

Race Review

**Bunny Run Series; post Easter;
4 x CS/3m/300ft**

Bunnies abounding

The Woodheads have established a series of early season races to test your fitness....

Bunny Run 1

Easter being later this year brought about the Tuesday night series having to be run every week instead of every 2 weeks in order to finish the 4 races before the 'true' midweek fell races begin in early May i.e. Jack Bloor, Flowers Scar, Blackstone Edge, Simons Seat, Whirlaw etc.

The four races are run over the same route so runners can gauge how their aerl season training is progressing (or not!). Incorporated within each race is an egg stage award, that is for the first athlete past the rocks on the short lap before a long lap of Harden Moor, high above Keighley, is tackled. The reward for the stage prize is of course an extra Easter egg as are all the 50 odd prizes on offer in the various categories for each individual race. To challenge for averall series awards a acompetitors best three race positions count and yes, you've guessed it, the prizes are 30 odd bigger, better, tastier and more chocolatey eggs.

Ian Holmes, series winner last year with three wins showed his leg speed to coast to a new egg stage record of 3.29, a 4 second reduction, before going on to win in the bright sunny but windy evening. Others who received special egg cup record awards were o/60 Dave Hodgson and u/16 girl Stafana Duniec, they improved each mark by 40 and 70 seconds respectively.

Bunny Run 1, always the Tuesday before Easter, is the only one where Cadbury's Creme egg mementos are available to every finisher. Is this the secret of why 225 runners including 61 ladies toed the Cradle Edge start? 'How did you eat yours?'

Bunny Run 2 'Harey' Record Time

After the Easter festivities Ian Holmes took the race by its 'long ears' and literally hared round the 3 mile route to claim a double record. Already holder of the egg stage time at 3.33 he improved it by 3 seconds and then finally re-wrote Greg Hull's 1993 record of 17.10 to 17.03. Kimbledal whirlpool fitter 'Holmesey' missed the record last year at Bunny Runs 2 and 4 by 1 second and 2 seconds respectively and certainly time checks from spectators aided his efforts as he left Gary devine 50 seconds in arrears along with the other 170 runners.

The first u/16 juniors once again showed the talent ready to erupt into the senior rankings in the coming years with Matthew Drake and Stefana Duniec being far



John Cordingley, Todmorden, 5th overall in the series

from overshadowed in the record stakes. A 9th place and 4th lady place certainly gave the older generation a scare or two! 14 year old Stefana, at school at Shelley High nr Huddersfield is a Yorkshire cross country representative and improving with every race; her older sister Justina, 15, is more of a track runner with an 800m p.b. of 2.34 and finished 3rd junior to her credit.

To go with the 50 chocolate eggs prize list, the first buck, doe and Uncle buck (V40) were recipients of 3ft tall blow up plastic bunny rabbits! Howls of laughter echoed around the Guide Inn as Holmes, Kath Drake and Pet Carr were very red faced. A feature of every race is the free guess at the winning man's, ladies' and veteran times with nearest winning a choice of Easter egg. With nearly 80 guesses each time this proves very popular.

Bunny Run 3 New Names

Two new category winners appeared with Simon Thompson and o/40 Jonnie Butler winning their prize eggs and cuddly rabbits. Simon was very disgruntled to learn that the blow up bunnies were not on offer.

The ladies race was a real tussle as Kath Drake tracked 44 year old Jean Rawlinson into the last 300 yards. At Bunny Run 2 Kath won by 2 seconds but here Jean, a building society customer adviser, was in fighting mood. 'Her tactic paid off last time but I somehow found a sprint - which is unbelievable for me - to edge her out by 1 second'. Her daughter Sara also enjoyed the event and was stunned to have a choice of Easter egg prizes for finishing 12th lady. In fact with father Barry

4th o/40 and son Barry junior a spot prize winner, chocolate looks to be on the Rawlinsons Barnoldswick dessert menu for many weeks to come.

With a very cold and windy evening numbers were slightly down with 145, but the contest for the egg stage prize was fiercely fought. Maurice Calvert and Robin Lawrence burst from the group, with Lawrence edging it in 3.43. Both paid a heavy price, being in oxygen debt beyond the rocks, and trailed in 11th and 27th.

Bunny Run 4 How do they do it?

29 year old Ian Holmes had struggled over Ingleborough to lose out to Andy Peace, while Jean Rawlinson had won - but how did they manage to both win at this 3 miler after competing in the 24 mile 3 Peaks classic only 48 hours before.

Devine, eying the series prize, put Holmes through the wringer by forcing the pace all the way with an egg stage win in 3.33, only for Holmes to chase him down with 200 yards remaining. A sprint ensued with Devine holding him off until Holmes kicked again. How his legs found the energy was beyond the spectators, and himself, but once the adrenalin courses through the veins it proves anything is possible.

Clayton's Monica Shone proved this by becoming the only record setter this evening with a new o/60 time of 30.52, a fine run from this athlete who is just 69 years young.

To cap the series and courtesy of the race profits and the Guide Inn hosts, Tricia and Dave, a free buffet worthy of a more formal function was laid on for all who turned up.

The 4 race series has become a Tuesday night ritual, not only popular with the elite but also with lesser mortals. The organisers guarantee both a good, well organised race and route and a prize giving that is unsurpassed.

- Runny Egg



*Stefana Duniec, Bunny Run Champion in her class
Photo: Dave Woodhead*