

Andi wins the first of the Bunny Runs

FELL RUNNING

EVERYONE loves a bunny, whether they are young, old, a serious athlete or a fun runner, and the April Bunny Run races have a unique appeal, proved by the 251 runners racing around Penistone Hill in Haworth on Tuesday.

Race organiser Dave Woodhead said this was the third ever biggest field with the record being 272 at "BR3" in 2002.

Fresh from running for Great Britain in the World Cross Country Championships in Edinburgh two days earlier, 29-year-old Andi Jones, of Salford Athletics Club, won Tuesday's Bunny Run in the slowest ever time, 16 minutes and five seconds.

Woodhead said: "This was a testament to the waterlogged course and the fierce strong winds."

Course record holder and 25-time winner Ian Holmes of Keighley finished second and was the first placed veteran, only 23 seconds behind Jones (16.28). Holmes' course record is 15 minutes.

England junior international, Keighley & Craven AC's Rob Shaw, finished in third place with a time of 16.93.

Woodhead said Rob, 18, of Riddlesden, "loves the fells especially the climbing aspect and is realising he has real talent, just like his dad, David, who finished third veteran."

Bingley Harriers' Shannon Taylor, 28, second in the British Championships last year, won her second ever Bunny Run in 19.05, the first being in 2005. Leeds City AC's Emily Klee was second with a time of 19.51 and Mel Hyder was third in 19.56.

Other local finishers included Silsden's Graham Pearce who finished ninth in 17.31, Keighley & Craven's David Shaw was 22nd



BUNNY MEN: Bunny Run winner Andi Jones (right) is followed closely by Bingley Harriers' runner Tim Midgley, who finished fourth overall. Behind them in a Keighley & Craven jersey is Rob Shaw, who crossed the line in third. The race was held at Penistone Hill in Haworth.

in 18.55 and Keighley & Craven's Paul Crabtree finishing 33rd in 17.58.

Keighley & Craven's Rosie Hellawell was 12th lady to cross the line and was the third place U-14s girl. Her time was 22.10.

For a full list of Tuesday's results, visit woodentops.org.uk.

● The second in the five-race Bunny Run series will be held next Tuesday, starting at 7.15pm at Penistone Hill.

Will into Bunny history books

FELL RUNNING

KEIGHLEY Sports Camp director Will Smith achieved one of his sporting ambitions and entered the history books by becoming the first ever Keighley & Craven Athletics Club runner to win a Bunny Run.

Will, 29, has been competing in these races, which are held at Penistone Hill in Haworth, for the last nine years and has always featured highly (in the top ten).

At the second in the series of five Bunny Runs (BR2) on Tuesday, Will stormed up the last climb to beat European Junior Triathlon champion Jonathan Brownlee of Horsforth and 25-time BR winner Ian Holmes of Keighley.

Will's time was 15.33, four seconds ahead of Brownlee and 12 seconds better than Holmes. Will's Keighley & Craven team-mate Rob Shaw finished fourth in a time of 15.59. Shaw also won the Egg Stage 3.35.

Will said: "I have so much respect for Ian Holmes and all he has achieved, so to finally beat him is fantastic.

"I gave everything I had up the last climb after a great battle with Jonathan, Ian and Rob. What a great race it was!"

Medical rep Sharon Taylor returned to clinch a hat-trick of wins, this week running out 20 seconds faster in the Egg Stage, which she won in 4.12.



HISTORY MAKER: Will Smith became the first ever Keighley & Craven Athletics Club runner to win on the Bunny Runs at Penistone Hill in Haworth on Tuesday.

She was the ladies winner in a time of 18.45 but given the quality of the 272 runners in

the race, Sharon finish 12 positions lower than last week, coming in 36th place overall.

Anna Anderson of Wycoller, an England Junior International, finished second in 19.04, with Will's partner, Helen Glover, of Keighley & Craven, four seconds behind in third.

A fierce battle was witnessed between Wharfedale Harriers' Jonathan Bradshaw of Skipton and Keighley & Craven's Thomas Sessford of Silsden.

Thomas just outsprinted Jonathan by one second to finish second and third in the U-16 boys behind winner Ashley Kaye from Rossendale, who recorded a time of 17.01.

