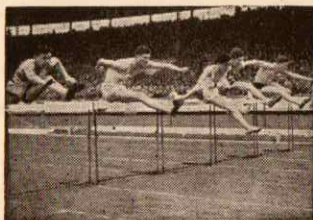


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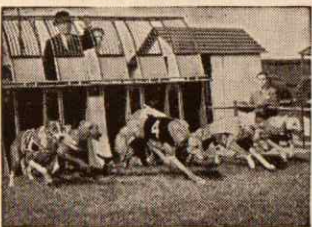
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TWELFTH ANNUAL



EDINBURGH TO GLASGOW RELAY RACE

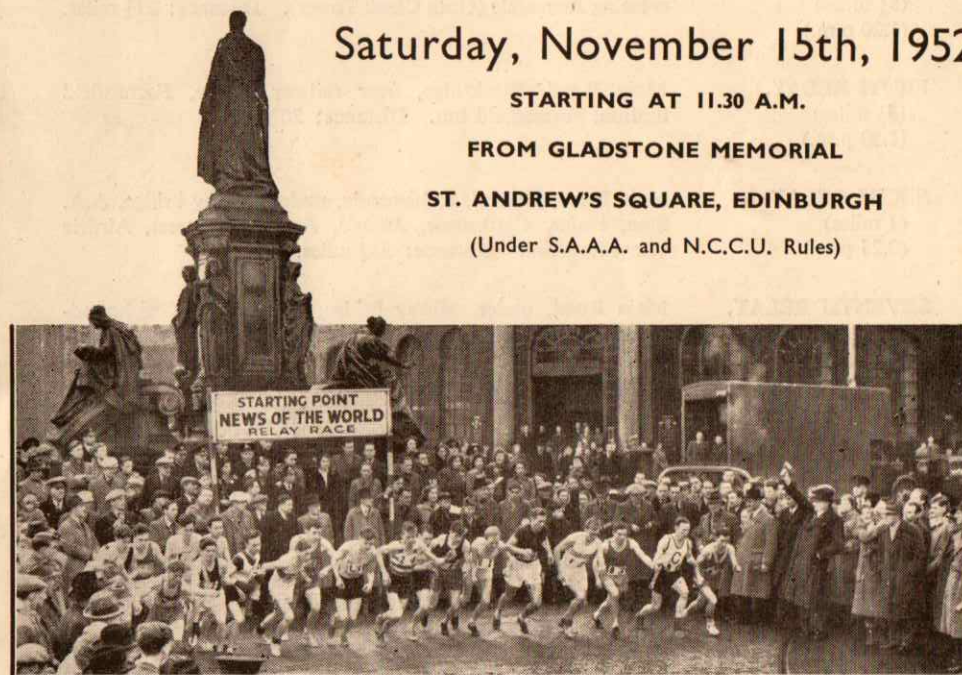
Saturday, November 15th, 1952

STARTING AT 11.30 A.M.

FROM GLADSTONE MEMORIAL

ST. ANDREW'S SQUARE, EDINBURGH

(Under S.A.A.A. and N.C.C.U. Rules)



RELAYS AND EXCHANGE STATIONS

The runners, totalling 160, will be divided into eight relays of 20.

Each competitor must wear, **BACK AND FRONT**, the number and the letter shown in this programme.

News of the World arrow signs will be shown throughout the Course at all turns, and banners show each take-over.

