Anglos, John Convery, retrieved the fortunes of the club—a lowly 14th on stage one, and just one place better after an under-par run by Jim Alder on stage two—by running the fastest leg and bringing EAC into fifth place. Shettleston's Anglo, McMahon, took the holders to third, behind Aberdeen and Edinburgh Southern who had held their positions.

Stage 4: Marathon man Don Ritchie kept Aberdeen in the van, but Alastair Blamire, setting off 22 sec. behind Martin Craven, beat the Edinburgh Southern man by 2 sec. at the changeover. The slightly built Shettleston runner also took over a minute-and-a-half out of Ritchie, shortening the gap between Aberdeen and Shettleston to 53 sec. Jim Brown took Monkland from 11th to 5th, with the fastest leg, 36 seconds outside Andy Brown's 1965 record, but thereafter the Coatbridge club fell steadily back.

Stage 5: This was the decisive stage, with Dick Wedlock showing his true form for the first time this season. In a record-breaking run, Dick turned Shettleston's deficit of 53 sec. into an advantage of 48 sec. over Aberdeen, and with Lachie Stewart waiting at the changeover the race was virtually won. Victoria Park, vacillating from stage to stage—5th, 8th, 4th and 5th—moved into third with the second fastest leg by David McMeekin. EAC held 4th place and Edinburgh Southern fell to 5th.

Stage 6: Lachie stretched Shettleston's lead to over a minute-and-a-half, and Jim Wight hoisted EAC into second place, with super-marathoner Alastair Wood—entering his 'veterancy' next month—hanging grimly to third place. Victoria Park's Colin Youngson kept Victoria Park in sight of a medal place seven seconds behind Alastair but Edinburgh Southern, a further 61 sec. back, looked out of contention. Andy McKean, fastest on this leg, emphasised the variable standard in Edinburgh University's team—8th, 3rd, 7th, 9th and 6th—at this point.

Stage 7: Tom Patterson did all that was required of him in preserving Shettleston's lead, and added a bonus by stretching the margin to exactly one hundred seconds. However, a great run by Gareth Bryan-Jones transformed the situation behind the leaders. The former Olympic steeplechaser surged through to a new stage record, and brought Edinburgh Southern to third, only 7 sec. behind Aberdeen, who in turn had overhauled EAC.

Stage 8: Craig Douglas, doubtful before the event because of injury, came in late as replacement for George Brown, but grittily held on to Southern's third place, losing only a second to Aberdeen's Peter Duffy. Shettleston's Bill Scally, of course, was unassailable and had a comfortable margin of over two minutes at the end. Albert Smith (Vict. Park) made a disappointment complete for EAC by running a record equalling stage and pushing the Edinburgh team back into fifth place. The remarkably steady Clyde-dale, sixth on the first leg, and never lower than eighth, were sixth at the end.

The medals for the most meritorious unplaced

performance went unanimously to Cambuslang Harriers, who improved their best previous performance by 15½ minutes.

(Because of a sudden family bereavement, Jim Logan was unable to accompany the race, but compiled the above report from the observations of fellow-SATS members Sandy Sutherland and Colin Shields.)

1, Shettleston (L. Meneely 28.39, N. Morrison 27.54, M. McMahon 22.31, A. Blamire 28.40, R. Wedlock 25.58, L. Stewart 32.35, T. Patterson 25.08, W. Scally 28.08) 3:39.33.

2, Aberdeen (G. Milne 27.21, I. Stewart 27.14, I. McKenzie 21.57, D. Ritchie 30.17, S. Taylor 27.41, A. Wood 33.41, R. Heron 24.54, P. Duffy 28.39) 3:41.44.

3, Edinburgh Southern (A. Hutton 27.00, A. Murray 28.36, R. McFall 23.06, M. Craven 29.04, I. Elliott 28.19, D. Macgregor 33.14, G. Bryan-Jones 23.53, C. Douglas 28.40) 3:41.52.

4, Victoria Park (H. Barrow 37.30, L. Reilly 29.21, I. Mitchell 22.16, P. MacLagan 29.26, D. McMeekin 26.54, C. Youngson 32.51, W. Sheridan 26.27, A. Smith 27.31) 3:42.16.

5, Edinburgh AC (R. Morris 28.23, J. Alder 29.43, J. Convery 21.36, A. Wight 28.37, L. McMillan 27.14, J. Wight 32.00, D. Knowles 26.19, R. Knowles 28.37) 3:42.49.

6, Clydesdale (J. Leggatt 27.33, D. Gemmell 29.17, B. McAusland 22.56, A. Faulds 30.31, R. Paton 28.08, P. Dolan 33.38, R. Shields 25.58, I. Donald 28.44) 3:46.45.

7, Glasgow University (R. McCrone 28.43, P. Bannon 28.47, S. Alexander 22.42, J. Gunstone 30.00, C. Joss 28.50, D. Logue 32.49, A. Hunter 36.23, W. Fothergill 29.22) 3:47.38.

