

**M**IZUNO Racing Club collected Scotland's most prestigious road relay title for a record-breaking sixth year in a row.

Shettleston Harriers were runners-up for the second time in three years and Hunters Bog Trotters won their first-ever place on the rostrum when finishing third.

Mizuno, undefeated in relay competition this winter, eclipsed Victoria Park AC's record of five wins between 1950 and '54. And for three members of the winning squad – Brian Kirkwood, Davie Ross and John Robson – there was the added prestige of having appeared in all six Racing Club victories.

Shettleston's quest for the title, which has eluded them for 20 years, got off to a promising start when Dave Cameron gave the Glasgow side a 100 metres lead over Mizuno's Kirkwood on the opening leg. Both men had to play second fiddle, however, to Clydesdale's Allan Adams who led the field home by six seconds.

British international Chris Robison put Shettleston into the lead on the second stage as he overhauled Clydesdale's Steve Doig and pulled away from Mizuno's Ken Chapman with an aggressive piece of front running.

National cross country champion Bobby Quinn pulled Kilbarchan up from fourth to second ahead of Mizuno while Neil Wilkinson hoisted Cambuslang from sixth to fourth. Further down the field Alan Puckrin, having started in 19th position, clocked the fastest stage of the day when hauling Greenock Glenpark up to 13th.

Andy Little turned in a gutsy solo

# Mizuno strike

*There was no stopping Mizuno Racing Club on the road to Glasgow as they collected a sixth title*

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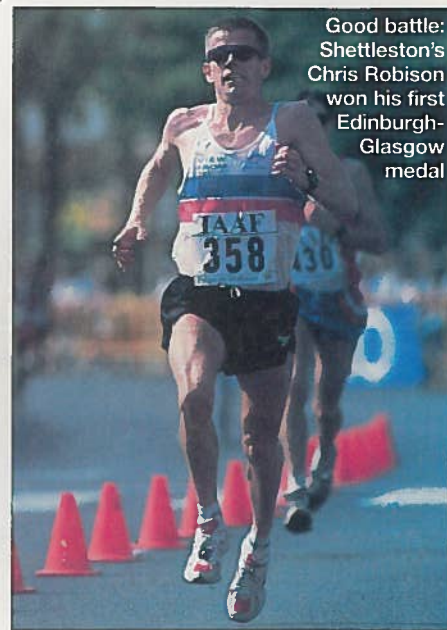
**Report: Fraser Clyne**

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effort on stage three to keep Shettleston ahead of a fast-closing Scott Cohen who reduced Mizuno's deficit on the leaders from 36 seconds at the beginning of the leg to just six seconds. Cambuslang slipped back to fourth while Scottish Universities cross country champion Sandy Moss put Fife AC into third spot almost two minutes behind the leading two sides.

Mizuno's Davie Ross and Shettleston's Adrian Callan then engaged in an exciting battle on stage four which ended with just a stride separating the two clubs at the changeover. Robert Fitzsimmons also ran well to bring Kilbarchan back into the picture in third place ahead of Cambuslang, Clydesdale and Fife. The top two sides were now, however, almost three minutes ahead of their pursuers.

John Robson, who enters the veteran ranks in January, gave Mizuno a narrow advantage on the fifth leg as he powered home 13 seconds ahead of Shettleston's Billy Coyle. Track star Des Roache set a



Good battle: Shettleston's Chris Robison won his first Edinburgh-Glasgow medal

stage record as he took Clydesdale into a distant third place with Cambuslang fourth and Kilbarchan fifth.

The see-saw battle for supremacy at the head of the field took another swing on the long sixth stage as Graeme Wight took Shettleston back into a three-second lead ahead of Mizuno's Peter Fleming. The Racing Club man performed extremely well considering he was still



# six in a row

recovering from finishing second in the Columbus Marathon in Ohio the previous weekend when he recorded 2:19:50.

Graeme Croll brought Cambuslang back into the bronze medal position while Phil Mowbray clocked the fastest stage time when lifting Hunters Bog Trotters into fourth spot.

