

MOST EXCITING 'EDINBURGH' TO GLASGOW'

RUN throughout its 44½ miles length in bitter cold with snow showers, the 37th Edinburgh to Glasgow Road Relay nevertheless proved to be one of the most exciting and competitive ever staged, with three evenly matched teams being within 27 sec of each other at the last change-over with just 6 miles to run.

Colin Shields Reports

Shuttleston, weakened by the absence of David Lang, Rees Ward and Bill Mullett, found their reserves of home talent stretched just too thin to repeat last year's victory, while Edinburgh AC — after a gallant attempt to snatch victory from their city rivals and leading for four of the eight stages — were bitterly disappointed to find themselves once again "the bridesmaid and not the bride" as they finished runners-up for the fifth successive year.

All praise, however, to Edinburgh Southern who, after mediocre performances in the important events prior to this race, gathered all

their resources together on the one occasion to win for the fourth time in five years.

Duncain Harriers, from Northern Ireland, finished a close up fourth and might have been higher if they had been able to field Jim McGuinness. Edinburgh University were awarded the meritorious award medals for the most improved club performance.

Stage 1: (5½M, record — 26:00) Frank Clement took the lead at 3M and looking strong and easy held off every challenger. Shuttleston were 7th, Edinburgh Southern 8th and Edinburgh AC 12th, 47 sec behind the leaders. **Fastest:** F. Clement (Bella) 26:35, Gerry Hannon (Dunc) 26:37, G. Laing (Aber) 26:39.

Stage 2: (6M, rec — 27:14) Andy McKean raised EAC from 12th to 3rd, but it was the duel between Nat Muir and Jim Brown that was the feature of the stage. Brown was 22 sec in front at the start but Muir pulled in five places and passed Brown on the run-in to gain a 2 sec lead. **Fastest:** N. Muir (Shett) 27:50, A. McKean (EAC) 28:05, J. Brown (Clyde V) 28:14.

Stage 3: (4M, rec — 20:42) First year Junior, Colin Keir, took EAC into a lead they were to hold for the next two stages. However it was marathoner Colin Youngson who took 18 sec from the old record with a fine run of 20:24 and lifted Southern three places to 4th just behind Shettleston and Clyde Valley. **Fastest:** C. Youngson (ESH) 20:24 (rec), C. Keir (EAC) 21:30, R. McCrone (Bella) 21:35.

Stage 4: (5½M, rec — 27:37) Doug Gunstone, running entirely on his own, extended the EAC lead to 57 sec over Shettleston, with ESH and Duncairn next. **Fastest:** D. Gunstone (EAC) 28:37, A. Johnson (VP) 29:11, A. McIntosh (Fife) 29:13.

Stage 5: (5½M, rec — 25:44) John Robson, who had such a disastrous run in this race last year, put it all behind him and showed his true form when recording fastest stage time to take Southern into second place within striking distance of EAC. Duncairn passed Shettleston for third. **Fastest:** J. Robson (ESH) 26:41, I. Graves (Fife) 26:59, A. Wight (EAC) 27:05.

Stage 6: (6¾M, rec — 31:00) Starting two minutes behind his nearest rival, Jim Dingwall outclassed everyone on time to equal one of the oldest and classiest records. "If I had known how close I was to the record I could have squeezed out another 3 or 4 seconds in the run-in", he said. David Logue took Southern into the lead for the first time, ahead of EAC and Shettleston — 34 sec covering the three. **Fastest:** J. Dingwall (FVH) 31:00 (eq rec), J. Graham (Clyde V) 32:01, L. Spence (Shett) 32:16.

Stage 7: (5½M, rec — 24:32) David Hunter regained the lead for EAC, finishing 12 sec ahead of Alex Robertson who ran well above expectations to enable Southern to finish ahead of Shettleston. **Fastest:** D. Hunter (EAC) 25:44, D. Lothian (Shett) 25:52, A. Robertson (ESH) 26:11.

Stage 8: (6M, rec — 27:01) Martin Craven (ESH) recorded fastest stage time through the busy streets of Glasgow; he closed the 12 sec gap to Eric Fisher (EAC) after 2½M and built up a 37 sec lead by the finish. **Fastest:** M. Craven (ESH) 27:58, E. Fisher (EAC) 28:47, A. Neal (E. Kil) & W. Sharp (FV)

Final Result

1, Edinburgh Southern 3:40:24 (F. Murray 27:14, I. Orton 29:41, C. Youngson 20:24, I. Elliot 29:29, J. Robson 26:41, D. Logue 32:46, A. Robertson 26:11, M. Craven 27:58),

