

Fitting Reward For The Ladies Of Aberdeen

Scottish Women's Road Relay Championships

ABERDEEN'S picturesque Duthie Memorial Park, ablaze with the glorious tints of autumn leaves, made a spectacular setting for the Scottish Women's CC & RRA National Road Relay Championships on October 6th. Efficient organisation, coupled with informative commentary and diligent stewarding and marshalling, by members of Aberdeen AAC, produced a happy, friendly atmosphere, that helped to bring out the best in all the competitors — and to serve as a timely reminder that the true essence of sport is encapsulated in meetings such as these and not in the commercialised, profit-making athletics extravaganzas so beloved of television companies and business entrepreneurs.

It was regrettable, therefore, that apart from the host club — who had obtained generous sponsorship from Amoco (UK) Oil Company — few of the clubs from the north or north-east of Scotland bothered to send any representatives to the event; thoughts which were echoed by Scottish Women's CC & RRA secretary Mrs. June Ward at the presentation of prizes.

In view of all the hard work put in by the organisers to make the event such a success, it was

fitting that Aberdeen AAC were worthy winners of the Senior 3 x 2M title, finishing more than 1½ minutes ahead of runners-up McLaren Glasgow AC. Lynda Bain put them well on the way to victory by leading home at the end of the first stage with a lap of 10:42 — the fastest time of the day — and her clubmates maintained the gap all the way to the finish. Aberdeen's overall time of 33:10 left them well clear of the Glasgow team comprising Eileen Cochrane, Liz Steele and Janet McColl, who battled valiantly from start to finish.

Success for Victoria Park

The most successful club was Victoria Park, also from Glasgow, who won two team titles and three of the six awards for the fastest laps of the day in the respective age-groups. Their Euro Junior squad, comprising Jan Stewart, Lorraine Docherty and Catherine Devlin, were worthy winners of their 3 x 2M event, finishing ahead of Aberdeen, with Miss Devlin recording the best lap time. And in the Intermediate 3 x 1½M race, Carol Bartlay, Linsey Campbell and Lesley Rankin gained them another team title at the

expense of Aberdeen, who were again runners-up. Lesley Rankin won the award for the fastest circuit in this age-group. John and June Ward have worked conscientiously over the years, coaching and encouraging the Victoria Park girls, and the fruits of their dedicated efforts were greatly in evidence at these championships.

Kilbarchan AAC from Renfrewshire retained the Junior $3 \times 1M$ title which they won last year at Falkirk. Their team of Julie Cochran, Lorna Shaw and Andrea Fisher finished 16 seconds ahead of Colzium and Victoria Park. The Kilbarchan Juniors have not lost to any Scottish club for more than a year now, and at present they hold the Scottish CC $3 \times 1M$ and the Scottish $3 \times 800m$ titles in addition to the national road crown. Andrea Fisher had the fastest lap, just edging out Elizabeth McGinley of Victoria Park by one second.

The Girls race over the same $3 \times 1M$ circuit saw some excellent competition, with Pitreavie winning by a slender margin from Victoria Park and Aberdeen, whilst Colzium AC, who, like Pitreavie, have done much to encourage and inspire young athletes in recent times, gained due reward in the U/11 $3 \times \frac{3}{4}M$ event from the ubiquitous Victoria Park, who were two seconds ahead of Central Region.

Derek Parker

1, Aberdeen 33:10 (L. Bain, S. McLaren, J. Robertson); 2, McLaren Glasgow; 3, McLaren Glasgow 'B'. **Fastest:** Bain 10:42. **Euro Juniors** — 1, Victoria Park (J. Stewart, L. Docherty, C. Devlin); 2, Aberdeen. **Fastest:** Devlin 11:18. **Inters** — 1, Victoria Park (C. Bartlay, L. Campbell, L. Rankin); 2, Aberdeen; 3, Victoria Park 'B'. **Fastest:** Rankin 7:31. **Juniors** — 1, Kilbarchan 17:23 (J. Cochran, L. Shaw, A. Fisher); 2, Colzium 17:39; 3, Victoria Park 17:43. **Fastest:** Fisher 5:40. **Girls** — 1, Pitreavie 18:16 (N. Douglas, A. Grant, E. Grant); 2, Victoria Park; 3, Aberdeen. **Fastest:** D. Simpson (A'deen) 5:53. **U/11** — 1, Colzium 14:58 (D. Hamill, L. Burns, C. Friel); 2, Victoria Park 15:05; 3, Central Region 15:09. **Fastest:** C. McInally (VP) 4:41.