

Muir's magic a winner for Shettleston

A RECORD-BREAKING last lap by Nat Muir gave Shettleston Harriers victory in the Allan Scally Memorial road relay race at Ballieston, Glasgow, on Saturday. They beat Edinburgh Southern Harriers by 250 yards with Falkirk Victoria Harriers third, the same distance behind.

Muir, Scotland's cross-country champion, was in outstanding form. He took over on the last lap in seventh place and 450 yards behind the leader Evan Cameron (Edinburgh Southern Harriers). Muir turned this deficit into an easy victory, breaking his own lap record by 12 seconds with a time of 21min. 32sec. for the five-mile course.

Alastair Douglas (Victoria Park) led the record field of 103 teams on the first stage from Colin Donnelly (Aberdeen University) and Colin Youngson put Edinburgh Southern well up in third place. Shettleston were way behind in ninth place and the holders, Clyde Valley, who were well below strength, were right out of it at twenty-sixth.

Things looked good for Shettleston at the end of the second lap when Lawrie Spence had put them into third place, less than a minute behind the new leaders, Edinburgh Southern Harriers, who had used their two best men.

A real gutsy run by Alex Robertson on the third stage put the Edinburgh club a full second ahead of the field and Shettleston were way back in seventh place after a disappointing run by Jim Burns.

Only Nat Muir could have made up such a huge gap over the last stretch of five miles and he is in such great form at the moment that he made himself an easy winner. After his victory in the international race at Gateshead last week, he is just in the right form for an international race in Belgium this week-end. Results:

1, Shettleston Harriers, 1hr. 32min. 15sec.; 2, Edinburgh Southern Harriers, 1-33-9; 3, Falkirk Victoria Harriers, 1-33-59; 4, Bellahouston Harriers, 1-34-9; 5, Cambuslang Harriers, 1-34-17; 6, Springburn Harriers, 1-34-17. Fastest individuals—1, N. Muir (Shettleston) 21min. 32sec. (record); 2, J. Dingwall (Falkirk Victoria) 22-14; 3, J. Brown (Clyde Valley) 22-18.