

Edinburgh—Glasgow Road RelayColin Shields reports**SOUTHERN AHEAD ALL THE WAY**

**T**HE 34th Edinburgh to Glasgow eight-man road relay race on November 16th sponsored by "The News of the World", lived up to its classic reputation with an exciting contest between the two rival Edinburgh clubs, interrupted for a while by a challenge from the new Lanarkshire club, Clyde Valley AC.

Edinburgh Southern, last year's winners, were strong favourites to win and rivals gasped when they revealed a team that included five cross-country internationals, and still left out Ian Elliott, Fergus Murray and Nigel Bailey—athletes who would have been welcome in any of the other 19 teams in the race. On a bright day, strong, cold headwinds slowed the times, resulting in the final time being more than nine minutes outside the record of 3:36:32 set by Edinburgh University in 1965. East Kilbride AC, who finished 17th last year, showed great improvement by finishing in 8th place, gaining the awards for the most meritorious unplaced performance.

Busy traffic spoiled full enjoyment of the race and the organisers must be apprehensive as to how long they will retain the co-operation of the various police forces who control the passage of the runners through the busy streets of Central Scotland. Perhaps the time has arrived to move the race to Sunday with a resultant gain from lesser traffic congestion en route.

**Stage 1.** The field soon split up with Colin Youngson (ESH), Jim Alder (EAC) and marathoner Bill Day (Falkirk Victoria) forcing the pace and Ian Orton (Edinburgh University) gallantly holding on in an isolated fourth place. With 2 miles to go Alder slipped back from the leading trio and Orton, suffering from a strained calf muscle, dropped to 10th. Youngson won the sprint to the changeover to give Southern a lead they were to hold to the finish.

**Stage 2.** Lawrie Reilly recorded one of the best performances of the day in a fighting run that pulled his club from ninth to second only four seconds behind Southern. Reilly with a lap of 29:55, was the only runner to break 30 minutes for the stage but though times were slow the action behind the leaders was brisk. Jim Wight, the Harlow marathon victor, started off in third place over 20 seconds behind Donald Macgregor but rapidly pulled in the deficit and actually went into the lead for a short distance at midway. This impetuosity caught up with him and he faded to third as Reilly passed him. Ron MacDonald, with the second fastest time of 30:27, started the Clyde Valley revival when he progressed from 13th to sixth; Colin Martin (30:36) took Dumbarton from 12th to seventh and Frank Clement lifted Bellahouston from seventh to fifth. On the other hand Falkirk Victoria tumbled from second to 11th while a poor

run by Stewart Easton dropped six places for Shettleston to a lowly 12th.

**Stage 3.** Craig Douglas returned the fastest time of 21:58, consolidating Southern's lead to 93 seconds from Edinburgh AC while Clyde Valley gained a further three places through a fine run by Roy Baillie. Aberdeen gained three places to seventh while Jim Martin ran well to put Springburn within eight seconds of Victoria Park who dropped to fourth.

**Stage 4.** Alastair Blamire and Ian Gilmour shared the fastest time of 30:22 and Southern established a lead of 1:51, the greatest margin of the race, over Clyde Valley. Edinburgh AC, through a below par performance by Alec Wight, were over 2½ minutes behind the leaders. Victoria Park (4th) and Springburn (5th) continued their race long struggle as a fine run by 800 metres star, Dave McMeekin, opened the gap to over one minute. Lawrie Spence hauled Strathclyde University from 19th to a close-up 11th with a fine run of 30:44.

**Stage 5.** Edinburgh AC started a courageous fight back with Doug Gunstone recording the fastest time of 28:51 to pull back 52 seconds on the leaders. John Graham, former Scottish Youth Champion, returned second fastest time of 29:37 to keep Clyde Valley within striking distance in third place. Strathclyde University gained a further three places to finish eighth while Shettleston languished in the unusually ignominious position of 12th almost 12 minutes behind Southern.

**Stage 6.** The long seven mile stage from Forestfield to Airdrie War Memorial proved one of the turning points of the race. If Edinburgh AC were to have any chance of victory they had to take the lead here. Andy McKean set off 1:26 behind Dave Logue with Jim Brown, the last of Clyde Valley's international trio, a further 19 seconds behind. However, well as McKean ran with the fastest time of the day (33:06) he could not catch Logue who handed over with a precious lead of 25 seconds. Brown, after a determined early effort to get on terms with McKean, turned in a time of 33:26 to keep his club in third place, over ¾ minutes clear of Victoria Park with Springburn fifth and Bellahouston sixth.