The outcome of the race was sealed on the seventh stage when Tom Hanlon, whose training has been curtailed in recent weeks because of a groin strain, eased Mizuno 42 seconds ahead of Shettleston's Brian Scally. Ian Reid kept Cambuslang in third.

Will Grant, an Edinburgh University geography student who hails from Canterbury, raised more than a few eyebrows with the fastest stage time as he hauled Hunters Bog Trotters closer to the medal positions with an outstanding run.

Glen Stewart secured victory for Mizuno with a fine last leg run which brought him home just 11 seconds outside Peter Fleming's stage record.

John Mackay clinched second place for Shettleston while Irishman Pat O'Keefe completed Hunters Bog Trotters' late surge to snatch the bronze medal position ahead of a fading Cambuslang.

Livingston and District, led by fine efforts from John Sherban and Peter Dymoke, were given the award for the most meritorious performance when finishing eighth, an improvement of six places on 1995.

Afterwards Mizuno team manager Alan Robson expressed satisfaction at the outcome.

He said: "The club was formed six years ago and we've won the race six times. It's a good record.

"I was a little bit concerned because Tom Hanlon had only trained twice in the last fortnight and I only found out about Peter Fleming's marathon when he arrived back in Scotland this week. Still, it all worked out well in the end."

Shettleston's Chris Robison was disappointed but not disheartened: "We gave them a good battle for a long way. At least I've got the consolation of winning my first Edinburgh to Glasgow medal. That's made it worthwhile."

English visitors Bedford and County finished 15th on their first visit to the big race. Club official Frank Jackson, a former member of Bellahouston Harriers, said: "The lads enjoyed the experience.

"We were missing some of our top runners, otherwise we might have been a few places higher. But hopefully we'll be back."

## Results

1 Mizuno Racing Club 3:42:40 (B Kirkwood 27:25; K Chapman 29:51; S Cohen 24:29; D Ross 26:12; J Robson 26:54; P Fleming 34:02; T Hanlon 25:51; G Stewart 27:56); 2 Shettleston Harriers 3:44:26 (D Cameron 27:07; C Robison 29:33; A Little 24:59; A Callan 26:19; W Coyle 27:07; G Wight 33:45; B Scally 26:36; J Mackay 29:00); 3 Hunters Bog Trotters 3:45:19 (C Jenkins 29:13; J Pyrah 29:58; C Farquharson 26:17; M Thompson 28:46; I Harkness 27:48; P Mowbray 33:11; W Grant 25:37; P O'Keefe 28:29); 4 Cambuslang Harriers 3:51:13 (R Arbuckle 27:57; N Wilkinson 29:37; S McVeigh 26:08; C Thomson 27:09; D Runcleman 27:50; G Croll 34:19; I Reid 28:39; K Downie 31:34); 5 Clydesdale Harriers 3:52:25 (A Adams 27:01; S Doig 31:14; G Reid 25:54; K Idessane 27:53; D Roache 26:26; I Murphy 36:49; J Hendry 27:18; J Austin 29:50); 6 Kilbarchan AAC 3:55:47 (T Hearle 27:32; R Quinn 29:43; J Snodgrass 27:02; R Fitzsimmons 26:27; G Fairley 28:56; I MacDougall 35:51; M McGinley 29:18; G Gibson 30:58); 7 City of Edinburgh 3:55:58 (D Blackie 29:10; M Ferguson 30:58; I Steel 26:00; T Ellacott 27:00; H Glynn 29:42; R Hope 35:50; R Thomson 26:54; A Ward 30:24); 8 Livingston and District 3:56:57 (R Lee 28:46; H Igunas 32:37; T Brand 26:57; D Shaw 29:02; J Sherban 26:37; P Dymoke 34:55; S Dempsey 28:04; C Meek 29:59); 9 Fife AC 3:58:19 (T Mitchell 28:27; D Leggate 29:58; S Moss 25:15; C Ross 29:11; H McKay 29:08; J Cunningham 36:09; A Davis 27:59; D McGregor 32:12); 10 FMC Carnegie Harriers 3:58:54 (C Nikolaidas 28:14; P Morrison 31:58; I Stewart 26:14; S Ogg 28:26; S Reid 29:08; I Taylor 36:27; B MacDonald 27:16; D Armour 31:11); 11 Dundee Hawkhill Harriers 3:59:58 (M Strachan 28:23; E Holmes 31:38; J Hepburn 25:44; B Cook 29:01; D Adam 29:18; P Fox 37:15; P McCormack 27:15; S Borland 31:24); 12 Metro Aberdeen 4:00:20 (K Varney 28:52; N Milovsorov 31:07; C Youngson 25:48; G Main 29:26; K Farquhar 29:14; F Clyne 36:14; P Jennings 28:25; R Taylor 31:14); 13 Falkirk Victoria Harriers 4:02:06 (M McQuaid 28:35; M Colligan 32:24; D Gillespie 27:36; D McKenzie 29:09; J Stevenson 29:51; K Stirrat 35:29; R McCallum 27:32; J Lambie 31:30); 14 Greenock Glenpark Harriers 4:05:20 (H Fenlon 30:52; A Puckrin 29:30; R McDonald 28:21; J McFadyen 28:55; S McLoone 29:29; J Bennett 37:38; D McLaughlin 27:47; W Dunn 32:48); 15 Bedford & County 4:05:39 (J McMahon 27:42; A Cross 32:04; A Blair 26:29; C Riley 29:04; D Laynes 30:56; S Plews 36:45; R Payne 29:46; J Roots 32:53); 16 Aberdeen AAC 4:06:27; 17 Victoria Park 4:09:29; 18 Tiviotdale Harriers 4:10:12; 19 Irvine AC 4:12:25; 20 JW Kilmarnock Harriers 4:15:05; 21 Dumfries RC 4:18:28