8, Edinburgh University (J. Walker 27.49, J. Dingwall 28.40, R. Orr 23.36, I. Kiltie 31.50, R. O'Brian 28.38, A. McKean 31.13, N. Blackley 25.33, L. Arhens 29.24) 3:47.43.

9, Springburn (T. O'Reilly 28.49, H. Gorman 31.08, J. Martin 22.25, E. Knox 30.13, J. McLean 28.50, C. Lennox 34.57, R. Ramage 27.12, E. Sinclair 28.36) 3:52.10.

10, Monkland H (E. Devlin 28.10, I. Gilmour 28.59, W. McBrinn 24.09, J. Brown 28.13, P. Preston 29.34, W. Drysdale 36.02, W. Devlin 27.15, J. Small 30.53) 3:53.05.

11, Dumbarton 3:55.02; 12, Cambuslang 3:56.07;

13, Law & Dist. 3:56.17; 14, Greenock Wellpark 3:56.46; 15, Glasgow Police 3:58.23; 16, St. Andrew's Univ. 3:58.59; 17, Greenock Glenpark 4:01.15; 18, Bellahouston 4:02.29; 19, Strathclyde Univ. 4:05.38; 20, Dundee Hawkhill 4:14.37.

Fastest (Stage 1) Hodelet 26.58 (G'ock Glen); (2) I. Stewart 27.14 (rec); (3) Convery 21.36; (4) Brown 28.13; (5) Wedlock 25.58 (rec); (6) McKean 31.13; (7) Bryan-Jones 23.53 (rec); A. Smith 27.31 (Eq. rec).

Scottish Men's Cross Country Fixtures, Dec. 2nd: County Championships; **Dec. 9th:** Bellahouston Boys Races; **Dec. 16th:** East Kilbride Road Race; **Jan. 1st:** Beith H New Year's Day Races (All ages); **Jan. 6th:** Nigel Barge 5M Road Race at Maryhill; **Jan. 13th:** Springburn H 5M Road Race; **Jan. 20th:** District Championships; **Jan. 27th:** Scottish Inter-Counties; **Feb. 17th:** National Championships, at Coatbridge; **Feb. 24th:** Carnethy Hill Race at Penicuik; **March 10th:** Scottish Schools Championships; Balloch to Clydebank Road Race; **March 31st:** Clydesdale Road Race.

Scottish Women's winter fixtures: Dec. 2nd: Scottish District Championships, (West at Bellahouston; East at Pitreavie); **Dec. 9th:** Law Road Races; **Dec. 16th:** Maryhill Cross Country Races; **Jan. 16th:** East v. West at Edinburgh; **Jan. 13th:** Greenock Rankin Park Road Races; **Jan. 27th:** Scottish Women's Road Relay Championships at Dundee; **Feb. 10th:** Scottish Women's National Championships at Edinburgh.

The Secretary of the Scottish Women's Cross Country Union is Mrs June Ward, 144 Canberra Avenue, Dalmuir West, Glasgow (Tel: 041-952-5240).

While Douglas Gunstone (Dundee Hawkhill) was winning Glasgow University's 5 miles road race on November 11th, wife Palm took top individual honours in Lewisvale Spartans "Round the Bridges", 4km race at Musselburgh.

CORRECTIONS

90th in the South of Thames Junior Team Race was D. Jardine (Belgrave) and 91st was R. Dickson (Belgrave) and not J. Hamilton, as printed.

Note correct spellings of two names in the middle and distance rankings: Ron **MacDonald**, and Don **Macgregor**. Ian Stewart's 2 miles in 8:22.0 was on August 14th, not as printed.

Victoria Park H. officers: President, J. Anstey; chairman, D. Bareford; secretary, A. C. Pearson (01-986-2428); treasurer, M. Carr; CC sec., K. Lowe; track sec., J. Daniels; women's sec., E. Cooper.

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Shettleston victory more a test of car manoeuvres

By RON MARSHALL

Without wishing to appear like a prophet of doom, I would venture to predict that the day when one of the 160 runners in the "News of the World" Edinburgh-Glasgow relay comes a cropper in a car accident is drawing frighteningly closer.

The truth is that watching Shettleston's third successive win on Saturday became more a car manoeuvrability test than a concentrated appraisal of how the contest unfolded. And the *modus operandi* of spectators has gathered momentum over the last few years.

A relentless pack of vehicles snap at the heels of the luckless runners for 44 miles, and then they swish past them every half mile or so, stopping at the roadside to disgorge baying supporters. Feverish glances at stop watches dictate the instructions or exhortations. Once Jimmy's dose of morale-boosting is administered, his fans dive into the car to continue this frantic leap-frogging.