- FIRST RELAY.** (5½ miles)
(approx. time of arrival 11.55 a.m.)
Starting by Gladstone Memorial, St. Andrew's Square, North David Street, Queen Street, Albion Place, St. Colne Street, Ainslie Place, Great Stuart Street, Randolph Crescent, Melville Street, Manor Place, Coates Place, West Maitland Street, Haymarket Station, Clifton Terrace, Haymarket Terrace, under Railway Arch, Roseburn Terrace, Corstorphine Road, Maybury Cross. First take-over. Distance: 5½ miles.
- SECOND RELAY.** (6 miles)
(12.25 p.m.)
Main Glasgow Road, left fork to Newbridge, over stone bridge, under viaduct, right fork main, by Broxburn A.A. box to Broxburn East U.F. Church. Distance: 11½ miles.
- THIRD RELAY.** (4 miles)
(12.45 p.m.)
Main Road to Uphall, right fork main, sharp rise to Dechmont (switchback going) to Wester Dechmont Farm. Distance: 15½ miles.
- FOURTH RELAY.** (5¾ miles)
(1.20 p.m.)
Main Road right fork, then fork left for Bathgate, over level crossing Armadale (Goth Clock Tower). Distance: 21¼ miles.
- FIFTH RELAY.** (5½ miles)
(1.50 p.m.)
Main Road, Blackridge, over railway bridge, Forrestfield Station, Forrestfield Inn. Distance: 26¾ miles.
- SIXTH RELAY.** (7 miles)
(2.25 p.m.)
Main Road, Hillend, Caldercruix, under railway bridge, A.A. Sign, Plains, Clarkstone, Airdrie, Alexandra Street, Airdrie War Memorial. Distance: 33¾ miles.
- SEVENTH RELAY.** (5½ miles)
(2.55 p.m.)
Main Road, under railway bridge, Coatbridge, Greyhound Enclosure, under two bridges, Bank Street, Coatbridge, Bargeddie P.O., Baillieston, Spring Hill Cross, Barrachnie, Telephone Box. Distance: 39¼ miles.
- EIGHTH RELAY.** (5 miles)
(3.20 p.m.)
Main Shettleston Road, Shettleston, right fork, under railway bridge, Duke Street, turn left into High Street, turn right into Ingram Street, Royal Exchange (Queen Street). Full distance: 44¼ miles.

SPECIAL NOTE FOR THE SAFETY OF RUNNERS

All competitors must keep to the left-hand side of the road whilst running. Cutting corners is not allowed. Any competitor indulging in this dangerous practice will render his team liable to disqualification.

HONORARY OFFICIALS

President: W. EMSLEY CARR, ESQ. (*News of the World*).

Vice-Presidents: The Rt. Hon. JAMES MILLER (Lord Provost of Edinburgh); The Rt. Hon. T. A. KERR (Lord Provost of Glasgow).

Starter: BAILIE J. R. RHIND of Edinburgh.

Referee: P. LEGGAT (Chairman S.N.C.C.U.).

Relays 1-4-8:

Timekeepers: D. MCSWEIN (Chief) (S.A.A.A.); T. MCKAY (S.A.A.A.).

Recorders: W. C. ARMOUR (S.A.A.A.); E. TAYLOR (S.N.C.C.U.).

Relays 2-5-8:

Timekeepers: D. CORBET (S.A.A.A.); A. NANGLE (S.N.C.C.U.).

Recorders: J. A. HENDERSON (E.S.H.); F. GRAHAM (*Maryhill Harriers*).

Relays 3-7:

Timekeeper: W. DEMPSEY (S.A.A.A.).

Recorders: A. STEVENSON (S.A.A.A.); D. FERGUSON (*Shettleston Harriers*).

Relays 6-8:

Timekeeper: J. W. MILLER (S.A.A.A.).

Recorders: G. K. AITHIE (S.A.A.A.); R. McDONALD.

Judges: G. DALLAS (S.N.C.C.U.); T. FRASER (S.N.C.C.U.); J. GILBERT (S.A.A.A.); J. MCCLURG (S.A.A.A.); T. D. MCKIE (*Glasgow Police*); A. F. NEILSON (S.N.C.C.U.); W. J. PEPPER (A.A.A.); D. SCOTT (President, S.N.C.C.U.); D. M. WRIGHT (S.A.A.A.).

Transport Chief: G. S. BARBER (*Maryhill Harriers*).

Transport Assistant: A. N. CROSBIE (S.N.C.C.U.).

