

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.