MASSIVE

Such is the massive motorised following of the race that the possibility of holding it on a Sunday is being put around. Bob Dalgleish, secretary of the Scottish Cross-country Union, said yesterday: "The traffic was the worst I've ever seen. Certainly it's possible to stage the race on a Sunday, and we must take a serious look at that. Something will have to be done to ease the congestion."

One obvious flaw in a Sunday presentation, he pointed out, was that the national Sunday newspaper sponsoring the event might have objections about missing the opportunity of reporting their own sponsorship. But Mr Dalgleish added that the idea of a Sunday race had never been submitted to the paper. He did not know how they would react.

Whether Saturday or Sunday, Shettleston Harriers look as if they could trounce everyone any day of the week. Instead of a gripping finish — all the signs pointed that way before the

start — we had Bill Scally hardly breaking sweat on the eighth and last leg into Ingram Street, Glasgow. He had fully two minutes' respite between himself and the next club home, Aberdeen A.A.C., who went back home on Saturday evening delighted to push Central clubs out of the runner-up position.

Sixteenth position out of 20 starters was hardly the kind of opening stage Shettleston would have wanted. This put them 1 min. 41sec. behind Greenock Glenpark, not in itself anything to worry about, but Edinburgh Southern had been second on the first leg 1 min. 39sec. ahead. That was the figure to watch. This was clearly a generous gift to Southern.

DRAMATIC

The second leg — nearly six miles to Broxburn — was dramatic in more ways than one. Norman Morrison took up Shettleston's case so courageously that he forged his way from sixteenth to fifth in what, in other circumstances, would have been a memorable time, 27min. 54sec. The old record had been 28min. 32sec. Ahead of him, however, even greater deeds were being done.

Ian Stewart, the Olympic 5000 metres bronze medallist, running for Aberdeen A.A.C., probably had not noticed the vest number allotted to him — A-1. By the time he strode dourly up to the change-over point in Broxburn, his performance had certainly warranted it, for he had outdated the course record by a scathing 78 seconds. Aberdeen were now 61 seconds ahead of Southern, nearly two minutes ahead of Shettleston.

Ian McKenzie and Donald Ritchie protected Aberdeen's lead to the halfway mark at Armadale, but Shettleston's Martin McMahon and Alistair Blamire brought the holders uncomfortably close — into second place 55 seconds behind. It was just after this that the outcome was settled.

Dick Wedlock chose the right day to turn it on. Chasing after Aberdeen's

Steve Taylor on the five-and-a-half miles to that oasis called Forestfield Hotel — Saturday's bar takings surely matching Hogmanay's! — Wedlock smashed the course record of 26min. 19sec. by 21 seconds, and, more important, sent Lachie Stewart away with a lead of 48 seconds. The race was over.

In a race always brimful with highlights the other main features were Victoria Park's damp squib of a challenge, ending in a disappointing fourth; Gareth Bryan-Jones scything one-and-a-half minutes off the seventh-stage record; Andrew McKean's brilliant stint on the long sixth leg; and Cambuslang, after 10 years out of the race, celebrating their return by taking twelfth place and earning the award for the most improved team. Perhaps Glasgow University have every right though to wonder why a jump from fourteenth to seventh is not considered even better. Results:—

1. Shettleston (L. Meneely 28-39, N. Morrison 27-54, M. McMahon 22-31, A. Blamire 28-40, R. Wedlock 25-58, J. L. Stewart 32-35, T. Patterson 25-3, W. Scally 28-8), 3hr. 39min. 33sec.; 2. Aberdeen A.A.C. (G. Milne 27-21, P. Stewart 27-14, J. McKenzie 21-57, D. Ritchie 30-17, S. Taylor 27-41, A. Wood 33-41, R. Heron 24-54, P. Duffy 28-39), 3-41-44; 3. Edinburgh Southern (A. Hutton 27, A. F. Murray 28-36, R. McFall 23-6, M. Craven 29-4, I. Elliot 28-19, D. Macgregor 33-14, G. Bryan-Jones 23-53, C. Douglas 28-40), 3-41-52; 4. Victoria Park, 3-42-16; 5. Edinburgh A.A.C., 3-42-49; 6. Clydesdale, 3-46-45; 7. Glasgow University, 3-47-38; 8. Edinburgh University, 3-47-43; 9. Springburn, 3-52-10; 10. Monkland, 3-53-5.

RELAY WIN BY PAISLEY

When Maryhill Harriers staged a 25-mile open relay race from Cadder youth centre Paisley Harriers took command early and went on to beat East Kilbride AC by 1min. 23sec. in 2hrs 27min. 8sec.

Alan Partridge (East Kilbride) returned the best time of 27min. 16sec., only one second short of the record of Willie Day (Falkirk Victoria Harriers). Result:—

1. Paisley Harriers (D. Harvey, B. Gardiner, R. Price, H. Lezait, A. Armour) 2-2-8; 2. East Kilbride 2-28-31; 3. East Kilbride B 2-38-58.