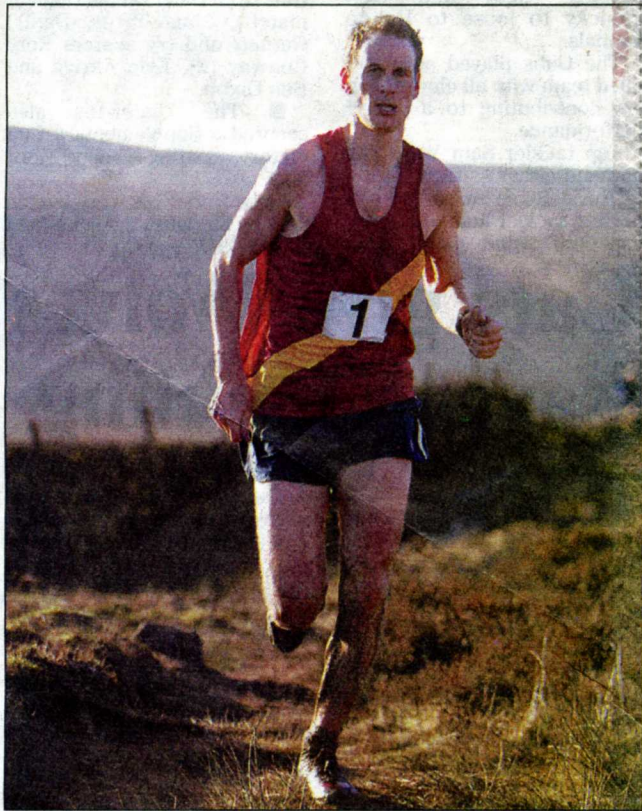


Top athletes race for title



INTERNATIONAL runners took to the hills in the Stoop Fell Race last weekend.

The bumper field of almost 300 senior runners was led home by four times winner Rob Hope (above) of the Pudsey and Bramley Club in a time of 30minutes 43 seconds.

He was just 16 seconds ahead of 39-year-old Ian Holmes who has won the race ten times. Lloyd Taggard was third just three seconds behind Holmes.

All three leading runners had represented England in 2004.

Twenty two year-old Natalie White of Holmfirth retained the ladies trophy in 38min 7secs with clubmate Lisa Lacon, who won the race in 2000, in second place. Calder Valley runner Jo Smith was third lady.

In the junior 'Quarry Run' races Ryan Gould set a new Under-12 record of 6mins 30secs. Ben Proctor won the Under-16 race on his birthday.

Next race in the series is the Briscoes Brewery Auld Lang Syne Fell Race on Friday December 31. The senior race starts at 11.30am.



Ian Holmes leads out the field with Hope in his footsteps