

Ilkley Harriers

THE first of this season's Bunny Runs (a series of four weekly three-mile fell races) was very successful. Dave Woodhead's new course at Cliffe Castle Estate had, apparently, a bit of a 'sting in the tail' but this was soothed by the chocolate egg for all finishers.

Mark Iley had a good run for 16th place in 20.40, and Alison Weston raced too, but there was an unexpectedly low turnout of Harriers - hopefully we'll see more at Bunny Run Two tomorrow, Thursday, April 12, at 7.15pm, and the following two Thursdays.

On Saturday, Ilkley Ladies fielded a team in the prestigious North of England Six Stage Road Relays, held this year on an undulating three mile course at Middleton Park. Team organiser Di Kitchen did a great job to cope with last-minute team changes and still get a full team out, and one that was good enough to finish in 14th place out of 30 teams.

First off was Sally Malir, finishing 19th in 23.04. Joyce Marshall's 24.48 brought Ilkley up to 16th place; Cath Wolfenden's 24.52 to 15th place, and Janet Hebbert's 25.37 to 14th, a placing that we held to the finish with Di Kitchen running 24.38 and Emma Barclay 22.57; the team's combined time was 2hrs.25.56.

The winners were Sale Harriers in 1hr.56.54 with a fastest leg time of 18.21.

On Sunday it was the men who were our racing on the road, in the Wakefield Hospice 10km race, which this year attracted some 780 runners. Andy Wade was well to the fore, in 14th place with 34.18 (the winner ran a very fast 31.00). Jim Ryder was next, 79th in 37.17, then Geoff Howard 104th (and third Vet 55) in 38.01. Martin Heath was 231st in 42.03, and Ian Adamson 427th in 46.54

Ilkley Harriers are a friendly club, running from Ben Rhydding Sports Club at 7pm on Tuesdays. Contact our Captain Ken Souyave on 01943 609597 or visit our web site www.ilkeleyharriers.co.uk for more information.

Fellrunners

DAVID and Eileen Woodhead received a round of applause from the 176 runners who assembled on the start line of the first of this Easter's Bunny Run series for their ingenuity in rearranging this popular event from the Harden Moor to the urban environs of Cliffe Castle in Keighley.

Despite the park location 'the Woodentops' had devised a course with some particularly technical sections in a wood where the combination of mud and

evening gloom led to dozens of inexperienced competitors slithering sideways down the hillside.

Up at the front Bingley Harriers reigned supreme taking the first four places led home by John Taylor (18min 01sec) ahead of Ian Holmes (18.15).

Main category winners took home a large carrot (put it down to Dave Woodhead's sense of humour) plus a cornucopia of chocolate goods; mostly egg-shaped and the usual jollity of a 'Woodentops' prize giving was enriched by the joy displayed by fellrunners in being able to put their Walshes on again after the famine of events during March.

Find a fell race and you find Skyrac's two prolific racers and true to form Graham Breeze and Malcolm Coles were present to collect their numbers and later to collect their chocolate eggs with Malcolm winning the First Over-60 prize (54th in 24.46) and Graham (39th in 23.23) picking up an Over-50 award.

There are three more races in the series and a warehouse of chocolate to be given away after which fell runners hope that other race organisers will be ready to display the ingenuity and commitment to the sport demonstrated by the ever popular Woodheads.

Mandale Harriers who normally organise Sunday's 12 mile Guisborough Moors Fell Race displayed droll humour in substituting this event (postponed because of the foot and mouth outbreak) with the 12 mile Redcar and Saltburn Sea Shanty most of which was run along a sandy beach with the occasional foray into the North Sea. From an entry of 53 runners Mike Openshaw won this unique race in 62 min 08 sec and for Skyrac Graham

Breeze was 23rd in 79.32.

On the same day two Skyrac road runners were attracted by the Wakefield 10K where Stephen O'Neill produced a PB of 34.35 in 17th position with Peter Rawnsley some way behind on 40.19.

Skyrac AC who will be organising Easter Sunday's Guiseley Gallop can be contacted on (0113) 229 0924 or (01943) 875516.