Coach Stewards: Coach No. 1, W. J. ANDREWS (S.B.A.A.A.); 2, R. DEVON (S.M.C.); 3, J. McNAMARA (S.M.C.); 4, G. PICKERING (S.N.C.C.U.); 5, I. ROSS (*Edinburgh Southern H.*); 6, G. K. HORSBURGH; 7, W. J. ROSS (*Garscube H.*); 8, G. HERNING (*Glasgow Y.M.C.A.*); 9, J. T. MITCHELL (S.N.C.C.U.).

Course Official: F. EVANS.

Medical: ST. ANDREW'S AMBULANCE BRIGADE.

Results Reporters: G. WALKER; M. STEWART (S.N.C.C.U.).

Glasgow Results Board: J. S. RUSSELL; A. MURDOCH.

Clerk of the Course: W. CARMICHAEL (S.A.A.A.).

Assistant Clerk of the Course: W. McNEILLIE (S.A.A.A.).

Organisers: JOE BINKS, ERNEST RILEY (*News of the World*).

Assistant Organisers: R. N. BACCHUS, D. G. WILSON (*News of the World*).

EDINBURGH—GLASGOW RELAY 1951



(Left) A. Breckenridge, Victoria Park A.A.C., first man home.

(Top right) Bailie Gordon Reid presenting the trophy to captain of Victoria Park A.A.C.

(Bottom right) Bailie J. B. MacKenzie handing baton to I. Binnie (Victoria Park A.A.C.) at the start.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPETITORS AND OFFICIALS

A letter from the Rt. Hon. James Miller, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, addressed to the Rt. Hon. T. A. Kerr, Lord Provost of Glasgow, will be handed to the first representative of Victoria Park A.A.C. (last year's winners) at the start by Bailie J. R. Rhind, of Edinburgh, and will be carried by the leading runner in each relay, and will be handed to the Lord Provost of Glasgow's deputy, Councillor P. Meldrum, at the winning post.

Competitors' coaches, numbered as per relays 1-8, will take runners to their respective starting points, and pick them up again at the end of their relays. All competitors *must* travel in the official coaches.

All competitors, except those running in the first relay, must be in their respective coaches, ready to start at 11.0 a.m. No competitor will be waited for. Only competitors and officials with Coach Tickets will be allowed to travel in the coaches.

To avoid congestion, no coaches must stop within 100 yards beyond each Take-Over. Coach drivers are asked by the organisers to observe this request strictly.

Dressing facilities at the start: Edinburgh Y.M.C.A., South St. Andrew Street.

The first ten teams to finish will qualify for next year's race. The remaining teams to be invited will be selected by the Scottish A.A.A. and S.N.C.C.U.

Immediately after the race, competitors and officials with Tea Tickets adjourn to the Ca'doro Restaurant, Union Street, Glasgow, for High Tea, where Councillor Peter Meldrum will present the Trophy and Medals to the winners.

TEAMS AND RUNNERS

BELLAHOUSTON HARRIERS

"News of the World" Relay: Fastest time 3 hrs. 49 mins. 47 secs. 1938.
Winners 1936, 1938. Third in April and November, 1949, Fourth 1951.
(Colours: Dark Blue; St. Andrew's Cross)

A1 H. Ferion	A6 G. McArthur	A10 J. McLean
A2 J. Christie	A7 R. Stoddart	A11 G. Bell
A3 J. Kelly	A8 C. Kirk	A12 D. Robertson
A4 H. Kennedy	A9 R. Climie	A13 A. Dunwoody
A5 C. Milligan		A14 P. Livingston

CLYDESDALE HARRIERS

"News of the World" Relay: Fastest time 4 hrs. 8 mins. 13 secs. 1950.
(Colours: Black and White)

B1 R. Boyd	B8 J. Duffy	B14 A. McLellan
B2 P. Younger	B9 D. Howie	B15 J. Boyd
B3 J. Higginson	B10 J. Cowie	B16 J. Gaskell
B4 G. White	B11 W. Andrew	B17 D. Bowman
B5 J. Hame	B12 P. Reynolds	B18 F. Kilty
B6 J. Young	B13 A. Younger	B19 F. Clark
B7 D. Stewart		B20 T. Tait

