

Edinburgh—Glasgow Relay**Colin Shields reporting****EDINBURGH SOUTHERN SMASH RECORD**

ON a day of heavy rain, Edinburgh Southern defied the conditions and won, for the third successive year, the Edinburgh to Glasgow eight-man road relay (sponsored by the 'News of the World') on November 15th.

Southern fielded an all-international team and, despite a lengthened course, they broke four stage records and smashed the ten-year-old course record set by the famous 1965 Edinburgh University team by the margin of 2:40. Edinburgh AC were only able to field four of last year's second placed team and ran well to finish second, only 4sec outside the old record. Of the first eight teams only Shettleston and Victoria Park did not break their own club records, with third placed Clyde Valley taking 13:27 from their best time.

Northern Ireland's top team, Belfast Achilles, re-appeared in the race after several years absence and their popular team, including the Price and Hannon brothers, made their long journey worthwhile by taking fourth place after a good fight-back from ninth place at the start. Falkirk Victoria improved from 18th to 7th, to gain the award for the most meritorious unplaced performance.

Busy traffic again prevented full enjoyment of the race and only the full, splendid co-operation

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S LEAGUE continued

31, S. Merchant (Thurr); 32, L. Ealham (Ver); 33, J. Simms (Camb H); 34, A. Reid (E&E); 35, A. White (Med); 36, J. Bryant (Ilf); 37, L. Smith (Ryde); 38, K. Butler (Hay); 39, L. Keough (Bas); 40, S. Powell (Wyc) (11:43); 41, S. Spinks (Ux); 42, K. Hitchcock (Ex); 43, J. Rapley (Read); 44, S. Baxter (Hav); 45, S. Noble (Har); 46, J. Poulter (AF&D); 47, S. Agace (Croy) (11:48); 48, C. Rule (WS&E); 49, C. Cross (Felt); 50, T. Butler (Hav). 227 finished.

Teams: 1, AF&D 55; 2, Reading 80; 3, Epsom & E 94; 4, Mitcham 127; 5, Havering 141; 6, Verlea 142; 7, Bracknell 177; 8, Essex LAC 80; 9, Harlow 181; 10, Portsmouth 202; 11, Cambridge H 205; 12, Brighton & Hove 219; 13, Ilford 283; 14, Uxbridge 293; 15, Medway 339; 6, Feltham 367; 17, Wycombe 379; 18, Guildford & G 415; 19, Croydon 429; 20, Basingstoke 37; 21, Southampton & E 488; 22, Thurrock 95; 23, Hillingdon 524; 24, Camberley 535; 25, WS&E 576; 26, Woking 585; 27, Surrey 588; 28, Surrey Beagles 590; 29, Tonbridge 626; 30, Crawley 643; 31, Parkside 675; 32, Selsonia 682; 33, Ryde 698; 34, Bournemouth 714; 35, Highgate 33; 36, Middlesex 743; 37, Watford 807; 38, Kent 810; 39, Haringey & Southgate 834; 40, Peterborough 853.

of the police enabled the completion of the race without undue incident.

Stage 1 (5½ miles—26:43 rec). Colin Youngson, for the second successive year, gave Edinburgh Southern the lead they were never to lose and set a new stage record, 43sec faster than the old mark held by Jim Alder, who on this occasion was slowed by a stitch to 7th place, 84sec behind the leader. Tom Patterson and Bill Yate, who set the fast early pace, were also inside the old record. Tom Price (Achilles) was well down in 9th place (27:44) with John Graham (Clyde Valley) disappointingly another 11sec behind in 10th place. Fastest: C. Youngson (ESH) 26:00, T. Patterson (Spring) 26:25, W. Yate (Mary) 26:38.

