

First Victory for Clyde Valley in 'Edinburgh to Glasgow'

ALTHOUGH THE RACE was won in the slowest time in the past 15 years due to cold weather and biting winds, the 39th Annual Edinburgh to Glasgow 8-stage Road Relay on November 18th, sponsored by Barrs Soft Drinks, was an engrossing race and a constantly changing spectacle over the entire 44½ mile course. A cloud of gloom hung over the race due to the death just 48 hours earlier of 90-year-old George Dallas, one of the founders of the race back in the 30's, and a spectator at every one of the races since its inception. His presence at the Foresfield Hotel, at the end of the 5th leg, was missed by his many friends in athletics who usually met him there during the race to enjoy his entertaining reminiscences of earlier races.

Clyde Valley, with a restricted team containing only three of last year's runners, won the race for the first time in their history with Edinburgh AC finishing second for the sixth time in the past seven years. Although disappointed at being 'always the bridesmaid and never the bride', they nevertheless took comfort at beating city rivals Southern.

The race result really hinged on the top clubs' use of Anglo-Scots. Clyde Valley missed Ian Gilmour, ill with pneumonia, but gained real benefit from the appearance of John Graham. Jim Alder's lap was vital to Edinburgh AC, and

Cambuslang owed their best ever 5th placing much to the appearance of the RAF's Rimmer twins. On the other hand the non-appearance of David Logue hindered Southern's chances of repeating last year's victory, and Victoria Park, last year's runners-up, faded to 4th without the help of Lawrie Reilly and Des Austin.

Aberdeen finished 19th in 1977, did not compete last year and after holding the lead in the early stages of the race, finished in 8th place to be awarded the prize for the most meritorious performance of the race.

The race was well shepherded by Lothian and Strathclyde Police forces, and the overall excellent race organisation was a tribute to the hard work of the race convener — Des Yuill of Cambuslang Harriers.

Colin Shields

Leg 1 (5½M). The field of 20 runners was slow to break up and by half distance a pack of ten were all contesting the lead, with Colin Donnelly forcing the pace. On the last uphill mile to the change-over Donnelly led a small bunch of five in a late breakaway, and was first home just 2 sec clear of Graham Milne, with 800m star, David McMeekin, showing good stamina in third place. **Fastest:** C. Donnelly (Cam) 27:49; G. Milne (A'deen) 27:51; D. McMeekin (VP) 27:55.

Leg 2 (6M). John Graham took over for Clyde

Valley in 6th place, 17 sec behind the leader and 8 sec behind Nat Muir (Shett). He quickly showed he was a 'man in a hurry' when, within the first mile, he sped through to challenge Graham Laing at the front, and had established a 9 sec lead at the finish. A surprising feature of the leg was the poor running of Muir, who, instead of taking the lead for Shettleston as anticipated, dropped to 7th; the cause being an upset stomach which left him greatly weakened. **Fastest:** J. Graham (Clyde V) 30:17; G. Laing (A'deen) 30:41; G. Clark (SV) 31:18.

Leg 3 (4M). Aberdeen's promising Junior, Ross Arbuckle, caught the leader and just got the verdict at the change-over after a neck-and-neck struggle on the shortest leg of the race. John Gladwin continued Edinburgh Southern's rise after a poor start when pulling in three places to finish 5th. Frank Clement, recovering from injury, gallantly turned out for Bellahouston but was almost a minute outside the fastest time. **Fastest:** A. Gourley (EAC) 22:42; J. Gladwin (ESH) 22:47; A. Smith (VP) 23:02.

Leg 4 (5½M). Brian McSloy recorded the fastest leg to give Clyde Valley a lead of over a minute from Victoria Park, who moved into 2nd place 47 sec ahead of Edinburgh AC. Aberdeen slipped to 6th. **Fastest:** B. McSloy (Clyde V) 30:17; A. Johnston (VP) 30:56; E. Cameron (ESH) 31:05.

Leg 5 (5½M). This was the decisive leg of the race for Clyde Valley, as Eddie Devlin struggled against the advance of two internationals from the Edinburgh clubs. He had the target of giving Jim Brown a minute start on the long leg 6, and managed to keep 57 sec clear of Colin Youngson (ESH), who clocked the fastest time to pull up to within 9 sec of second place Victoria Park. Jim Alder, who recently notched up 100,000 miles of racing and training in his long career, kept Edinburgh AC in a threatening close-up 4th place, just 12 sec behind city rivals Southern. **Fastest:** C. Youngson (ESH) 29:19; J. Alder (EAC) 29:58; E. Stewart (Cam) 30:09.