DUNDEE THISTLE HARRIERS

"News of the World" Relay: Fastest time 3 hrs. 50 mins. 14 secs. 1937.
Winners 1934, 1937.
(Colours: Crimson)

C1 H. Irvine	C6 J. Lowis	C12 H. Butchart
C2 I. Watson	C7 E. Nicoll	C13 C. D. Robertson
C3 R. Spalding	C8 S. Cunningham	C14 P. Taylor
C4 J. Miller	C9 D. Miller	C15 A. Hay
C5 A. McIntosh	C10 R. R. Johnston	C16 E. King
	C11 J. Chalmers	

EDINBURGH SOUTHERN HARRIERS

"News of the World" Relay: Fastest time 3 hrs. 59 mins. 27 secs. 1950.
Fifth 1951.

(Colours: Blue and White)

D1 J. V. Paterson	D8 J. Smart	D14 W. Gembles
D2 R. Mitchell	D9 T. J. Logan	D15 A. Philip
D3 H. S. Millar	D10 W. J. Saunderson	D16 I. Ferguson
D4 G. Reid	D11 D. Webster	D17 W. Grieve
D5 I. Gourley	D12 H. Robb	D18 W. L. Brown
D6 W. A. Robertson	D13 W. Grant	D19 D. Morrison
D7 H. Robertson		D20 J. Nimmo

FALKIRK VICTORIA HARRIERS

(Colours: Black and Gold)

G1 G. W. Jackson	G8 P. Rae	G14 S. Robertson
G2 R. A. Sinclair	G9 W. Gardiner	G15 T. Blackhall
G3 T. D. Todd	G10 T. Dobbie	G16 J. Kane
G4 W. Paxton	G11 R. Todd	G17 A. Crawford
G5 A. Cook	G12 R. Shirra	G18 R. Crawford
G6 D. Nichol	G13 G. Cox	G19 S. Laurie
G7 R. Paxton		G20 R. Alexander

GARSCUBE HARRIERS

"News of the World" Relay: Fastest time 3 hrs. 53 mins. 26 secs. 1937.
(Colours: White with Blue Band)

H1 A. Kidd	H7 F. Russell	H12 A. Gold
H2 D. Coupland	H8 J. Gunn	H13 T. Barton
H3 G. Dunn	H9 H. Carson	H14 J. Barrowman
H4 R. Black	H10 E. Murray	H15 T. Gourlap
H5 A. Warton	H11 D. Causon	H16 T. Daily
H6 J. Duffy		H17 A. Hay

GLASGOW Y.M.C.A. ATHLETIC CLUB

"News of the World" Relay: Fastest time 4 hrs. 12 mins. 35 secs. 1938.
(Colours: White Singlet with Red Triangle, Black Pants with White Facings)

J1 J. Ballantyne	J5 R. Donald	J10 J. Shields
J2 H. Clarke	J6 S. H. Mowbray	J11 J. R. Scott
J3 J. Crawford	J7 A. M. McGown	J12 J. R. Weatherston
J4 J. Dowell	J8 D. McFarlane	J13 R. Wotherspoon
	J9 D. MacLeod	

GREENOCK GLENPARK HARRIERS

"News of the World" Relay: Third 1950 in 3 hrs. 59 mins.
Sixth 1951.

