Holmes resumes normal service

ATHLETICS

BINGLEY Harriers' 43-year-old fell runner Ian Holmes, from Keighley, won his 26th Bunny Run on Tuesday.

He beat three-time winner Will Smith of Keighley and Craven Athletics Club in the second event of the season around Penistone Hill.

The race saw 249 runners compete along the three-mile course.

Pendle's John Thompson won the Egg Stage prize for the fastest first sector in 3mins 23sec but Holmes and Smith were already locked together shoulder-to-shoulder even then.

It was only in the final up and down section that Holmes opened the winning margin to leave his training team-mate behind.

"I couldn't have had Will beat me on a fell course," said Holmes, after Smith had recently beaten him in the Bradford 10K run.

Howarth's international runner Andy Peace finished third, with brother Martin in seventh.

Other runners from the Bingley Harriers also excelled as they picked up the team prize award.

Blue Haywood won the ladies' race for the fifth time from Helen Glover, who finished second yet again, with Kathy Walshaw third and under-16 runner Mel Hyder fourth. Haywood's sister Bo won the under-14s.

Keighley and Craven ladies scooped the team prize for the second week, with Holly Williams ninth, and under-14 runner Rosie Hellawell twelfth along with runner-up Glover.

"These races are a great chance for juniors to pit themselves against senior athletes and it's great to see so many families taking part where sons and daughters can beat mums and dads," said event organiser Dave Woodhead.