

MARY SPEEDMAN, who three years ago as Mary Campbell ran 2:12.6 for the half-mile and gained International honours, showed herself to be well advanced on the comeback trail at Clydebank on February 15th when she won the Scottish Women's cross country Championship from Margaret MacSherry after a desperately close finish.

Although the weather was dry and sunny, it was rather cold and the course, generously spiced with ruts and a top-coating of ice, was absolutely treacherous. The senior event was dominated by English-based Scots and Aldershot's Foster soon led from Speedman and MacSherry amongst others. After two miles the 18-year-old MacSherry took over and started pushing the pace. Mrs. Speedman stuck close though and with half a mile remaining the pair were sixty yards clear of the nearest challengers. Over the last 200 yards the two leaders battled it out, shoulder to shoulder, but at the tape the the 23-year-old Mrs. Speedman got the verdict.

1, M. Speedman (Mary) 20.52; 2, M. MacSherry (Camb.H) 20.52; 3, S. Foster (AFD) 21.05; 4, S. Kirk (Bury) 21.07; 5, J. Cameron (Mary) 21.30; 6, S. Fitzmaurice (AFD) 21.37; 7, L. Watson (Mary) 21.44; 8, D. Greig (T'hills) 21.58; 9, G. Craig (Western) 22.07. Teams: 1, Maryhill 13; 2, Western 39; 3, ESH 42.

(Intermediates) 1, R. Murphy (B'gate) 14.08; 2, C. Haskett (Hawk) 15.26; 3, R. Flanagan (Bell'n) 15.40. Teams: 1, Bathgate 12; 2, Bellahouston 21; 3, Fauldhouse 37. (Juniors) 1, J. Redka (B'gate) 10.26; 2, A. Edmont (Law) 10.41; 3, D. Mercer (Bell'n) 10.44. Teams: 1, Bathgate 12; 2, Bellahouston 16; 3, Bell'n "B" 44. (Girls) 1, M. Murphy (B'gate) 8.04; 2, M. Brown (B'gate) 8.07; 3, B. Spence (Fauld) 8.17. Teams: 1, Bathgate 9; 2, Lesmahagow 21; 3, Blackburn 34.