(Colours: Sky Blue Singlet with Badge)

K1 J. W. Armstrong	K7 J. Taft	K13 W. Elder
K2 I. McD. Osborne	K8 J. Sinclair	K14 C. Kennedy
K3 J. Grant	K9 R. Cox	K15 D. O'Brien
K4 A. Maclean	K10 H. Coll	K16 H. Beaton
K5 S. Williamson	K11 D. Turner	K17 D. Farren
K6 J. Fraser	K12 R. Clarke	K18 H. Soutter

HAMILTON HARRIERS

"News of the World" Relay: Fastest time 4 hrs. 4 mins. 51 secs. 1936.
(Colours: White with Red Facings)

L1 J. Finlayson	L7 G. McGill	L13 J. Smith
L2 A. C. Gibson	L8 J. Craig	L14 W. Campbell
L3 H. Gibson	L9 J. Stewart	L15 H. Robertson
L4 D. Wilson	L10 R. Spiers	L16 W. Brownlie
L5 J. Hepburn	L11 B. Hendry	L17 D. Jeffreys
L6 G. Craig	L12 G. Sorbie	L18 W. Stewart

IRVINE Y.M.C.A. HARRIERS

"News of the World" Relay: Fastest time 4 hrs. 8 mins. 44 secs. 1950.
(Colours: White, Blue Band, Red Triangle)

M1 H. Kennedy	M5 J. Lawson	M9 M. Butler
M2 J. Demster	M6 K. Alexander	M10 E. Allan
M3 S. Cuthbert	M7 D. Andrews	M11 F. Muir
M4 A. Muir	M8 J. Burgess	M12 D. Strachen

KIRKCALDY Y.M.C.A. HARRIERS

"News of the World" Relay: Fastest time 4 hrs. 10 mins. 47 secs. 1950.
(Colours: White with Gold Band)

E1 G. R. Mortimer	E7 J. Duncan	E12 J. J. Fraser
E2 P. Husband	E8 T. Stead	E13 G. Millar
E3 W. E. Duncan	E9 J. Dewar	E14 W. Caroon
E4 J. Peacock	E10 G. N. Clark	E15 Ian Crystal
E5 J. Kay	E11 R. C. Hewson	E16 A. Gibson
E6 J. Bell		E17 S. Thomson

MARYHILL HARRIERS

"News of the World" Relay: Fastest time 3 hrs. 50 mins. 5 secs. 1938.
Winners 1939.

(Colours: Royal Blue Singlet, White Shorts)

P1 J. Wright	P7 T. Harrison	P13 G. Porteous
P2 R. McDonald	P8 R. Wright	P14 I. Picken
P3 W. Hannah	P9 J. E. Farrell	P15 H. B. Morrison
P4 J. Campbell	P10 I. Pattison	P16 J. McBride
P5 R. Brymner	P11 J. Hoskins	P17 S. Russell
P6 T. K. Wilson	P12 J. Gibson	P18 D. Tait

MONKLAND HARRIERS

"News of the World" Relay: Fastest time 4 hrs. 8 mins. 4 secs. 1950.
(Colours: Black with White Sash)

R1 F. Bradley	R7 J. McIntyre	R13 J. Murray
R2 J. Gordon	R8 J. Brown	R14 R. Muir
R3 J. Glen	R9 W. Drysdale	R15 R. Drysdale
R4 A. MacPherson	R10 W. McIntyre	R16 D. Stevenson
R5 J. Geddes	R11 W. Learmouth	R17 H. Ryder
R6 A. Arbuckle	R12 J. Taylor	R18 G. Jackson

MOTHERWELL Y.M.C.A. HARRIERS

"News of the World" Relay: Fastest time 4 hrs. 3 mins. 32 secs. 1936.
(Colours: Black with White Facings)

S1 B. McRoberts	S8 A. H. Brown (Junior)	S14 W. Marshall
S2 T. Scott	S9 A. Morrow	S15 T. McGlynn
S3 M. Mitchell	S10 A. Kirkwood	S16 R. Dawkins
S4 W. Watson	S11 J. Moir	S17 R. Barnes
S5 J. McMillan	S12 D. Nelson	S18 W. Kerr
S6 R. Perkins	S13 I. McCall	S19 J. Smith
S7 A. Brown		S20 R. Devon

PAISLEY HARRIERS

(Colours: Royal Blue and Red)

T1 J. M. Campbell	T6 J. Deveney	T12 W. Rutherford
T2 A. Napier	T7 J. McCullum	T13 E. McLaughlin
T3 W. McNeil	T8 J. Sellars	T14 A. Anderson
T4 A. Duncan	T9 M. McFadden	T15 L. Crossan
T5 F. Kellett	T10 T. Fellowes	T16 R. Anderson
	T11 J. Feeley	

NATIONAL ROAD RELAY RACE 1952 LONDON TO BRIGHTON

PLEBEIAN HARRIERS

"News of the World" Relay: Fastest time 3 hrs. 53 mins. 57 secs. 1936.

