

THE MIDLAND RELAY

THE Midland District 10 miles C.C. Relay was held at Stirling on Saturday, 4th December, 1948. It was a dry and clear day favouring the runners and spectators both.

Internationalist G. Craig of Shettleston ran a nice race to hand over a lead to his clubmate at the end of the first lap but honours of this first lap really went to practically unknown A. Crawford of St. Modan's A.A.C. (Stirling) who

finished a very strong 2nd in front of many fancied men. A. Kidd (Garscube) was 3rd.

As the runners went off at the first change-over it seemed that the winning of the race was "all over" as Shettleston with a good all-round team were well ahead of their considered challengers. But what a shake-up! For at the end of the 2nd lap, though Shettleston were still leading, J. Ellis (Victoria Park) runner-up in the National Novice had with a dramatic effort brought his club right up from a seemingly hopeless position of 10th to a good 2nd. And they still had Scottish 3 miles record-holder Andrew Forbes for the last leg! Meanwhile, A. Allan also showed splendid form to bring the Glasgow Police team (on their first entry to this race) from 7th to 3rd place. Shettleston's "B" team were also well in the running in 4th place.

Over the 3rd sector Willie Ritchie (Victoria Park) dropped a place to Shettleston "B," but at the last change-over the stage was set for a "battle-royal" indeed. This was the line-up as the runners went off in handicap fashion on the vital last lap:—leading—Scottish 2 miles Steeplechase champion, actor Jim Stuart for Shettleston, followed by Jim Flockhart, several times National and 1937 International champion (Shettleston "B"), then about 80 yards behind the leader, Andrew Forbes, with Scottish mile champion Jim Fleming about another 40 yards behind for Motherwell Y.M.C.A. who through steady team-work had pulled to 4th position.

The actual race equalled the promise! Forbes setting out very fast soon past Flockhart but with over a mile covered was still 10 secs. behind Stuart. He gradually closed the gap and with little more than a half-mile to go, got on terms with Stuart and then gained 6 or 7 yards. But Stuart, never easily beat, was not finished. Fighting it out with Forbes he challenged him on a downhill field path approaching the finish and forced a 10 yard lead. The effort had been too much for the now-tired Forbes and though still running strongly he could not respond. The weary but game Stuart was glad to break the tape just 2 secs. ahead of his rival to end a great race!

Fleming managed to pass Flockhart near the end to give Motherwell Y.M.C.A. 3rd place.

Thanks go very sincerely to the St. Modan's club for the excellent facilities provided, their school accommodation and the tea arrangements went to make the day very sweet and enjoyable.

The following are the results:—

1. Shettleston H.—(G. B. Craig 15.08; H. Mills 15.37; C. McLennan 15.27; J. Stuart 14.47).—60 mins. 59 secs.
2. Victoria Park A.A.C.—(C. Forbes 15.50; J. Ellis 15.05; W. Ritchie 15.33; A. Forbes 14.33).—61 mins. 01 sec.
3. Motherwell Y.M.C.A. H.—(G. Wood 15.19; J. McMillan 16.09; D. Nelson 15.07; J. Fleming 14.52).—61 mins. 21 secs.
4. Shettleston "B."—(J. C. Ross 15.23; W. Laing 15.37; C. Wallace 15.17; J. C. Flockhart 15.13).—61 mins. 30 secs.
5. Vale of Leven A.A.C.—(F. Lacey 16.05; H. Coll 15.32; W. Gallagher 15.21; W. Lennie 15.17).—62 mins. 15 secs.
6. Bellahouston H.—(J. Christie 15.57; H. O'Neil 15.55; T. W. Lamb 15.35; R. Clunie 15.14).—62 mins. 41 secs.
7. Clydesdale H.—(C. Hadlow 15.59; D. Scott 15.58; W. Andrew 15.58; R. Boyd 15.04).—62 mins. 59 secs.
8. Glasgow Univ. H. & H.—(D. J. Johnstone 15.34; J. McGhee 15.17; W. C. Jardine 16.10; J. Spence 15.57).—63 mins. 08 secs.
9. Garscube H.—(A. Kidd 15.18; T. McGinlay 15.59; R. J. Mulgrew 15.59; J. Gunn 15.59).—63 mins. 15 secs.
10. Springburn H.—(W. McMillan 16.25; F. McGill 15.42; A. Stevenson 15.46; J. C. Morton 15.26).—63 mins. 19 secs.
11. Maryhill H.—(I. Robb 15.44; R. Brymner 15.58; J. McBride 16.02; T. Harrison 15.37).—63 mins. 21 secs.
12. Glasgow Police A.A.—(K. Sigrist 15.43; A. Allan 15.16; S. Martin 17.12; A. McGregor 15.24).—63 mins. 45 secs.
13. Garscube "B."—(J. Duff 15.36; T. Dally 15.53; A. Veitch 16.25; D. Murray 15.58).—63 mins. 52 secs.
14. Shettleston "C."—(D. Morrison 16.08; J. Burton 15.51; J. Eadie 15.52; J. Clark 16.00).—63 mins. 56 secs.
15. Bellahouston "B."—(G. Bell 16.02; J. Kelly 15.54; A. Dinwoodie 16.02; J. Allen 16.12).—64 mins. 10 secs.
16. St. Modan's A.A.C.—(A. Crawford 15.10; M. Kaney 17.15; J. Wilson 16.21; D. Clelland 15.28).—64 mins. 14 secs.
17. Glasgow Y.M.C.A. A.C.—(S. Mowbray 16.32; D. McFarlane 15.37; J. Reid 16.51; D. Shaw 16.17).—65 mins. 17 secs.
18. Victoria Park "B."—(D. Shuttleworth 16.01; J. Stirling 17.02; J. Reid 15.54; A. Johnston 16.21).—65 mins. 18 secs.
19. Hamilton H.—(G. McGill 16.09; J. Stuart 17.03; B. Hendry 16.42; A. Gibson 15.23).—65 mins. 19 secs.
20. Vale of Leven "B."—(D. McPherson 16.13; W. Crowe 16.20; A. McDougall 16.21; T. Wilson 16.33).—65 mins. 27 secs.
21. Shettleston "D."—(A. Hill 16.19; J. J. Young 17.33; H. Howard 16.15; D. Bannan 15.35).—65 mins. 42 secs.
22. Springburn "B."—(A. Reid 16.29; H. Frith 16.35; J. Rankine 16.20; D. McLaughlin 16.23).—65 mins. 47 secs.
23. Maryhill "B."—(T. K. Wilson 16.26; F. McRae 16.12; J. Wright 16.36; A. McRae 17.03).—66 mins. 17 secs.

24. **Plebeian H.**—A. C. Robertson 16.21 ; H. S. Paterson 17.39 ; E. Latham 16.10 ; W. McInnes 16.46).—66 mins. 56 secs.

25. **Victoria Park "C."**—A. Jenkins 16.41 ; J. Simpson 16.32 ; B. Smith 16.48 ; R. O'Hara 17.44).—67 mins. 45 secs.

Olympic H.—(R. Houston 16.49 ; C. Mathers 17.53 ; R. Gifford 18.31 ; J. Joyce —).

Fastest Times.—1, A. Forbes 14.33 ; 2, J. Stuart 14.47 ; 3, J. Fleming 14.52 ; 4, R. Boyd 15.04 ; 5, J. Ellis 15.05 ; 6, G. B. Craig 15.08 ; 7, D. Nelson 15.07 ; 8, A. Crawford 15.10 ; 9, J. C. Flockhart 15.13 ; 10, R. Clirrie 15.14 ; 11, A. Allan 15.16.