BR 1

Taylor beaten in Bunny Run

Fresh from his victory in Skyrac's Easter Sunday Guiseley Gallop John Taylor (Bingley) could be seen before the third of Dave and Eileen Woodhead's Bunny Runs carrying out his full warm up session with interval sprints, etc., whilst club rival Ian Holmes, who he had beaten in the first two races of the four race series, could be seen just, well, ...chatting.

Twenty minutes later Ian came home the victor (17 min 28 sec) with John nine seconds behind.

This means that the fourth race will now be the decider for the overall series winner. If John wins then the series prize is his, with three victories out of four. However if Ian wins and John is second because they will both have two victories and two second places then the stopwatch comes into play and Ian will need to have beaten John by at least seven seconds in the final race to be overall champion.

After three events some of the series prizes have already been decided and the Over-60 prize must be won by Skyrac's Malcolm Coles who already has three wins from the first three events.

Also in the prizes in the third race was Graham Breeze who picked up more chocolate to give to his expectant grandchildren for finishing second in the Over

50 category whilst moving, at least temporarily, into first place in the Over-50 category for the series.

Over two hundred runners are turning up for the Bunny Run races which have been relocated from Harden Moor to Cliffe Castle, Keighley, but which still include 500 feet of ascent in the three mile route.

Last Thursday there were 208 runners and for Skyrac Graham Breeze was 60th on 22.22 followed by John Forsyth in 65th on 22.45 and Malcolm Coles who was 82nd on 23.23.

When all other fell races have been cancelled because of the foot and mouth epidemic the Woodheads deserve praise not only for re-arranging their Bunny Run races to an alternative venue but also for maintaining the unique and theatrical atmosphere of the prize giving. With around £500 worth of chocolate (and other paraphernalia) to give out every week the prize giving takes longer than the races but the evidence of 200 fellrunners turning up to a park in Keighley on four consecutive Thursday evenings is testimony to the affection with which the 'Woodentops' are held within the fellrunning fraternity.

Even so one Skyrac fell runner was tempted south by the sirens of the London Marathon where an unwell Nigel Kirkbright finished in 3587th on 3.28.26.

If you would like to join Skyrac the club can be contacted on 0113-229 0924.

Craig impresses over Cliffe Castle course

Elementary for Moors' Watson

CLAYTON le Moors athlete Craig Watson impressed as fell running returned to Britain for the first time in two months with the first of the Easter Bunny Run Races.

The meeting was sanctioned by the Fell Running Association, after being switched to the grounds of Cliffe Castle because of foot and mouth concerns, nearly 200 runners toed the line for the three mile race last Thursday.

Watson was the first of over two dozen East Lancashire finishers as he took ninth spot for Clayton.

Watson rejoined the club about a year ago after a period with Bingley Harriers, and it was his former teammates John Taylor and Ian Holmes who dominated the race with Taylor being the victor.

Alan Life, who came home in 15th, was the second of the Clayton finishers and in 20th Lee Leishman, of Pendle, held off Burnley's Marc Hartley to take third in the under-16 class.

Sheryl Slater, from Kelbrook, was winner in the ladies under-16 class, but it was a measure of her performance that she was ahead of Kate Rogan, the junior international from Barnoldswick.

Running nearly two laps around the castle grounds before climbing up steps to finish in front of the castle, it is an intricate course with a good mix of tarmac, rough paths and steep grassy banks.

While not a truly a fell race, it was described by ladies winner Pauline Munro as "a kind of uphill cross country."

Many runners even commented that they preferred the race to the one it had replaced and one competitor

By Andy McAllister
Telegraph Reporter

who certainly appreciated the more even surface was Clayton veteran Dave Scott, running his first race since sustaining a broken ankle.

