

Mizuno prove a class apart

By DOUG GILLON

THE ghost runners of Edinburgh — Mizuno Racing Club, who announced they would miss the Alan Scally Relay — proved too substantial for their hosts when they surprisingly turned up on Saturday. They beat defending champions Shettleston by 50 seconds, denying them a hat trick victory and taking the 4 x 4.8 miles event themselves for the fourth time in six years.

These opening weeks of the winter season are preliminary skirmishes ahead of the main road battle, the forthcoming Barr's Edinburgh to Glasgow invitation relay which is open to teams of eight.

Though Shettleston also took third, Racing's B team were fourth, identifying these two as prime contenders on Sunday week.

Having beaten Shettleston for national cross-country relay honours the previous weekend, Racing understood their rivals, planned to field a weak team, a challenge which held no attraction.

"We did not intend to run, until we read in The Herald that Shettleston planned to field their championship four," said Racing founder Alan Robson. "It wasn't a ploy to psyche anyone, just a last-minute change of mind."

Racing replaced David Ross, absent at the New York Marathon, with Scott Cohen on the opening stage, but otherwise fielded the quartet which had taken the title at Irvine a week earlier.

Cohen brought his team home third, 36 seconds behind Phil Mowbray of Edinburgh University, and 19 seconds ahead of fifth-placed Shettleston.

An outstanding run by Chris Robison, overhauling Tom Hanlon, took Shettleston to first with a one-second lead on their rivals, a margin Graeme Wight extended to 10 seconds. But Glen Stewart, on the anchor, had caught Adrian Callan within a mile-and-a-quarter, setting the fastest time of the day, 22-08 for the second successive year.

Strong winds caused him to miss the £100 bonus on offer for a sub-22 minutes run, and their 91min 17sec total never threatened Shettleston's race record of 89-18.

It is the first time this winter that Stewart has had anyone to chase, but if he is to fulfil his undoubted potential he must regularly seek higher quality competition in England.

Shettleston had some consolation with victory in the women's race, where the foundation was laid by Malaysian Hsu Min Chung. An Oxford graduate, training in Glasgow as a patent lawyer, the 21-year-old Min Chung finished twenty-fifth in the English national championships last year, signed for the club six weeks ago, and will be a substantial asset.

Edinburgh University won both men's and women's titles in the Scottish Universities relay championship, incorporated in the event. Fifth overall in the men's race is the best student finish for some years, and on this form the capital students would have been worthy of a place in the Edinburgh-Glasgow relay.

Last year, yob youths hurled insults at female athletes, this year some runners were struck by stones and one by a bottle. Nobody was forced to quit, but police were informed. Details:

1. Mizuno Racing Club (S Cohen 22-57, T Hanlon 23-15, J Robson 22-57, G Stewart 22-58) 91min 17sec; 2. Shettleston Harriers (W Coyle 23-16, C Robson 22-55, G Wight 22-48, A Callan 23-08) 92-07; 3. Shettleston B (B Scally 23-40, J Mackay 23-18, D Cameron 23-33, A Little 23-27) 93-56; 4. MRC B 95-37; 5. Edinburgh University 97-03; 6. Kilbarchan 97-18. Fastest: 1. Stewart 22-08; 2. P Mowbray (Edinburgh University) 22-21; 3. R Fitzsimmons (Kilbarchan) 22-31; 4. Wight 22-48; 5. Robson 22-55; 6. equal, Robson and Cohen, both 22-57.

Women: 1. Shettleston (H Min Chung 27-45, P McKay 30-38, F Florence 28-12) 87-33; 2. Edinburgh University 87-52; 3. Strathclyde University 94-01. Fastest: 1. B Hufman (EU) 27-00; 2. Min Chung 27-43; 3. M Smith (EU) 28-21.

Universities' Championships. Men: 1. Edinburgh (fifth overall) 97-03; 2. Glasgow (26) 104-43; 3. Edinburgh B (28) 106-56; 4. Strathclyde (26) 113-17; 5. St Andrew's (38) 113-42. Women: 1. Edinburgh 87-52; 2. Strathclyde 94-01; 3. Edinburgh B 99-17.



Relay deadlock: Scott Cohen (45) of Racing Club, the eventual winners, Robert Fitzsimmons (67) of Kilbarchan, and Edinburgh University's Phil Mowbray (9) who led at the conclusion of the opening stage of the Alan Scally Relay.

Picture: CLAIRE ARRON

Harriers' compete well in Allan Scally race

THE 28th Allan Scally Road Race on Sunday saw Shettleston Harriers' ladies team take first place, with the men coming in second and third in their respective race.

The results were as follows:

Men's race: 1st - Mizuno Racing Club; 2nd Shettleston Harriers (W. Coyle, C Robison, G. Wight, A. Callan; 3rd Shettleston Harriers' B team; 4th Mizuno B team.

Ladies' race: 1st Shettleston Harriers, 2nd Edinburgh Uni-

versity.
Allan Scally, was a coach and masseur at Shettleston Harriers and a long time servant of the Scottish Amateur Athletic Association as a race starter and team manager. Although he spent 35 years assisting Harriers he was never a member of the club.

His own running career spanned the period from 1925 to 1935 in which he won the then famous Powderhall Marathon title, a ten mile track race a record five times. It was a great regret to Allan that he never wore the famous blue and gold

vest of Shettleston Harriers. but as he considered his own running career over by then, he poured all his energy and experience into the coaching and was a prime factor in the great success by the club in the late 1940's and early 1950's. by now Allan had moved house to Ballieston and spent a lot of time encouraging the youth of that area to take part in athletics by organising training and meetings.

It is fitting that the memorial takes place in the area that Allan devoted much of his time to promoting athletics.

And fitting that Harriers still compete well in the event.