Winners 1933

(Colours: White Vest with Red Band)

U1 A. Smith	U7 J. McGregor	U13 T. Monaghan
U2 A. Small	U8 A. Robertson	U14 A. Stark
U3 T. McQuade	U9 J. McCann	U15 H. Glasgow
U4 D. Barclay	U10 P. McDermid	U16 J. McEwan
U5 F. Cassells	U11 C. S. Heaney	U17 T. Campbell
U6 E. Latham	U12 P. McGregor	U18 W. Cook

SHETTLESTON HARRIERS

"News of the World" Relay: Fastest time 3 hrs. 52 mins. 51 secs. 1936.

Winners April and November, 1949, Second 1950 and 1951.

(Colours: Royal Blue with Gold Band)

W1 E. Bannon	W8 B. Bickerton	W15 J. Burton
W2 J. Cadie	W9 F. Scally	W16 A. Steel
W3 R. C. Wallace	W10 W. McFarlane	W17 P. FitzPatrick
W4 D. Bridges	W11 A. Baird	W18 J. Hamilton
W5 T. Walters	W12 J. C. Ross	W19 T. Clark
W6 J. Turnbull	W13 W. Chalmers	W20 J. B. Miller
W7 J. McNeil	W14 J. McElroy	W21 J. Kirk

SPRINGBURN HARRIERS

"News of the World" Relay: Fastest time 3 hrs. 58 mins. 22 secs. 1938.

Third 1951.

(Colours: Navy Blue Vest with White Diamond, White Shorts)

X1 A. Stevenson	X8 T. O'Reilly	X14 S. Maxwell
X2 J. Stevenson	X9 S. McFadden	X15 T. Lambert
X3 J. Rankine	X10 G. Feeny	X16 J. McDonald
X4 D. Wallace	X11 T. Phelam	X17 J. Jacobs
X5 J. Wallace	X12 R. B. Kinloch	X18 J. Crawford
X6 N. McGowan	X13 W. McMillan	X19 J. Hart
X7 J. Morton		X20 J. Haggerty

VALE OF LEVEN A.A.C.

"News of the World" Relay: Fastest time 4 hrs. 3 mins. 27 secs. 1950.

(Colours: Red and White Hoops)

Y1 W. Gallacher	Y6 W. Crowe	Y12 J. McLeod
Y2 D. McPherson	Y7 J. McNabb	Y13 G. Crawford
Y3 R. A. Steel	Y8 R. Turner	Y14 G. Crichton
Y4 A. McDougall	Y9 R. Allan	Y15 W. Patterson
Y5 F. J. Lacey	Y10 M. Connell	Y16 T. Wilson
	Y11 R. Campbell	

VICTORIA PARK A.A.C.

"News of the World" Relay: First 1950 in 3 hrs. 52 mins. 43 secs.

First 1951.

(Colours: Blue and White Hoops)

Z1 A. Forbes	Z8 S. Ellis	Z14 J. J. Hamilton
Z2 I. Binnie	Z9 N. Ellis	Z15 J. Simpson
Z3 R. C. Calderwood	Z10 J. D. Stirling	Z16 D. Shuttleworth
Z4 R. Kane	Z11 F. McKay	Z17 R. O'Hara
Z5 A. D. Breckenridge	Z12 D. MacFarlane	Z18 D. Orr
Z6 J. Ellis	Z13 D. Henson	Z19 P. Callaghan
Z7 C. D. Forbes		Z20 C. Vernon



(Top) The start from Mitcham.