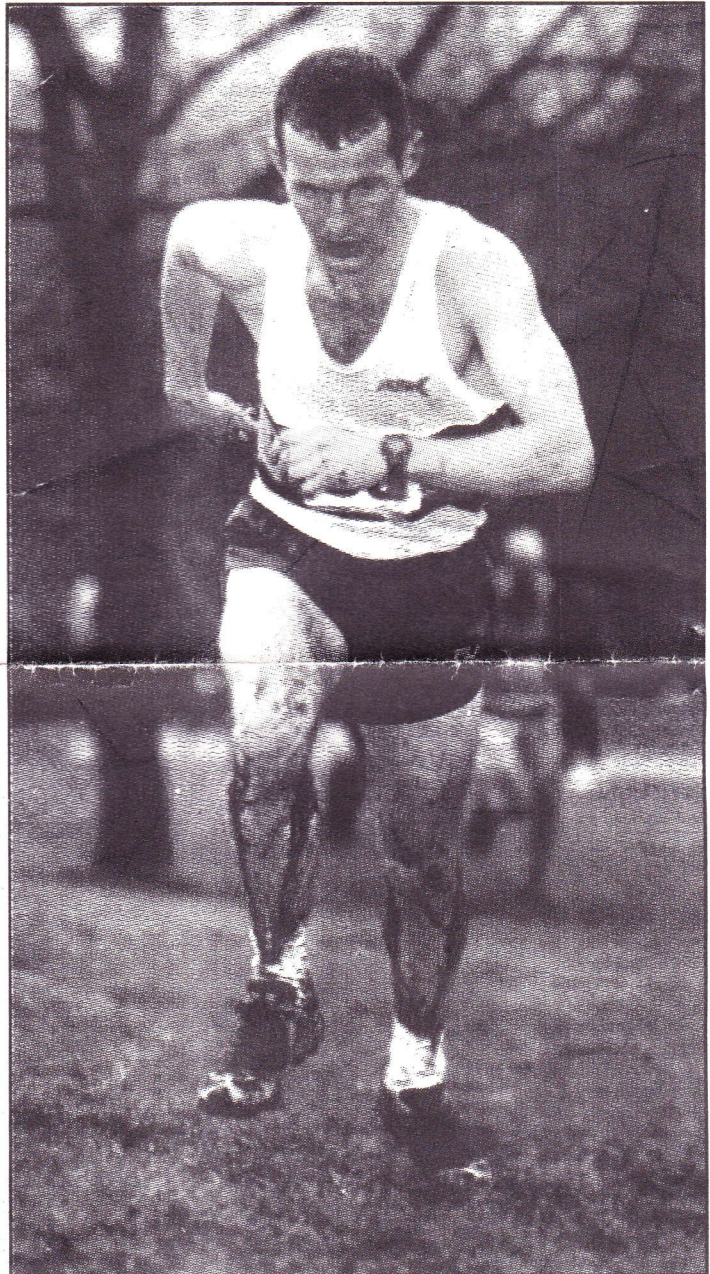
Local veterans among the prizes included Ross Jaques, of Clayton, who was second in the M60, and Jane Smith, of Todmorden, who finished second in the F40 in a competitive field of over 50.

Two men celebrating more than most were Bradford's Steve Oldfield, the winning veteran at a Bunny Run for the 13th time, and Jim Godwin, of Rossendale, who ran on his 50th birthday.

Men: 1 John Taylor (Bingley) 18:01, 2 Ian Holmes (Bingley) 18:14, 3 Siggie Gould (Bingley) 18:25, 6 (1st veteran) Steve Oldfield (Bradford) 19:30, 9 Craig Watson (C) 20:05, 15 Alan Life (C) 21:01, 20 (3rd under 16) Lee Leishman (P) 21:43, 23 (4th under 16) Marc Hartley (B) 21:59, 55 (under 16) Mark Bridge (P) 25:07, 64 (under 16) David Lowe (P) 25:20, 68 (2nd M60) Ross Jaques (C) 25:39, 71 (M40) Stuart Hartley (B) 25:58, 76 Adam Godwin (R) 26:15, 98 (M40) Kevin Rogan (Wharfedale) 27:17, 110 (M50) Dave Scott (C) 28:04, 121 (M50) John Edwards (B) 28:49, 126 (under-16) Daniel Ashworth (C) 29:14, 146 (M40) Jack Maguire (C) 31:39, 160 (M40) David Bailey (C) 34:31, 162 (M50) Jim Godwin (R) 35:21.

