

SHETTLESTON HARRIERS

NIHIL SINE LABORE

Established 1904

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The three musketeers of the late seventies — Nat Muir, John Robson, and Allister Hutton — are still duelling, and produced the three fastest laps of the day in the four-stage relay round the host club's Shettleston patch.

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Ian Campbell (Dundee Hawkhill) who had finished tenth, one place ahead of Douglas in the 1979 world junior cross-country championships, then carried The Hawk from sixth place and into the lead, one place ahead of Victoria Park. At that stage Southern seemed doomed, a distant tenth, 1min. 12sec. behind the leaders.

That was when the race developed into a personal triumph for Southern's two elder statesmen. Marathon expert Hutton, 34, although overhauled by Muir, narrowed the gap on the leaders to 25 seconds by the final takeover. Then Robson, 32, had the legs to take almost a minute out of Hawkhill's Peter Fox,



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Ten years ago it was Clyde Valley who won this race, but since they are now defunct, fragmented back into the original group of Lanarkshire clubs that spawned them, that part of history could not be replicated. But if the form and portents of a decade ago are any guide, then Southern will hope to go on, as Clyde Valley did, to capture the Barr's Edinburgh-Glasgow road relay crown a week on Sunday, even though Hutton now declines to run on safety grounds. He says: "The race should be scrapped and a new event staged in Strathclyde Park."

Shettleston, who finished sixth,

in the Scally event, were first club to have a second string across the line, eleventh, giving hints of a return towards former glories. But they were followed immediately by the B strings of Hawkhill and Falkirk Victoria.

Shettleston's Muir, 31, despite being forced to abandon his track aspirations because of Achilles tendon problems, still remains the most consistent and hardest man to beat on Scottish soil. His 22-02 on Saturday carried Shettleston from twelfth to third. His record time for the Scally course, achieved in warmer weather than Saturday's, stands at 21-26. Ten years ago he clocked 22-44, and when he was fastest last year he was timed at . . . 22-44.

The Scottish Universities title went to Stirling for the first time. The presence in their ranks of 800m runner Gary Brown and the former national youth cross-country champion, Terry Reid, carried too much power for Glasgow. Details:

1, Edinburgh Southern Harriers (D Ross 23-43, K Lyall 23-37, A Hutton 22-13, J Robson 22-09) 91-42; 2, Dundee Hawkhill (D Beattie 22-57, I Campbell 23-11, C Haskett 23-00, P Fox 23-07) 92-15; 3, Teviotdale (K Logan 23-22, R Hall 23-11, A Walker 22-49, D Cavers 23-00) 92-22; 4, Falkirk 92-56; 5, Springburn 93-15; 6, Shettleston 93-23; 7, ESPC AC 93-49; 8, Cambuslang 94-13; 9, Bellahouston 94-15; 10, Calderglen 95-04. Veterans — Cambuslang Harriers 103-17. 39th overall.

Fastest Laps — N Muir (Shettleston) 22-02; J Robson 22-09; A Hutton 22-13; A Douglas (Victoria Park) 22-18; I Harkness (Edinburgh Univ) 22-29; P Fleming (Bellahouston) 22-36; D Donnett (Springburn) 22-44; A Walker 22-49; R Cameron (Falkirk Vic) 22-51; M Gormley (Cambuslang) 22-56. Fastest veteran — A Weatherhead (46) 23-13.

Scottish University Championships — 1, Stirling (G Brown 23-31, T Reid 23-00, M McGinley 24-56, S Mathieson 25-13) 96-40. 14th overall; 2, Glasgow 97-38, 18th; 3, Edinburgh 99-18, 20th; 4, Strathclyde 107-02, 59th; St Andrews 110-53, 68th.

Two elder statesmen do Southern proud

By DOUG GILLON

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