(Bottom left) A. D. Breckenridge (Victoria Park A.A.C.) takes over from A. Forbes for 8th leg.

(Bottom right) R. Hughes (Polytechnic) and P. Ross (Reading) taking over at the "Jolliffe Arms".

NATIONAL RELAY RACE

The first two teams in this race will receive an invitation to participate in the National Race from London to Brighton to be held on April 11, 1953.

The claims of the third and fourth teams will also receive the careful consideration of the Committee, when teams are being selected for the National Race.

EDINBURGH—GLASGOW RELAY RACE WINNERS AND TIMES

1933 Plebeian H.	4. 7.5	Dundee Thistle H.	4. 8.35	Edinburgh N. H.	4.11.59
1934 Dundee Thistle H.	4.20.47	Edinburgh N. H.	4.21.46	Maryhill H.	4.22.35
1935 Edinburgh N. H.	4. 3.23	Garscube H.	4. 4.18	Plebeian H.	4. 4.32
1936 Bellahouston H.	3.51.15	Shettleston H.	3.52.51	Plebeian H.	3.52.57
1937 Dundee Thistle H.	3.50.14	Maryhill H.	3.52.11	Bellahouston H.	3.52.57
1938 Bellahouston H.	3.49.47	Maryhill H.	3.50.5	Dundee Thistle H.	3.56.20
1939 Maryhill H.	4. 6.3	Bellahouston H.	4. 6.36	Shettleston H.	4. 8.17
April					
1949 Shettleston H.	4.15.25	Victoria Pk. A.A.C.	4.20.56	Bellahouston H.	4.21.16
Nov.					
1949 Shettleston H.	3.56.57	Victoria Pk. A.A.C.	3.58.7	Bellahouston H.	4. 2.22
1950 Victoria Pk. A.A.C.	3.52.43	Shettleston H.	3.53.15	Greenock	3.59.0
				Glenpark H.	
1951 Victoria Pk. A.A.C.	3.56.4	Shettleston H.	3.59.30	Springburn H.	4. 1.9

INTERMEDIATE COURSE RECORDS

Relay					
1 R. B. McIntosh	...	Greenock Glenpark H.	...	26 mins. 5 secs.	(1936)
2 J. C. Flockhart	...	Shettleston H.	...	30 " 26 "	(1936)
3 P. McNab	...	Springburn H.	...	21 " 56 "	(1936)
4 A. T. Whitecross	...	Dundee Thistle H.	...	30 " 24 "	(1937)
5 J. Campbell	...	Bellahouston H.	...	27 " 57 "	(1938)
6 J. C. Flockhart	...	Shettleston H.	...	33 " 32 "	(1937)
7 D. Urquhart	...	Garscube H.	...	29 " 3 "	(1937)
8 A. Austin	...	Bellahouston H.	...	24 " 23 "	(1938)

Note.—In a previous series of races over the same course, S. K. Tombe (Plebeian H.) ran the 5th Relay in 27 mins. 53 secs. in 1931, and F. L. Stevenson (Monkland H.) ran the 8th Relay in 24 mins. 22 secs. in 1930.

AWARDS

Winning Team to hold the "News of the World" Silver Trophy

The first four teams to finish will receive a set of specially designed medals (gold-fronted for the winners, silver for the runners-up, and bronze for the third and fourth).

An extra set of bronze medals will be awarded to the unplaced team who gave the most meritorious performance.

This question will be decided by the following well-known officials: E. Riley, J. Binks, D. G. Wilson, W. J. Pepper, A. F. Neilson, J. Gilbert, G. Dallas, D. M. Wright, W. Carmichael, D. McSwein, and the Referee, P. Leggat.

THANKS

The honorary organisers, on behalf of the "News of the World," thank the Scottish National Cross-country Union and the Scottish Amateur Athletic Association and all the officials for their valued assistance.

We are grateful also to the civic authorities of the cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, and of the other towns through which we have passed, and of the counties of Midlothian, West Lothian and Lanarkshire, for their help.