Stage 2 (6 miles—27:14 rec). Despite an outstanding performance by Andy McKean, who picked up five places during a storming run which carried him to within 10y of the lead, Ian Stewart's record withstood all challengers. Blamire, seventh fastest on 28:58, was Southern's only runner outside the three fastest stage times in the whole race. Jim Brown lifted his club from 10th to 4th while young Nat Muir of Shettleston (28:38) and Frank Clement of Bellahouston (28:44) tucked in behind him to gain fast times. Lawrie Spence recorded the biggest place gain of the day when he lifted Strathclyde University from 15th to 7th in 28:02 and was closely followed by Jim Dingwall who 'slip-streamed' his way to a 28:16 clocking with a gain from 14th to 8th. On the other hand Maryhill dropped from 3rd to 15th, Aberdeen from 4th to 10th and Dumbarton from 12th to 16th. Fastest: A. McKean (EAC) 27:37, J. Brown (Clyde V) 27:55, L. Spence (Strath Un) 28:02.

Stage 3 (4 miles—21:05 rec). On the shortest leg marathon runner Martin Craven surprised everyone by smashing the record by 23sec and stretching Southern's lead to 1:51 over Edinburgh AC for whom Paul Forbes had a poor run

ESSEX BEAGLES A.C.
OPEN 10 MILES
ROAD RACE
(Under A.A.A. Laws)

SATURDAY, 13th DECEMBER, at 2.30pm
From: Essex Beagles H.Q., Chigwell Row
Enter on Day, 10p. No Prizes, only times.
Details: K. Gill, Romford 23435 or 24116.

ATHLETICS WEEKLY

(22:30). Canny Albert Smith (Vic P), in only his second run of the season, returned the second fastest time of the day to lift his club four places to 5th. David Lang, under great pressure from Roy Baillie, ran surprisingly well to finish third only 10y behind EAC. Springburn started their ignominious slide down the field by dropping nine places to 12th. Fastest: M. Craven (ESH) 20:42 (rec), A. Smith (Vic P) 21:21, D. Lang (Shett) 21:43.

Stage 4 (5½ miles—27:37 rec). Ian Gilmour, starting in fourth place, had two clubs in front within 10sec and quickly passing Lachie Stewart he caught Alec Wight. These two ran together for most of the stage with Gilmour just proving the stronger on the run-in to hand over a 5y lead in second place behind Southern (Ian Elliott). Jim McGuinness kept Achilles in 5th place (29:18), establishing a sizeable gap over Strathclyde University and Victoria Park. Fastest: I. Gilmour (Clyde V) 28:06, A. Wight (EAC) 28:17, I. Elliott (ESH) 28:58.

Stage 5 (5½ miles—25:58 rec). Without a rival in sight Alastair Hutton gave an impressive display of front running to break Dick Wedlock's record by 14sec. Wedlock, much recovered after his accident and now mobile in a wheelchair, enthusiastically followed the entire race. There was no dramatic positional change but John Kerr leap-frogged EAC to 2nd place over Clyde Valley and Greg Hannon handed over to brother Gerry after recording the second fastest leg of 26:15 to gain 4th place ahead of Shettleston and only 11sec behind Clyde Valley. Fastest: A. Hutton (ESH) 25:44 (rec), G. Hannon (Ach) 26:15, A. Johnston (Vic P) 26:21.

Stage 6 (7 miles—31:00 rec). Most clubs fielded their big guns on this testing stage, and Dave Logue, for once without the ominous figure of Andy McKean chasing him, was out on his own, recording the fastest time of 31:34 to stretch Southern's lead to 2:42. Gunstone and MacDonald were very evenly matched, each consolidating his club's position, but Gerry Hannon (33:08) had a disappointing run and was nearly caught by a fast finishing Lawrie Reilly (32:10) who had a stage-long battle with Bill Mullett (32:48). Bill Day gained two places for surprising Falkirk Victoria and Alan Partridge (32:48) gained four places to 11th to continue the East Kilbride revival after a poor 19th on the first stage. Fastest: D. Logue (ESH) 31:34, R. MacDonald (Clyde V) 31:44, D. Gunstone (EAC) 31:55.

