

New name on the Lang Syne trophy



hundreds of runners stream out of Penistone Hill country park at the start of the race

FELL running international, Ian Holmes, lost his 'Auld Lang Syne' crown after 10 consecutive victories in the event.

A combination of a terrible cold over Christmas and the appearance of top competition combined to defeat the local runner who has dominated the New Year's Even race since it was launched.

By JOHN HEALD

"Ian's domination of the event has been astonishing and he certainly wasn't disappointed with his run last Friday," said organiser Dave Woodhead.

The title went to Manchester teacher, Andi Jones who finished in 39 minutes 5 seconds. He has enjoyed an impressive season, coming fourth in the World Mountain Running championships in Alaska and has personal-best times of 29 minutes for 10k and 49 minutes for 10 miles.

The cross country, road and mountain runner had taken second place in the Ribble Valley 10k over Christmas. He is also in training for the London Marathon where he hopes to finish within 2hrs 17mins and qualify for the Commonwealth Games, which are to be held in Melbourne, Australia, next year.

Although Holmes, 39, has also enjoyed a successful year he was far from his best form on race day and had previously lost his 'Stoope' title to Rob Hope over a similar course.

Five-year-old Lewis Holmes, Ian's son, was official starter for the event at Penistone Hill and set a bumper field of runners off.

It wasn't until well into the race, at the top of 'The Stairs' bridleway that Jones and close competitor, John Brown, remembered the course and started to open up a gap on Holmes.

"We really tonked it along the flat water channel, although I fell in a bog at the turn. I knew I could get the better of Brown on the descent even though I fell a

number of times.

"I looked back at the stream and felt strong so pushed on up the final climb to the finish."

Holmes made up time on the descent and at the finish was just 40 seconds behind the winner.

"On the day I just didn't feel up to it, I struggled early on and it didn't help went. I could hear Andi and John chit-chatting away as they ran - if Andy had known the course I think he could have won by two minutes," Holmes said.

The women's race was won by Katie Ingram in a time of 46:49. The Loughborough University student has represented England 10 times and was just too fast for former winner, Sharon Taylor of Bingley Harriers.

Results: 1 Andy Jones (Salford) 39:05; 2 Ian Holmes (Bingley) 39:46; 3 John Brown (Salford) 39:54; 4 John Ehrhardt (Todmorden) 39:59; 5 Andy Peers (Wirral U-18) 40:37; 6 Gary Devine (P&B) 41:00; 7 Thomas Cornthwaite 41:06; 8 Sean Bolland (Bowland) 41:22; 9 Simon Thompson (Clayton) 41:29; 10 Ian Wellock (Bog Trotters) 42:11; 17 Alistair Brownlee (Bingley U-18) 43:23; 28 Chris Loftus (K&C) 44:44; 38 Steve Fraser (K&C) 45:51; 44 Paul Crabtree (K&C) 46:26.

Women: 1 Katie Ingram (Horwich) 46:49; 2 Sharon Taylor (Bingley) 48:27; 3 Candice Leh (Clayton) 50:40; 12 (1st local lady) Tamara Hird (Wharfedale) 56:51; 13 Jane Smith (Tod) 57:38; 14 Kirsty Hall (Wharfedale) 58:21.

... association