Women: 1 (21st overall) Pauline Munro (Bingley) 21:46, 10 (58th/1st under 16) Sheryl Slater (Skipton) 25:11, 12 (70th) Kate Rogan (Wharfedale) 25:55, 14 (87th/3rd under 16) Jade Hartley (P) 26:46, 15 (89th/2nd F40) Jane Smith (Todmorden) 26:48, 18 (97th) Melinda Wilkinson Walsh (C) 27:16, 23 (106th) Anna Kelly (C) 27:43, 30 (130th/under 16) Lauren Bridge (P) 29:38, 31 (131st/under 16) Nicola Leishman (P) 29:38, 39 (144th/F40) Maureen Ashton (C) 31:25.

Key: B-Burnley, C-Clayton, P-Pendle, R-Rossendale.



HARD GRAFT: Clayton's Craig Watson impresses in wet conditions

Pudsey Harrier Rob wins the Bunny Run

ROB Hope (Pudsey and Bramley) won the fourth and final Bunny Run in 18min 09sec, which was 19 seconds ahead of club mate Gary Devine, from a field of 237 finishers.

Bingley Harriers stars Ian Holmes and John Taylor had finished in the first two places in the

previous three races and thereby ensured that they would win the overall series prizes. In theory racing over the Bunny Run course on four consecutive weeks allows competitors to monitor their, hopefully, improving performance in the field but in reality one's peers tend to improve as well over

the same period. Thus after the frantic starts which are a hallmark of the Bunny Runs (because of the interim 'egg stage' prize awarded a few hundred metres from the start) when runners do have the opportunity to glance around they tend to find themselves running with the same faces or behind the familiar rear views of faster runners.

So Skyrac's Malcolm Coles won the Over-60 prize in the fourth Bunny Run (83rd in 23.44) just as he had won the three earlier races and so took the overall series prize. Graham Breeze was third Over-50 Veteran (63rd in 23.02) behind Steven Moss (Spenborough) and Les Hayes (Bingley) and in the overall series it was these three in the same order who took the Over-50 prizes.

As the impact of the foot and mouth epidemic starts to diminish there are encouraging signs that more races attractive to fellrunners can be mounted. Valley Striders has announced a new date (June 30) for their postponed Meanwood Valley Trail Race and Skyrac are finalising arrangements to ensure that the well established Otley Chevin Fell Race on June 6 can go ahead.

Meanwhile the Sheffield Half Marathon served to keep some Skyrac athletes running. Billed as being 'fast and flat' this can only be true relative to the alternatives available in Sheffield for even fellrunners suffering from a lack of races felt at home on the hilly course.

For Skyrac Graham Grinstead was pleased to come home in 1hr 28min 45sec (146th position) behind Peter Rawnsley who in taking 1.27.26 (116th) clearly spent

too long nostalgically gazing around his former Sheffield haunts amongst the steelworks and pitheaps. Race winner Andrew Aked runs for local Rotherham Harriers and so was not distracted in racing home in 1.09.57.

Otley AC

THE Harrogate and District Summer Road Race League got underway when the first race was staged over a five mile course from Harlow Carr Gardens, Harrogate. Despite the heavy showers, Otley A.C were represented by 21 members and filled a remarkable five out of the first six places. The race was won by Ian Fisher, recovering from a top 30 placing in the London Marathon, in 27 minutes 9 seconds.

A procession of Otley A.C runners consisting of Neil Cayton 28.17, Mark Hall 28.56, Andrew Robertshaw 29.16 and Julian Mawson 29.31 ensured that the club made a good start to the defence of their Elite Team award.

With a few of their regular middle order runners missing, Otley could only achieve overall third place on the night but it was pleasing to see Mick Jeffrey, the current male veteran champion, return to racing with a time of 34.52. The remaining counters for Otley were Colin Best 34.55, Neil O'Brien 35.03, Steve Mann 36.21 and Phil Robinson 36.26.