The police authorities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Midlothian, West Lothian and Lanarkshire have given their cordial co-operation, and we have much appreciated their aid.

Finally, we thank all who permitted us to erect direction signs along the route, all who lent their cars, or helped in other ways, including members of the St. Andrew's Ambulance Brigade, who gave invaluable service, and last, but by no means least, the runners themselves for their splendid support.

BIRCHFIELD WIN 1952 NATIONAL ROAD RELAY

Reprinted from *NEWS OF THE WORLD*, April 6, 1952

By JOE BINKS, ex-holder Mile Record

Birchfield Harriers scored a magnificent victory in winning the second London to Brighton National Road relay race on April 5 this year. Their time of 3 hrs. 54 mins. 55 secs. for the 45½ miles, divided into 10 stages of distances varying between two and six miles, gave them a 25 secs. margin over Belgrave Harriers, with Victoria Park A.A.C., Glasgow, third, Thames Valley Harriers fourth and Blackheath Harriers fifth.

Teeming rain which began to fall at the half-way stage, and a stiff head breeze put paid to any full or intermediate course records. But the excitement created by the spectacular racing more than compensated for the adverse weather conditions.

Alec Olney failed by a narrow margin to give Thames Valley their usual lead over the first stage. This time it was Terry Keegan, Walton, the Southern junior champion, who took premier honours.

Birchfield international Ted Dalton put the Birmingham club into the lead over the second stage, and Len Herbert brought the Belgrave colours from 16th to 10th position.

Frequent changing of positions took place throughout the field of the 20 selected teams, but while Birchfield and Thames Valley were fighting it out for the leadership, Belgrave began an undeniable challenge.

"Ginger" Newell took them into fourth place with a great-hearted 4½ miles over the third stage, and Bill Lucas followed by Ray Tooby had them knocking at the door. Then thanks to some dour, determined team-running, Victoria Park, the famous Glasgow club, became a force and, following an inspired effort by their team captain, Andy Forbes, Scottish track and cross-country international, over the tough, undulating six miles of the seventh leg, the Scots went into second place.

Thames Valley were, however, only a second behind, with Belgrave a close fourth. But Len Adams sent Belgrave hopes soaring, closing up to Birchfield in second place. But the Birmingham club had a trump card in Freddie Green who, over the ninth stage, set the seal on his club's success with a great 20 mins. 51 secs.—the fastest time for this 4½ miles. He widened the gap to give C. Parmenter a useful lead to race home in the pouring rain, a great winner of a fighting team.

In finishing second Belgrave, after being once down the field in 16th position, put up truly a phenomenal performance, and Victoria Park, recent winners of the English cross-country championship, gave the answer to their critics who had asserted that their strength lay mainly in six runners.

Of the notable athletes who competed in this race, Jim Peters, Essex Beagles, the British marathon champion, returned the fastest time of 30 mins. 16 secs. for the seventh leg, but only one second faster than his Scottish rival, Forbes.

Bill Nankeville brought Walton up from seventh to sixth position over the final stage—a great effort by this club incidentally, who were without their star, Chris Chataway.

Placings.—Birchfield (3 hrs. 54 mins. 55 secs.), 1; Belgrave (3.55.20), 2; Victoria Park (3.56.42), 3; Thames Valley (3.57.18), 4; Blackheath (3.58.50), 5; Walton (4.0.16), 6; Reading (4.0.23), 7; Bolton United (4.1.35), 8; Polytechnic (4.1.37), 9; Sutton (4.2.1), 10; Herne Hill (4.2.32), 11; Shaftesbury (4.4.57), 12; Coventry Godiva (4.5.9), 13; Sheffield United (4.6.25), 14; Tipton (4.7.43), 15; East Cheshire (4.8.42), 16; Shettleston (4.9.23), 17; Aylesford (4.9.30), 18; Salford (4.14.5), 19; Essex Beagles (4.15.19), 20.