**Fastest Times**  
**Stage One (5.5 miles)**  
 Adams 27:01; Cameron 27:07; Kirkwood 27:25; Hearle 27:32; McMahon 27:42; Arbuckle 27:57; Nikolaidas 28:14; Mitchell 28:27; McQuaid 28:35  
**Stage Two (6 miles)**  
 Puckrin 29:30; Robison 29:33; Wilkinson 29:37; Quinn 29:43; Chapman 29:51; Pyrah & Leggate 29:58; Ferguson 30:58; Milovsorov 31:07; Doig 31:14  
**Stage Three (4.7 miles)**  
 Cohen 24:29; Little 24:59; Moss 25:15; Hepburn 25:44; Youngson 25:48; Reid 25:54; Steel 26:00; McVeigh 26:08; Stewart 26:14; Farquharson 26:17  
**Stage Four (5.3 miles)**  
 Ross 26:12; Callan 26:19; Fitzsimmons 26:27; D Cavers (Tev) 26:48; Ellacott 27:00; Thomson 27:09; Idessane 27:53; Ogg 28:26; B Richardson (Irv) 28:36; Thompson 28:46  
**Stage Five (5.5 miles)**  
 Roache 26:26; Sherban 26:37; Robson 26:54; Coyle 27:07; Harkness 27:48; Runcleman 27:50; Fairley 28:56; Reid & McKay 29:08; Farquhar 29:14  
**Stage Six (7 miles)**  
 Mowbray 33:11; Wight 33:45; Fleming 34:02; Croll 34:19; Dymoke 34:55; Stirrat 35:29; Hope 35:50; MacDougall 35:51; Cunningham 36:09; S Barnett (VP) 36:10  
**Stage Seven (5.5 miles)**  
 Grant 25:37; Hanlon 25:51; Scally 26:36; Reid 26:39; Thomson 26:54; McCormack 27:15; MacDonald 27:16; Hendry 27:18; McCallum 27:32; McLaughlin 27:47  
**Stage Eight (6 miles)**  
 Stewart 27:56; O'Keefe 28:29; Mackay 29:00; Austin 29:50; Meek 29:59; Ward 30:24; Gibson 30:58; Armour 31:11; Taylor 31:14; Borland 31:24