The Otley A.C Ladies team also achieved third place overall with Beth Massey 37.51, Linda Land 39.55, Carol Armistead 39.58, Mary Hampshire 40.25 and Caroline

Wood 41.48 all putting in good performances.

On Sunday the Rothwell 10k attracted 520 finishers. Otley's Mark Hall was first male veteran in 33.37. Julian Mawson 33.43 also achieved a top ten placing whilst John Straiton 39.24, Phil Robinson 41.25, Beth Massey 43.22, Antonio Cardinale 47.12, Lynne Newsome 47.12 and Emma Payne 48.19 completed the Otley A.C. line up.

The Otley Ten Mile Road Race, sponsored by Otley Motors, will be held on Wednesday, May 16, at 7.30pm. Entry forms are available from the club or by telephoning 0113 2842572 and entries on the night will be accepted at the race headquarters at Otley RUFU, Cross Green, Otley.

John Carr Series

TO Commemorate the life of John Carr his club St Bede's, now resident at Esholt Sports Club, organise an annual race in his memory. In 1998 the event was held in Lister Park but in 1999 and last year the venue was transferred to the club's new headquarters at Esholt and the single race has now been replaced by three races.

This year they will take place on May 9, 23 and 30. The 5k course runs through the village and the private roads of the Yorkshire Water Estate.

There will be even more prizes this year - for junior runners not attached to a running club. John's father, who competed in the 1989 London Marathon, has agreed once again to present the prizes.

Further information can be obtained from the club website <http://www.stbedesac.logend.org.uk> or from Mike Moss on 01274 823133.

Ilkley Harriers

HARROGATE Harriers and AC staged the first event in the Harrogate and District Summer Road Race League last Thursday, with 162 runners from the nine affiliated clubs competing. The course was a hilly 5.4 mile road race, impressively won by Otley's Ian Fisher in 27.09 after his London Marathon the Sunday before. First Ilkley Harrier home was Tim Ashelford, 7th in 30.00; then Jim Ryder 16th in 31.20; and Dave Matthews 34th in 32.59. Ken Souyave was 39th in 33.13; Mike Baldwin 41st in 33.44; and Clive Smith 45th in 33.59. Graham Pearce was 55th with 34.31; Emma Barclay 69th in 35.40; Phil Hirst 72nd in 35.58; and Jeff Paget 85th in 36.59. These 10 runners gave us 4th place in the team race - a great start to the season. And Dave, Ken, Mike, Clive, and Phil gave us 2nd place in the Vet's competition, chasing home club Harrogate.

In the Ladies' race we did even better, beating all the other clubs and taking a 20-point lead into the next race. Emma Barclay was 3rd; Di Kitchen 8th with 37.38; Alison Bennett 12th with 38.51; Cath Wolfenden 13th with 38.52; and Bridget Doherty 16th in 40.11. Di, Alison, and Bridget gave us 2nd place in the Lady Vets' team competition, again behind Harrogate.

There were many other Harriers contributing to these team results by finishing ahead of other clubs' runners: Norman Bush 87th in 37.06; Richard Gray 109th in 38.19; Dave Ibbotson 115th in 39.57; Alison Crane 121st (17th lady) in 40.21; Janet Souyave 132nd in 42.22; Bernie Gibbons 144th in 45.57; and Brian Sweet 153rd in 47.52. Thanks to all of them, and the non-running Harriers who turned out to support the race on a dismal evening.

On Sunday, Ilkley Harriers were amongst the 526-strong field in the Rothwell 10km road race, won in 31.05. Mark Iley scored a PB to finish in 34th place with 36.27 - a very classy result, as was Kevin McMullan's 39th place with 36.48. Martin Heath was 164th with 42.44, and Christine Porritt in 312th place overall with 48.13 was well up the ladies' field.

Ilkley Harriers are reminded that next Tuesday's run will be a special run from Ilkley Tennis Club. Ilkley Harriers are a friendly running club - contact our captain Ken Souyave on 01943 609597 to find

Harriers are egged on in Easter races

THE FOOT and mouth epidemic proved no obstacle to organisers of a Keighley race — giving Holmfirth Harriers AC a chance to excel.