At the weekend, Thomas was voted as the best performance of the day when Keighley & Craven recorded their best ever Northern 12-Stage Road Relay finish of 13th at a snowy Catterick course.

What a night it was on Tuesday for the club as Thomas' younger brother Harry couldn't stop smiling after winning the three-prize draw, a two-kilo Belgian chocolate egg!

Two other records were broken on the night when David Tait knocked 11 seconds off the V60 record time, with a run of 20.02. Brian Leathley also broke V70 record with a new time of 31.41.

For a full list of results visit woodentops.org.uk.

The third Bunny Run (BR3) will be held at Penistone Hill next Tuesday, starting at 7.30pm.

Unstoppable Smith claims second win

FELL RUNNING

IN ATROCIOUS weather with sleet, hail and heavy rain 258 competitors turned out for Bunny Run Three.

It was virtually impossible to finish the race clean but showing a clean pair of heels to the rest for a second week running was Willy Smith.

He finished in 15.54 to again take the scalp of Ian Holmes.

England runner Rob Shaw won the egg stage prize again in a time of 3.35 despite the bad weather and finished third overall.

Willy, a recent winner of two 5K races in Lancashire, said: "These conditions were horrible, not only was it wet but it was also freezing.

"I was really worried about Ian and his fell running ability but I felt very confident on the climbs which made the difference in the end.

"My fitness has improved recently since we acquired two springer spaniels who want exercise morning, noon and night!"

Silsden's Tom Sessford won the youths U-16 race in 17.36, again from Wharfedale Harriers' Jonathan Bradshaw, second in 17.48.

Recent birthday boy Bingley's Jon Cordingley ran 18.13 to win the V50 prize while 28 year-old Sharron Taylor of Bingley

Harriers made it three straight wins in the series in 19.01 for the ladies.

Anna Anderson of Pendle was second in 19.28 and Helen Glover of Keighley third in 19.55.

Second local lady was Wharfedale Harrier Tamara Hird in 21.50, eighth overall, followed by Keighley pair U-14 Pippa Barrett 11th overall and Rebecca McLean 14th.

Next week sees the overall decider in the series with a start time of 7.30pm and registration from the Old Sun Hotel at Haworth.

See www.woodentops.org.uk for full 4results.

● Wharfedale Harriers are again promoting the Dick Hudson's Fell Race this coming Wednesday, April 23.

Registration will be at the Ilkley Millennium Gardens Car Park from 7pm.

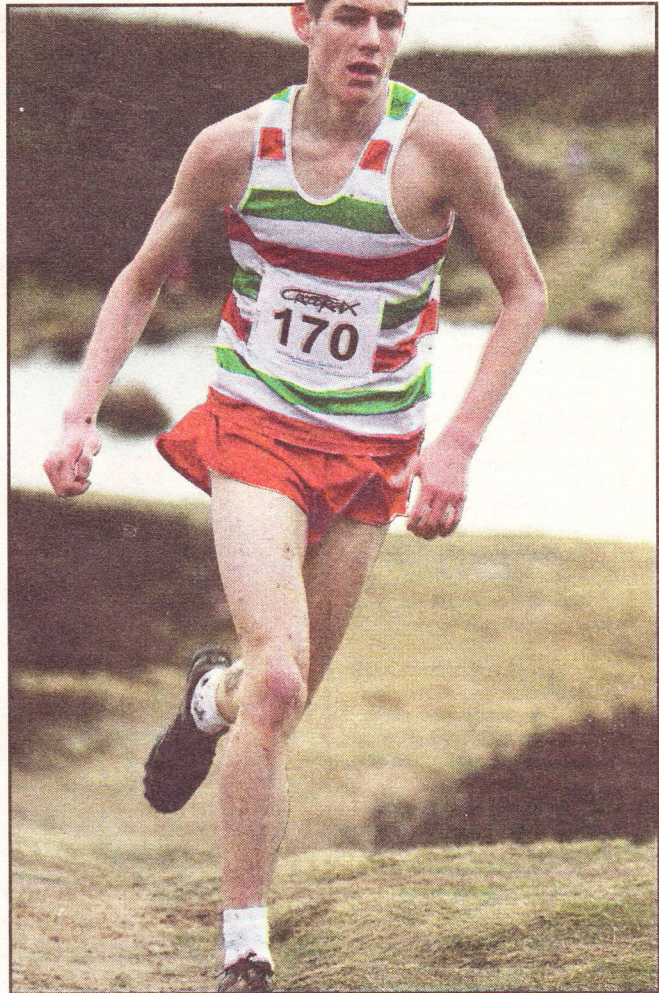
The race will start at 7.30pm from the Lower Tarn and finish at the gate at the bottom of the track to White Wells.