2, Edinburgh AC 3:41:01 (N. Jones 27:23, A. McKean 28:05, C. Keir 21:30, D. Gunstone 28:37, A. Wight 27:05, A. Keith 33:50, D. Hunter 25:44, E. Fisher 28:47),

3, Shettleston 3:42:08 (L. Stewart 27:08, N. Muir 27:50, K. McKenzie 22:17, A. Marshall 29:17, J. Burns 28:01, L. Spence 32:16, D. Lothian 25:52, S. Easton 29:27),

4, Duncairn 3:43:34 (Gy Hannon 26:37, J. McLaughlin 29:04, J. Baillie 21:57, T. Annett 29:31, A. Donaldson 27:08, Greg Hannon 32:58, T. Campbell 26:57, B. Gregory 29:22),

5, Falkirk Victoria 3:44:06 (I. Brown 27:18, W. Day 29:43, B. Morton 21:46, J. McGarva 29:49, M. Logue 27:59, J. Dingwall 31:00, R. Adams 27:42, W. Sharp 28:49),

6, East Kilbride 3:47:57 (K. Tayler 27:15, R. McKim 29:34, J. Little 23:33, I. Campbell 29:33, H. Wilson 28:22, A. Partridge 33:24, R. Donald 27:27, A. Neal 28:49),

7, Clyde Valley 3:48:01; 8, Victoria Park 3:48:33; 9, Fife 3:49:07; 10, Bellahouston 3:50:24; 11, Cambuslang 3:52:29; 12, Ayrshire 3:54:14; 13, FKALG Stavanger (Nor) 3:55:24; 14, Edinburgh Univ 3:57:02; 15, Law & Dist 3:57:06; 16, Clydesdale 3:59:59; 17, Springburn 4:01:07; 18, Glasgow Univ 4:05:54; 19, Aberdeen 4:07:53; 20, St Andrews Univ 4:11:45; 21, Spango Valley 4:12:12.

Craven courage on final leg of relay

By RON MARSHALL

In one of the closest finishes for many years, Edinburgh Southern Harriers triumphed in the 37th Edinburgh-Glasgow relay yesterday. Edinburgh AC were bridesmaids for the fifth year in a row and Shettleston, the holders, were third.

Rarely has there been the chance of any of three clubs taking the trophy as the eighth and last leg started, but that was the position as each runner sped over the city boundary, only 27 seconds separating the three. The order was AC—Southern—Shettleston.

Martin Craven (Southern), easily the most experienced of them, paced himself beautifully over the 5½ miles, slipping ahead of AC's Eric Fisher, while the early burst by Stewart Easton (Shettleston) took its toll and he fell back almost as strikingly as he had originally closed the gap.

Craven crossed the winning line in 27min. 58sec., the fastest of the stage, for an overall winning time of

3hr. 40min. 24sec. AC took 3-41-01, 67 seconds ahead of Shettleston.

When positions fluctuate so much it is often difficult to pinpoint where a team's hopes finally evaporate, but for a confident Edinburgh AC it seems fair to pick out the seven-mile sixth leg, the longest in the race. There Sandy Keith, one of Britain's leading marathoners, pounded off with a 49-second lead over Southern's Dave Logue. By the time Keith's weary frame came to a halt in Airdrie, he was having to send his teammate away facing a 15-second deficit.

Mention of the sixth leg means essential reference to Jim Dingwall (Falkirk Victoria), for two reasons. Firstly, he knocked all the other times on that stage into a cocked hat, clocking a marvellous 31 minutes and equalising the record. But, more distressingly, as he finished his next man was nowhere around, although Dingwall's anguished cry of "Where's Falkirk?" was eventually answered by the culprit, frantically tearing off a tracksuit. By my estimate Falkirk lost about 45 seconds there which could ultimately have moved them from fifth to fourth overall.

One record was set, on stage three, by Colin Youngson (Southern) but on a day when the mercury hovered around zero, all of them, athletes and officials, deserved medals for a splendid race and highly competent organisation. The one other award, for the day's most improved team, went to Edinburgh University, who moved up to fourteenth from last year's twentieth place. Results:

1. Edinburgh Southern Harriers (F. Murray 27-14, I. Orton 29-47, C. Youngson 20-18, J. Elliott 29-29, J. Robson 26-41, D. Logue 32-46, A. Robertson 26-11; M. Craven 27-58) 3-40-24; 2. Edinburgh A.C. 3-41-01; 3. Shettleston 3-42-08; 4. Duncairn Harriers 3-43-34; 5. Falkirk Victoria 3-44-06; 6. East Kilbride 3-47-57.

Lloyd blitzed

Britain's John Lloyd was since he started playing again hammered into a straight in Mid-October after injury.