

NATIONAL 6 STAGE ROAD RELAY

27TH MARCH 1982

Scottish News

From Colin Shields

Edinburgh Southern Collect Another Title

WHEN NEWLY-CROWNED Scottish cross country champion, Allister Hutton, brought Edinburgh Southern home two minutes ahead of his nearest rival for Southern's fourth successive victory in the event on March 27th, it completed a clean sweep of Scottish national team titles this season. Already winners of the four-man cross country relay title, the Edinburgh to Glasgow relay and the Scottish 'National' team title at Irvine, Southern had never been beaten in the short history of the Six-Stage Road Relay at Strathclyde Park.

Their strong, well-balanced team, even without John Robson, never looked like being beaten, taking the lead on the fourth lap and building up a 300m lead for Hutton, who broke the lap record on the final stage.

The race as a spectacle was ruined on the second lap around the park as Bellahouston went off course, missing the markers at a vital turn, and lost up to two minutes, followed by the next three teams — Aberdeen, Springburn and Edinburgh AC. Though Edinburgh and Bellahouston showed great fighting spirit to recover to third and sixth at the finish, Aberdeen had the stuffing knocked out of them and finished way back, in ninth position, over six minutes behind the winners.

Stage One — 3 1/4M. Perfect conditions on a bright, sunny day enabled Graham Laing to break the record for the opening short lap with a time of 17:54. Junior, Andrew McKay, equalled the old record of 18:03, with Peter Fleming outsprinting John McKay (C'bank) by a yard, and Alex Robertson bringing Southern home in fifth, in 18:11. **Fastest:** G. Laing (A'deen) 17:54; A. McKay (EAC) 18:03; P. Fleming (Bella) 18:09.

Stage Two — 5 3/4M. George Braidwood lost his way, and the resultant loss of valuable time dropped Bellahouston to 11th, Edinburgh AC to 10th and Aberdeen to 14th. Spango Valley's new find, Chris Leck, now recovered from injury, recorded the fastest lap time of 27:11, to bring his club from 21st to sixth, with Bill Day (running for Falkirk Victoria 'B') returning 27:25 to rise from 20th to eighth, ahead of his 'A' team runner, John McGarva. **Fastest:** C. Leck (SV) 27:11; W. Day (FVH 'B') 27:25; J. McGarva (FVH) 27:29.

Stage Three. Derek Easton brought Falkirk Victoria into the lead at the halfway point, seven seconds ahead of Edinburgh Southern (I. Elliot), with Nigel Jones having a fine run to bring Edinburgh AC from tenth to fifth. **Fastest:** D. Easton (FVH) 18:30; N. Jones (EAC) 18:40; I. Elliot (ESH) 18:41.

Stage Four. Way down the field, Scottish international, Fraser Clyne, set about retrieving Aberdeen's fortunes, lifting his club from 15th to ninth with the fast time of 26:44. Lewis Robertson (26:49) continued Edinburgh AC's rapid rise to the top with a gain of three places as Evan Cameron took over a minute from his previous best time for the long lap to give Southern a lead of 28 seconds from city rivals Edinburgh AC. **Fastest:** F. Clyne (A'deen) 26:44; L. Robertson (EAC) 26:49; E. Cameron (ESH) 27:21.

Stage Five. Starting in the lead, veterinary surgeon, Dave Logue, now returned to live and work in Scotland, added a further 28 seconds to the lead when returning the fastest lap time. Steve Laing, who had a fine winter season and should be capable of some good 1500m/5000m performances on the track this summer, retained second position, but Falkirk Victoria were threatening in third. 1970 Commonwealth 10,000m champion, Lachie Stewart, now enjoying a renewed lease of life and full of enthusiasm with Spango Valley in Greenock, surprised many with the third fastest time. **Fastest:** D. Logue (ESH) 18:05; S. Laing (EAC) 18:33; L. Stewart (SV) 18:56.

Stage Six. Allister Hutton was in the novel position of starting the final lap with a lead of almost 300m — something he was totally unused to having gained all previous three victories for Southern coming from behind. Nothing spared, he broke his own lap record with a time of 25:52 — the first time the 26 minute barrier had been broken for the 5.7M course. Jim Dingwall, always at his best in a road run, took Falkirk Victoria into their best ever placing when overtaking Colin Keir (EAC) in the final mile. Springburn Harriers, who finished seventh, were disqualified for running their athletes in a different order from the declared team. **Fastest:** A. Hutton (ESH) 25:52; J. Dingwall (FVH) 26:40; C. Spence (SV) 27:29.

1, Edinburgh Southern (A. Robertson 18:11, G. McIntyre 28:26, I. Elliot 18:41, E. Cameron 27:21, D. Logue 18:05, A. Hutton 25:52) 2:16:36; 2, Falkirk Victoria (J. Evans 19:12, J. McGarva 27:29, D. Easton 18:30, G. Mitchell 27:59, P. Faulds 18:57, J. Dingwall 26:40) 2:18:47;

3, Edinburgh AC (A. McKay 18:03, B. Kirkwood 29:33, N. Jones 18:40, L. Robertson 26:49, S. Laing 18:33, C. Keir 27:37) 2:19:15; 4, Spango Valley (T. Dobbin 19:54, C. Leck 27:11, K. Ferguson 19:45, A. Law 27:33, L. Stewart 18:56, C. Spence 27:29) 2:20:48;

5, E. Kilbride (D. Watt 19:34, A. Partridge 28:10, A. Neal 19:03, R. Riach 27:32, G. Colvin 19:15, C. McDougall 27:37) 2:21:11;

6, Bellahouston (P. Fleming 18:09, G. Braidwood 29:34, D. Wyper 19:08, A. Daly 27:29, C. Joss 19:43, G. Getty 27:52) 2:21:55; 7, Cambuslang 2:22:51; 8, Aberdeen 2:22:56; 9, Law 2:24:59; 10, Victoria Park 2:25:53; 11, Falkirk Victoria 'B' 2:26:03; 12, Clydebank 2:27:52; 13, Dundee Hh. 2:28:26; 14, Greenock Wellpark 2:30:39; 15, Bellahouston 'B' 2:32:26; 16, Teviotdale 2:32:54; 17, Ayrshire 2:33:20; 18, Larkhall 2:33:47; 19, Livingston 2:34:42; 20, Edinburgh Southern 'B' 2:34:53; 21, Ayr Seaforth 2:37:56; 22, Livingston 'B' 2:39:49; 23, Kilbarchan 2:40:11; 24, Dundee Hh. 'B' 2:41:38; 25, Irvine 2:42:17.

Fastest: Long Stage: Hutton 25:52; Dingwall 26:40; Clyne 26:44; L. Robertson 26:49; Leck 27:11; Cameron 27:21; Day 27:25; Spence, McGarva & Daly 27:29. **Short Stage:** G. Laing 17:54; A. McKay 18:03; Logue 18:05; Fleming 18:09; J. McKay (C'bank) 18:10; A. Robertson 18:11.