Stage 7 (5½ miles—23:53 rec). On a slightly altered course, lengthened by approximately 200y to enable the pedestrianisation of Coatbridge Main Street, Danny Knowles recorded a new record of 24:32 (but still intrinsically outside Gareth Bryan-Jones' old record). Knowles closed the gap to the leaders to 2:19 but more importantly (at this stage of the race) stretched the gap to 2:13 from third placed Clyde Valley for whom near-veteran Bert McKay ran well. The lap was noticeable for an engrossing struggle between Pat McGouran (25:51) and John Gunstone (25:50) who kept Achilles and Victoria in

4th and 5th places respectively, only 9sec apart. Fastest: D. Knowles (EAC) 24:32 (rec), A. F. Murray (ESH) 24:55, R. McKay (Clyde V) 25:48.

Stage 8 (5 miles—27:02 rec). Gareth Bryan-Jones ran magnificently to record Southern's fourth stage record, breaking his own record by one second. Ronnie Knowles followed twin brother Danny with second fastest time, finishing almost a minute faster than Eddie Devlin (Clyde Valley) to give Edinburgh AC an isolated second place. Old stager Henry Summerhill ran a fine leg through the busy Glasgow streets to overtake a labouring Hugh Barrow (Victoria Park) for fifth place—a great improvement on last year's ninth.

Result

1, Edinburgh Southern H (C. Youngson 26:00, A. Blamire 28:58, M. Craven 20:42, I. Elliott 28:58, A. Hutton 25:44, D. Logue 31:34, F. Murray 24:55, G. Bryan-Jones 27:01) 3:33:32 (rec);

2, Edinburgh AC (J. Alder 27:24, A. McKean 27:37, P. Forbes 22:30, A. Wight 28:17, J. Kerr 226:55, D. Gunstone 31:55, D. Knowles 24:32, R. Knowles 27:26) 3:36:36;

3, Clyde Valley (J. Graham 27:55, J. Brown 27:55, R. Baillie 21:51, I. Gilmour 28:06, J. Small 28:04, R. MacDonald 31:44, R. McKay 25:48, E. Devlin 28:23) 3:39:46;

4, Belfast Achilles (T. Price 27:44, J. McLaughlin 29:00, D. Price 21:45, J. McGuinness 29:18, Greg Hannon 26:15, Gerry Hannon 33:08, P. McGovern 25:51, B. Gregory 28:18) 3:41:19;

5, Shettleston (J. Burns 27:12, N. Muir 28:38, D. Lang 21:43, J. L. Stewart 29:18, S. Easton 28:20, W. Mullett 32:48, A. Marshall 26:14, H. Summerhill 28:18) 3:42:18;

6, Victoria Park (F. Brown 27:34, D. McMeekin 29:45, A. Smith 21:21, I. Mitchell 30:09, A. Johnston 26:21, L. Reilly 32:10, J. Gunstone 25:50, H. Barrow 30:25) 3:43:36;

7, Falkirk Victoria (W. Sharp 28:09, J. Dingwall 28:16, A. Pender 22:51, J. McGarva 30:16, B. Morton 28:14, W. Day 32:27, R. Adam 27:22, J. Stage 30:50) 3:48:25;

8, Strathclyde University (D. Leitch 28:12, L. Spence 28:02, P. McLagan 22:17, J. McLean 29:44, S. Snekvik 28:44, A. McMaster 35:24, W. Logan 27:22, D. Burt 28:54) 3:48:39;

9, Aberdeen (G. Laing 26:56, A. Wood 29:50, M. Edwards 22:42, S. Taylor 30:07, D. Ritchie 27:48, G. Milne 33:12, D. Buchan 27:15, P. Duffy 31:01) 3:48:51;

10, Bellahouston (R. McCrone 27:22, F. Clement 28:44, N. Scott 22:41, M. Fidgett 31:45, M. Black 28:41, C. Joss 34:29, B. Kerr 26:36, H. Scott 29:10) 3:49:28;

11, East Kilbride 3:52:50; 12, Cambuslang 3:53:26; 13, Edinburgh Univ 3:53:44; 14, Law & Dist 3:55:07; 15, Springburn 3:56:27; 16, Dumbarton 3:58:22; 17, Clydesdale 3:59:04; 18, Glasgow Univ 4:01:14; 19, Teviotdale 4:01:57; 20, Maryhill 4:06:03.

David Logue won the Glasgow University '5' in 24:51. Details next week.