**Stage 7.** Alastair Hutton stemmed the time of Edinburgh AC's advance with the fastest lap, but Joe Patton, the revelation of EAC's world record 24 Hour Relay team, kept his club in close contention 47 seconds behind. Mike Bradley, making a welcome return to competition after a long absence, recorded the third fastest time to lift Springburn to fourth after passing Victoria Park in the last 400 yards.

**Stage 8.** Gallantly though Jim Dingwall tried to close the gap through the busy streets of Glasgow,

Gareth Bryan-Jones, the stage record holder, kept Southern in front to finish at Ingram Street 32 seconds to the good. Dingwall, gaining shelter from the strong wind, was only 7 seconds outside the stage record—the closest anyone came to breaking a stage record all day. Albert Smith passed Harry Gorman to take Victoria Park back to fourth while down the field places surprisingly changed greatly at this late stage of the race. Law moved from 13th to 10th and Dumbarton, thanks to a fast lap by Ron Paton, moved from 15th to 11th after being as low as 18th at halfway. Glasgow University, gaining two places, finished 12th to be first University team home as Edinburgh University lost four places and Strathclyde University five places on the last lap to finish 14th and 15th respectively.

1, Edinburgh Southern (C. Youngson 27:24, D. Macgregor 31:15, C. Douglas 21:58, A. Blamire 30:22, M. Craven 29:43, D. Logue 34:07, A. Hutton 25:20, G. Bryan-Jones 27:25) 3:47:34

2, Edinburgh AC (J. Alder 27:47, J. Wight 31:08, P. Hay 22:55, A. Wight 31:07, D. Gunstone 28:51, A. McKean 33:06, J. Patton 25:42, J. Dingwall 27:10) 3:48:06

3, Clyde Valley (E. Devlin 29:17, R. Macdonald 30:27, R. Baillie 22:44, I. Gilmour 30:22, J. Graham 29:37, J. Brown 33:26, J. Small 27:40, W. Devlin 29:40) 3:53:13

4, Victoria Park (F. Brown 28:48, L. Reilly 29:55, P. McGregor 24:02, D. McMeekin 30:48, H. Barrow 30:34, A. Johnson 35:24, M. Logue 28:06, A. Smith 28:26) 3:56:03

5, Springburn (A. McFarlane 28:20, C. Falconer 31:00, J. Martin 23:31, J. Lawson 31:42, T. Patterson 30:07, E. Knox 35:37, M. Bradley 27:14, H. Gorman 29:07) 3:56:40

6, Bellahouston (J. Walker 28:24, F. Clement 31:06, H. Scott 23:27, C. Joss 31:53, M. McNaught 31:09, R. Marshall 38:54, J. Russell 28:22, J. Irvine 30:25) 4:03:40

7, Aberdeen (R. Heron 28:27, A. Keith 32:17, D. Buchan 24:21, D. Ritchie 33:18, P. Duffy 31:57, A. Wood 36:23, A. Law 27:28, G. Laing 29:32) 4:03:43; 8, East Kilbride (A. Neal 28:49, K. Taylor 31:47, J. Little 25:03, H. Wilson 33:14, D. Hartley 31:30, A. Partridge 35:39, G. Reid 28:34, I. Sinclair 31:34) 4:06:10; 9, Shettleston (J. Burns 28:23, S. Easton 33:42, R. Morrison 24:24, A. Marshall 32:33, H. Docherty 33:28, N. Morrison 36:36, J. Evans 27:53, W. Scally 31:51) 4:08:40; 10, Law & Dist (W. Drysdale 29:58, J. McHardie 34:48, D. Fairweather 23:39, A. Miller 34:30, D. Simpson 31:09, J. Myatt 35:41, J. Rowley 29:28, T. McCann 29:50) 4:09:03; 11, Dumbarton 4:09:14; 12, Glasgow Univ 4:09:56; 13, Clydesdale 4:10:02; 14, Edinburgh Univ 4:10:31; 15, Strathclyde Univ 4:10:51; 16, Glasgow Police 4:10:59; 17, Cambuslang 4:11:37; 18, Falkirk Victoria 4:15:16; 19, Aberdeen Univ 4:19:45. Paisley H disq for falling behind 30 minute time limit on Stage 6).

**Fastest (Stage 1):** Youngson 27:24 (Stage 2): Reilly 29:55 (Stage 3): Douglas 21:58 (Stage 4): Gilmour & Blamire 30:22 (Stage 5): Gunstone 28:51 (Stage 6): McKean 33:06 (Stage 7): Hutton 25:20 (Stage 8): Dingwall 27:10.