Runners can take any route to Dick Hudson's pub and back, covering about six miles.

The route will not be flagged so organisers warn that a little bit of local knowledge at the start and finish is useful.

Futher details from Bob Hamilton on 01943 816776.

GOOD EFFORT:
Keighley's Rob Shaw finished third overall.



In-form Will races to Bunny Run hat-trick

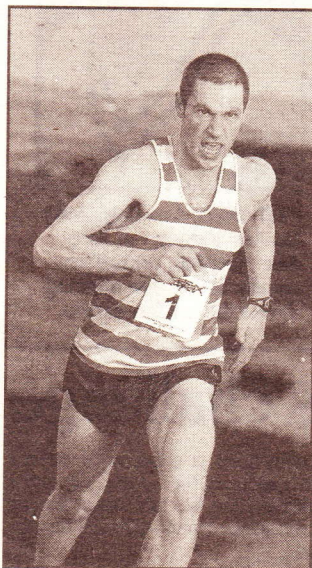
KEIGHLEY & Craven Athletics Club runner Will Smith won his third consecutive Bunny Run at Penistone Hill in Haworth on Tuesday.

Race organiser Dave Woodhead said: "Will Smith and Sharon Taylor of Bingley Harriers were crowned king and queen of the Bunny Run series and will now be immortalised on next year's Bunny Beer label.

"Will is in the form of his life with seven wins in recent races including victory at the Bradford 10K on Sunday."

In the fourth Bunny Run Will led all the way and crossed the line in 15.25. He also won the Egg Stage with a time of 3.30.

Another Keighley & Craven runner, Rob Shaw, finished second in 15.57. Rob's success has earned



HAT-TRICK: Will Smith of Keighley & Craven Athletics Club won his third Bunny Run in a row.

FELL RUNNING

him a reserve place in the senior men's Yorkshire team for the UKA Inter-County Championships in Lancashire on May 10.

Having just finished second U-16 at the English Championships in the Lake District Keighley & Craven Thomas Sessford showed no tiredness to finish sixth overall and first U-16, beating last week's winner, Ashley Kay.

Jonathan Bradshaw of Wharfedale Harriers finished third. Sessford's time was 16.50, five seconds behind him was Kay and Bradshaw crossed the line with a time of 17.04.

Showing just how talented youngsters are Pendle Athletics Club posse of young U-14s, Emma Spencer (first in 20.09), Jade Lord (second in 20.20) and Melissa Berry (third in 20.55) all excelled to beat Bingley Harriers senior lady Mary Green with Rosie Hellawell and Pippa Barrett, both of Keighley & Craven, not far behind.

Woodhead said: "This is the attraction of the Bunny Runs, juniors and youngsters love to mix it with the seniors and prove how good they are."

A total of 223 runners chased more chocolate prizes on Tuesday where Commonwealth Games silver medallist Lisa Brambani, a road cyclist, was the guest celebrity.

She ran in her first ever competitive race, finishing 11th lady in 22.24. Her talented daughter, Abbey Mae, the Yorkshire swimming and cross county champion, finished with a time of 24.04.

For a full list of results visit woodentops.org.uk.

Next Tuesday the Bunny Run Relays will take place at Penistone Hill. Teams of three will run one 2.5 mile and two two mile legs. The race starts at 7.30pm.



ON THE CLIMB: Thomas Sessford of Silsden, running for Keighley & Craven Athletics Club, finished first in the U-16s race and sixth overall in the fourth Bunny Run held at Penistone Hill in Haworth on Tuesday.