

# **BARR'S IRN BRU EDINBURGH TO GLASGOW RELAY**

**FROM** the moment Frank McGowan swept into a near two-minute lead on stage three, Leslie Deans never looked like relinquishing their title, Denis Shepherd reports.

The only danger was that they might lose their way – as happened to Edinburgh Southern Harriers (for the second time in three years) on stage seven.

This was Leslie Deans' fifth successive victory in the Blue Riband of Scottish road racing, to put them level with Victoria Park, who last achieved this feat in the 50s.

In what transpired to be one of the slowest races on record, with the runners facing a strength-sapping cold west wind, they won by the biggest margin ever (4:32) with Scott Cohen and Olympic steeplechaser Tom Hanlon, as well as McGowan, returning fastest times for their stages after strong opening legs from down the field finishers Chris Robison (IBM Spango Valley) and Alan Puckrin (Greenock Glenpark).

The most interesting feature in the closing stages was the ding-dong battle for second place. Cambuslang Harriers moved up from eighth place on the first stage to third (Steven Wyllie), second (Graeme Croll) and from third to second on the final stage (Charlie Thomson), with all three runners achieving fastest leg times.

Shettleston Harriers could be considered rather unlucky as they had to call in borders farmer John Wilkinson, a hill-running international, at 8am that morning because of illness and he was unable to hold on to a 25sec advantage over

## **Cambuslang against the in-form Thomson.**

Hunter's Bog Trotters achieved their best ever position in fourth. Greenock Glenpark, in their centenary year, were awarded the most meritorious performance trophy after finishing 10th as opposed to 19th last year.

The club was one of the few competing this year who also lined up in the first ever Edinburgh to Glasgow in 1933.

### **Men**

1 Leslie Deans Racing Club 3:49:58 (B Kirkwood 27:25; K Chapman 30:45; F McGowan 24:58; S Cohen 27:13; J Robson 28:42; D Ross 35:53; T Hanlon 25:30; G Stewart 29:32); 2 Cambuslang 3:54:30 (D Thom 28:07; A Robertson 31:06; D Runcleman 26:20; W McTaggart 29:22; S Wylie 28:13; G Croll 34:33; S Fleming 27:18; C Thomson 29:31); 3 Shettleston 3:55:34 (D Cameron 27:26; A Callan 31:33; D McGonigle 26:07; J MacKay 27:23; A Little 30:13; G Wight 35:10; B Scally 26:42; J Wilkinson 31:00); 4 Hunter's Bog Trotters 3:57:47 (A Buckley 28:45; S Wright 31:55; N Blissett 27:12; M Thompson 28:42; I Harkness 28:41; P Mowbray 34:33; J Jarvis 27:06; P O'Kane 30:53); 5 Falkirk Victoria Harriers 3:58:20 (G Brown 28:06; K Stirrat 31:04; G Crawford 26:37; M McQuaid 28:46; R McCallum 30:00; I Johnston 35:24; J Stevenson 28:13; S Rankin 30:10); 6 Clydesdale 3:58:21 (D Roache 28:19; S Doig 32:17; S Daly 27:29; K Idessane 27:48; J Austin 29:52; I Murphy 34:54; E Calvert 26:21; D Halpin 31:21); 7 Kilbarchan 3:58:52; 8 Dundee Hawkhill Harriers 4:00:29; 9 Teviotdale 4:02:43; 10 Greenock Glenpark 4:03:44; 11 FMC Carnegie 4:05:54; 12 Fife 4:16:19; 13 Edinburgh AC 4:07:24; 14 Livingston 4:07:40; 15 Aberdeen 4:07:50; 16 Metro Aberdeen 4:09:03; 17 Victoria Park 4:10:17; 18 Irvine 4:11:57; 19 IBM Spango Valley 4:13:49

**Stage 1:** C Robison (IBM Spango) 27:06; Kirkwood 27:25; Cameron 27:26

**Stage 2:** A Puckrin (Green) 30:28; R Quinn (Kilb) 30:31; Chapman 30:45

**Stage 3:** McGowan 24:58; I Steel (ESH) 25:51; McGonigle 26:07

**Stage 4:** Cohen 27:13; R Fitzsimmons (Kilb) 27:14; Mackay 27:23

**Stage 5:** Wylie 28:13; M Strachan (DHH) 28:20; Harkness 28:41

**Stage 6:** Croll/Mowbray 34:33; Murphy 34:54

**Stage 7:** Hanlon 25:30; Calvert 26:21; Scally 26:42

**Stage 8:** C Thomson 29:31; Stewart 29:32; Rankin 30:10