

Shades of Holden

RUSHMER

BRIDGES

THE GAP

By JOHN DEE.

Not since the legendary days of Jack Holden have Tipton provided an individual winner in a Birmingham League division one race but at Stoke on Saturday, Great Britain international, Allan Rushmer, bridged a 20-year gap with a convincing success.

Rushmer, who has not enjoyed the best of fortunes on the cross country scene recently, came back with a bang over a five and a half mile heavy course to win by six seconds from the Staffordshire, Midlands and inter-counties youths champion, David Black.

His success spearheaded a Tipton victory in the team championship which they regained after losing the title to Stoke a year ago.

RELEGATION TEAMS

Tipton, the Midland champions, filled four of the first six places and with their other two scorers finishing 11th and 19th completed the final meeting with 46 points.

Having won all four races this season, Tipton finished with an aggregate points total of 274 compared with second place Birmingham University's 595, and Small Heath's 602.

Relegated were Wolverhampton and Bilston and Coventry whose team included last year's inter-counties champion, Dick Taylor.

Taylor was having his first run since last August and was satisfied after finishing 10th — 56 seconds behind Rushmer.

CLEAN SWEEP

Tipton completed a clean sweep in division one with Keith Boyden taking the overall individual honours by finishing 16th, 11th, 2nd and 4th at the four meetings.

Making his debut for Tipton was Jim Harvey, their sixth and final scorer in 19th position.

Details:

Individual: 1. A. Rushmer (Tipton), 28min. 20sec.; 2. D. Black (Small Heath), 28-26; 3. P. Wood (Worcester), 28-39; 4. K. Boyden (Tipton), 28-49; 5. D. Fownes (Tipton), 28-50; 6. J. Wright (Tipton), 28-54; 11. M. Orton (Tipton), 29-23; 19. J. Harvey (Tipton) 29-50.

Team: 1. Tipton, 46pts.; 2. Stoke, 97; 3. Worcester, 140; 4. Coventry, 163; 5. Small Heath, 167; 6. Wolverhampton and Bilston, 232; 7. Birchfield, 249; 8. Birmingham University, 295.

Overall: 1. Tipton, 274pts.; 2. Birmingham University, 595; 3. Small Heath, 602; 4. Stoke, 705; 5. Birchfield, 798; 6. Worcester, 879; 7. Coventry, 901; 8. Wolverhampton and Bilston, 998.

Youths: 1. D. Moorcroft (Coventry), 14min. 58sec.; 2. D. Eales (Coventry), 15-06; 3. K. Iliffe (Birchfield), 15-12.

Team: 1. Coventry, 13pts.; 2. Birchfield, 20; 3. Worcester, 33; 4. Tipton, 39.

Overall: 1. Birchfield, 55pts.; 2. Coventry, 91; 3. Tipton, 189.

LEAMINGTON UP

Despite finishing runners-up in the final race at Redditch, Leamington finished top of the Second Division table to earn promotion. They will be accompanied by G.E.C./A.E.I. Rugby.

SECOND DIVISION

SENIOR (Individual): 1. S. Lynch (G.E.C./A.E.I. Rugby) 30.58; 2. S. McHale (Gloucester) 31.23; 3. R. Edwards (Bromsgrove and Redditch) 31.27; 4. A. Rowling (Leamington) 31.34; 5. M. Price (Gloucester) 31.45; 6. E. Williams (Shrewsbury) 31.54; 7. E. Hansen (Nuneaton) 31.58; 8. J. Peet (Sparkhill) 32.01; 9. T. Thomas (G.E.C./A.E.I. Rugby) 32.07; 10. P. Lynch (G.E.C./A.E.I. Rugby) 32.12.

Team results: 1. G.E.C./A.E.I. Rugby, 85 points; 2. Leamington 97; 3. Gloucester 121; 4. Sparkhill 132; 5. Bromsgrove and Redditch 171; 6. Halesowen 210; 7. Shrewsbury 244; 8. Warley 264; 9. Nuneaton 319.

YOUTHS: 1. K. Perry (Halesowen) 14.20; 2. M. Hill (Gloucester) 14.26; 3. P. Irvine (Gloucester) 14.45.

Team results: 1. Gloucester 10pts.; 2. Halesowen 14; 3. Leamington 29.

Final positions: 1. Gloucester 38; 2. Halesowen 66; 3. Leamington 188.

Final positions: 1. Leamington 316; 2. G.E.C./A.E.I. Rugby 353; 3. Gloucester 470; 4. Sparkhill 604; 5. Halesowen 833; 6. Shrewsbury 843; 7. Bromsgrove and Redditch 908; 8. Warley 1,098; 9. Nuneaton 1,180.



Tipton cross country runner **ALAN RUSHMER** — the club's first winner since Jack Holden.

Pat Butcher (Dudley and Stourbridge) recorded his 11th successive league win in the Third Division race at Wombourne.

His team ran well on their home course and deservedly claimed first placing to overhaul Cheltenham at the top of the table.

THIRD DIVISION

Individual: 1. P. Butcher (Dudley and Stourbridge Harriers) 30min. 24sec.; 2. L. Kilkeny (Stafford

A.C.) 31.10; 3. I. Jones (Dudley and Stourbridge) 31.14; 4. J. Rowley (Dudley and Stourbridge) 31.22; 5. J. Tull (Cheltenham A.C.) 31.37; 6. J. Newcome (Stafford A.C.) 31.44; 7. C. Purdy (Dudley and Stourbridge) 31.51; 8. J. Kinsella (B'ham City Police) 31.57; 9. W. Jolly (Stafford A.C.) 32.17; 10. R. Barlow (Cheltenham A.C.) 32.23.

Team: 1. Dudley and Stourbridge Harriers 62pts.; 2. Cheltenham A.C. 79; 3. Stafford A.C. 85; 4. Lozells Harriers

Overall: 1. Dudley and Stourbridge Harriers 286pts.; 2. Cheltenham A.C. 312; 3. Stafford A.C. 334; 4. Solihull A.C. 691.