During the last four weeks 25 members have taken part in the "Urban Bunny Run Races" held in the grounds of Cliffe Castle Museum and the adjoining woodland at Beechcliffe, Keighley, but due to the foot and mouth epidemic, the race organisers designed a course on parkland and woodland.

Due to almost all the established fell races being cancelled or postponed, the popular race series were well attended, with an average of more than 200 athletes competing in each race.

The races were held on consecutive Thursday evenings with the first race on April 5.

John Taylor, formerly of Holmfirth, but running with Bingley Harriers for a number of years, won the first race in 18.01, ahead of his teammates, Ian Holmes (18.14) and Siggie Gould (18.25).

The first Holmfirth athlete to finish was Junior Fell International Mark Buckingham who was fifth and first U16 in 18.35.

Andy Shaw was seventh (19.54), Matthew Pierson tenth, second U16 (20.16) and Lisa Lacon the first Holmfirth lady in 47th place (23.59).

Holmfirth took the second team prizes behind the fell internationals from Bingley.

In the second race John Taylor set a new fastest mark of 17.15 on a much drier course with second and third places going to the same athletes as the previous week in a very close finish, Ian Holmes 17.17 and Siggie Gould 17.19.

Mark Buckingham not at his best still managed to finish first Holmfirth athlete (18.46), just two seconds ahead of Andy Shaw (18.48). Club captain, Julian Rank avenged his defeat by Matthew Pierson the previous week, finishing 20th in 19.25, with Matthew 22nd (3rd U16) in 19.38.

Lisa Lacon was the first Holmfirth lady in 68th 22.1 and Laura Kemp the second U16 girl in 92nd overall (23.37).

In each race there is a special prize for the winner of the "egg state", which is the first athlete to pass a predetermined point on the course.

John Taylor won the egg stage in the first race (5.57) and Mick Hawkins just beat him in the second race.

In the third race Mark Buckingham fancied the challenge and beat the seasoned campaigners to win his first ever "egg stage" in 2.12.

Unfortunately, he could not sustain his position and was beaten by his teammate Andy Shaw who finished 11th in 18.49. He also lost his unbeaten run in the U16 age group, losing to County runner, Chris Heart of Burnley, who had a tremendous run to equal Mark's fifth place in 18.25.

Mark was 2nd U16 in 18.46 (12th overall) and Matthew Pierson was 3rd U16 in 19.12 (19th overall). Laura Kemp was the first Holmfirth lady in 77th (23.15) and again 2nd U16 behind Laura Livesey of Chorley. The race winner was Ian Holmes (17.28), ahead of John Taylor (17.37) and Rob Hope of Pudsey and Bramley (17.54).

In the final race of the series Mark Buckingham returned to winning ways, taking a superb third place in 18.34, winning the U16 title and claiming fifth place overall in the series, behind John Taylor, Ian Holmes, Rob Hope and Gary Devine.

Andy Shaw was the second Harrier in ninth (19.07), Matthew Pierson 15th in 19.39 (3rd U16), Lisa Lacon first Holmfirth lady in 58th (22.49).

Laura Kemp had a super run to win the U16 girl's race in 23.09 (66th overall) and was first equal in the series. The race series was billed an "Egg-Stravaganza" with all the prizes being edible, mainly chocolate Easter eggs.

The best times for each of the Holmfirth athletes were as follows: Mark Buckingham 18.34, Andy Shaw 18.48, Matthew Pierson 19.12, Julian Rank 19.25, David Sugden 20.07, Richard Griffiths 20.55, Aiden Gibson 24.06, Katharine Woodhead 24.26, Norman Berry 24.33, Michael Figg 24.48, Mark Gibson 25.13, Richard Thompson 26.07, Jackie Graham 26.14, Jim Sommerville 26.17, Lauren Figg 27.22, Lucy Griffiths 27.28, Natalie Thompson 29.10, Jeanette Pierson 29.11 and David Figg 30.36.