Leg 6 (7M). Jim Brown started fast over the high exposed road, where cold, opposing winds slowed the runners, in a deliberate attempt to stay clear of his most feared rival, Allister Hutton. But his fears were to be groundless, for it was one of Hutton's off days as he clocked 34:44 — 76 sec slower than Brown, who had established a 2:13 lead by the Airdrie change-over. Jim Dingwall revelled on the road after some sticky cross-country in the past few weeks, and pulled Falkirk Victoria into 3rd place after overtaking Doug Gunstone (EAC) and George Meredith (VP). **Fastest:** J. Brown (CV) 33:28; J. Dingwall (FVH) 33:49; G. Rimmer (Cam) 34:08.

Leg 7 (5½M). First year Junior, David Marshall, whose father ran in this race last year, kept his club in the lead, clocking 26:53. L. Robertson brought Edinburgh AC into 2nd place as he passed Southern, for whom namesake Alex

had a bad run. The extrovert Robin Thomas, who has the aim of drinking a pint of beer for every training mile he runs (approx. 60 per week) lifted Edinburgh University three places to 11th. **Fastest:** L. Robertson (EAC) 26:23; R. Thomas (Edin. U) 26:24; T. Dobbin (SV) 26:47.

Leg 8 (5M). Starting with a lead of 2:26 — their largest lead of the whole race — Clyde Valley were safe; and young Peter Fox, who ran for Scotland Juniors in Limerick when still a Youth, brought them home with a good run of 29:42 — losing little to his nearest rivals. **Fastest:** F. Clyne (A'deen) 28:43; A. Neal (E. Kil) 29:10; D. Watson (EAC) 29:15.

1, Clyde Valley (C. Farquharson 28:06, J. Graham 30:17, N. Agnew 23:31, B. McSloy 30:17, E. Devlin 30:38, J. Brown 33:28, D. Marshall 26:53, P. Fox 29:43) 3:52:53

2, Edinburgh AC (N. Jones 28:16, A. Keith 31:33; A. Gourlay 22:42, D. Hunter 31:29, J. Alder 29:58, D. Gunstone 35:15, L. Robertson 26:23, D. Watson 29:15) 3:54:51

3, Edinburgh Southern (I. Orton 29:02, I. Elliot 31:33, J. Gladwin 22:47, E. Cameron 31:05, C. Youngson 29:19, A. Hutton 34:44, A. Robertson 27:47, M. Craven 29:16) 3:55:33

4, Victoria Park (D. McMeekin 27:55, A. Douglas 31:20, A. Smith 23:02, A. Johnston 30:56, R. Blair 30:24, G. Meredith 35:47, G. Diverty 26:56, H. Barrow 30:30) 3:56:50

5, Cambuslang (C. Donnelly 27:49, R. Stone 32:02, D. McAuley 23:53, S. Rimmer 31:42, E. Stewart 30:09, G. Rimmer 34:08, R. Anderson 27:35, A. Gilmour 29:42) 3:57:00

6, Falkirk Victoria (W. Day 28:02, J. McGarva 31:47, J. Pentecost 23:35, M. Logue 31:34, D. Gibson 30:22, J. Dingwall 33:49, B. Ross 28:20, D. Lothian 30:24) 3:57:53

7, Shettleston 4:00:10; 8, Aberdeen 4:03:25; 9, Bellahouston 4:06:04; 10, Spango Valley 4:06:29; 11, E. Kilbride 4:06:38; 12, Edinburgh Univ. 4:06:57; 13, Westerlands 4:06:59; 14, Fife 4:07:09; 15, Clydesdale 4:11:31; 16, Ayrshire 4:13:38; 17, Law 4:14:03; 18, Springburn 4:16:49; 19, Greenock Glenpark 4:21:30; Glasgow Univ. dnf.

SOUTHERN COUNTIES (U.K.) COACHING COMMITTEE

MALE and FEMALE INDOOR PENTATHLON TRAINING COMPETITIONS

on

SATURDAY, 15th DECEMBER, 1979

at

2.00 p.m.

at

CRYSTAL PALACE (INDOOR)

Youths and Junior Men

(Events: 60m, Shot, Long Jump, 60m Hurdles, Pole Vault (6 Jumps only).

Intermediate and Junior Ladies

(Events: 60m, Shot, 60m Hurdles, Long Jump, High Jump (6 Jumps only).

(Order of events finalised on day)

There will be a training day on SUNDAY, 16th DECEMBER, 1979 (10.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m.) at CRYSTAL PALACE for Multi-Eventers and their Coaches.

Entries and information: Please send S.A.E. to Mrs. S. Longden, 6 Rillside, Furnace Green, Crawley, Sussex.

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