

# Rivals' Hope for victory dashed

## FELL RACING

BRITISH fell champion Rob Hope, from Leeds' club Pudsey and Bramley, notched up his sixth victory on a very muddy and wind-swept Stoop Fell Race on Sunday.

The 34-year-old gave no hope to the 293 runners as he powered his way to the old Haworth boundary stone checkpoint.

Local athlete, Ian Holmes of Keighley, chased in vain as the gale-force winds took their toll on his slight frame.

However, Holmes was only 15 seconds behind and did not allow Hope to ease off his pace.

Holmes did win the veterans' race for the third time and he is also a ten-time senior race winner.

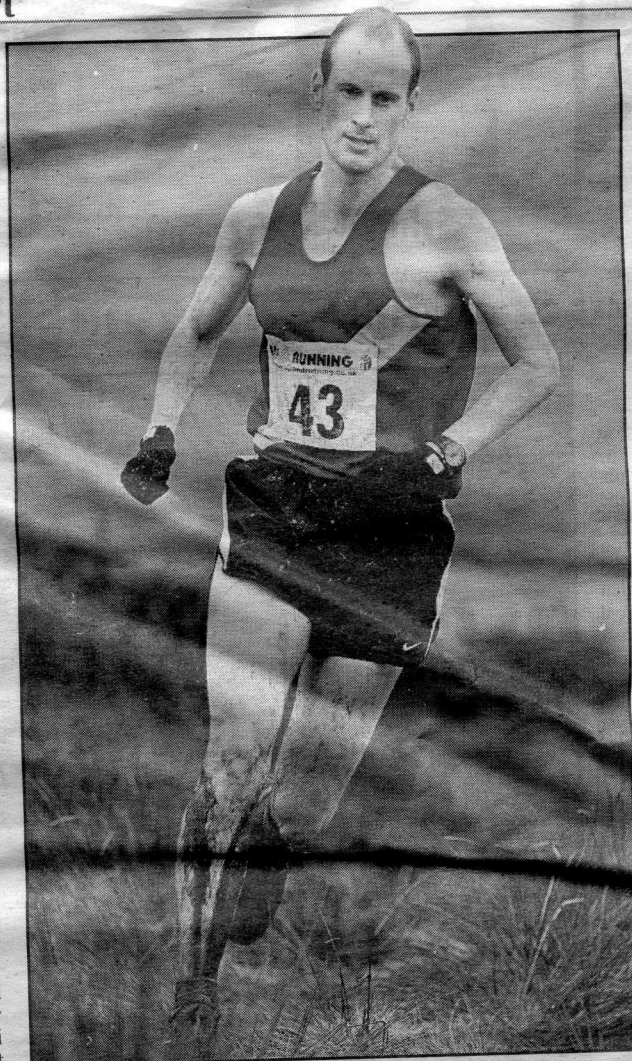
Tim Edward from Goose Eye finished 12th overall, the first Keighley and Craven Athletics Club runner was Nigel Bedell in 27th and Silsden's Jonathan Bradshaw won the U-18s title.

Race organiser Dave Woodhead said that one sad point on the day was that two-time winner Andi Jones had to leave before the start due to a family bereavement.

The race had an international flavour because Sabine Hauswirth, a foreign language student from Switzerland competing in Ilkley Harriers colours, won the ladies' race.

The 21-year-old orienteer took control of the race on a very boggy descent, overtaking 2007 U-23 British champion Emma Clayton.

The Swiss runner has had great success during a short stay in England, as Woodhead said: "This is Sabine's fifth outright win so far on her four-month stay in England, and only last week



**HIGH HOPE:** Rob Hope of Pudsey and Bramley Athletics Club won the Stoop Fell Race on Sunday.

she was the lynchpin in Ilkley ladies winning the Calderdale Way Relay.

In the junior race, which attracted 158 youngsters, Keighley and Craven's Rosie Hellawell won the girls' U-14 race, Bingley's James Hall won the boys' U-12 race and Bradford Grammar School athlete Abby Parkinson won the girls' U-12 race in fancy dress.

Many of the juniors ran in fancy dress as spectators saw Rudolphins, Santas, snowmen, fairies, pyjama

party girls and even a duck enjoying the festive race.

The Auld Lang Syne Fell Race will be held next Wednesday, December 31, at Penistone Hill in Haworth.

The senior race, which is the only race of the day, starts at 11.30am and costs £4 to enter. All finishers will receive a bottle of Daleside beer.

For more information ring Dave Woodhead on 01535 669100 or visit [woodentops.co.uk](http://woodentops.co.uk).

# Kauto Star favoured in Boxing Day race

## RACING by Dr Al, the Punter's Pal

Hi folks - Robin's taking a well-earned rest at the year's end, so yours truly will be attempting to boost your festive finances.

The place to start is most definitely at Kempton on Boxing Day, where one of the jumps season's highlights, the King George, takes place.

The hot favourite is Paul Nicholls' Kauto Star but this former Gold Cup winner has seen some of his old jumping frailties resurfacing of late, and makes little appeal to current odds.

Of slightly more interest is second favourite Voy Par Ustede, who is stepping up the trip on this occasion.

This flat track should help him last the distance, but Dr Al's idea of the best bet in the race is an each-way punt at the currently available 10/1 on David Pipe's Our Vic.

This classy animal, whose victories include one at the Cheltenham Festival, was runner up to Kauto Star in this event last year, and performs well after a lay-off. He rates excellent each-way value.

The Welsh National takes place the following day at Chepstow, and an ability to handle soft ground is usually an essential.

The first two home last year, Miko de Beaucherne and Halcon Genelardais, line-up again, as does Venetia Williams' recent winner, Mon Mome. All three are at home in testing conditions, but the last named would appear to be the best option.

Over in Ireland, the traditional post-Christmas meeting at Leopardstown sees the appearance



**HAVE YOU GONE QUACKERS?:** A young girl dressed as a duck took part in the Stoop Fell Race.