

SHETTLESTON HARRIERS

ESTABLISHED 1904

NIHIL SINE LABORE

Mackay leads the way as Shettleston land clean sweep

AFTER a near disastrous start, in which their A team finished thirteenth in the opening lap behind their B and C team, Shettleston Harriers won the Allan Scally Memorial 4 x 4.8 miles road relay race at Baillieston, while their women's team completed the double.

Running for the C team, David Connelly, who was awarded his first British junior international vest last summer, was the first Shettleston runner home on the opening lap in fifth place, and Jim McMillan (8th) also was ahead of the A team's David Cameron.

John Mackay, taking over 36 seconds behind the leaders, Falkirk Victoria, regarded his position as one of opportunity, rather than of disaster. "I'm a chaser and at my best when coming from behind," he said. "It was set up for me as they were lined up in front."

And so it proved, with Mackay powering into the lead just yards from the changeover line, handing over a slight lead from Falkirk's Gary Grindlay at half distance.

With Billy Coyle increasing their lead on stage No.3 and Graeme Wight recording the fastest time of the day on the final section, Shettleston won by more than 300 yards in 91min.45sec. from Leslie Deans Racing Club, winners for the past three years, with Falkirk Victoria third.

Shettleston, fielding six teams in the race as the final trial for runners eager to secure a place in their team for the Edinburgh-to-Glasgow relay next month, had the first B team to finish in sixth position.

But realistically they know they are running for the minor medals as the Leslie Deans Club from Edinburgh, who finished second fielding their second string runners, must start favourites to win the Blue Riband of Scottish relay racing for the fourth consecutive time.

When it is realised that they rested the entire team which won the national cross-country relay championship at Irvine last week, including Peter Fleming, Tom Hanlon, and John Robson, then the strength of their team and the respect of their rivals is realised. Results:

1, Shettleston 91.45 (D Cameron 23.54, J Mackay 22.36, W Coyle 22.43, G Wight 22.32); 2, Leslie Deans RC 92.52 (S Cohen 23.37, F McGowan 23.02, A Robson 22.48, B Kirkwood 23.25); 3, Falkirk Victoria 94.09 (S Binns 23.18, G Grindlay 23.13, I Johnstone 23.41, M McQuaid 23.57); 4, Hunters Bog Trotters 96.28; 5, Cambuslang 96.42; 6, Shettleston B 97.16.

Fastest laps — 1, G Wight 22.32; 2, J Mackay 22.36; 3, G Stewart (ESH) 22.42. Veterans — 1, Cambuslang 101.27; 2, Falkirk Victoria 105.31; 3, Victoria Park 107.17.

Women — 1, Shettleston 84.42 (E McBrinn 27.04, J Harvey 29.42, E Mackay 27.56); 2, City of Glasgow 85.43; 3, Hunters Bog Trotters 94.43. Fastest laps — 1, S Branney (Glasgow) 26.46; 2, McBrinn 27.04; 3, Mackay 27.56.

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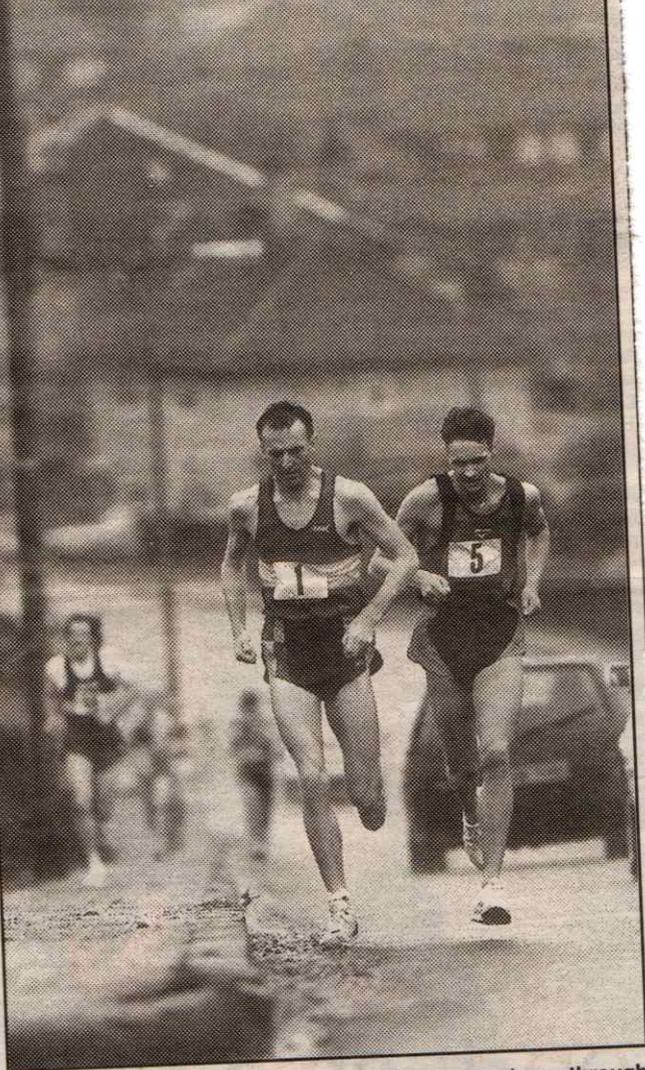
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Uphill struggle: there could be more picturesque places through which to race than the east end of Glasgow on a wet Saturday, but John Mackay (Shettleston) and Frank McGowan (Leslie Deans RC) have no time to take in the scenery as the pace heats up in the Allan Scally event.

Picture: PHIL RIDER

John