

BUNNY RUN SERIES

MISS IT MISS OUT!

Ask any of the thousand plus athletes who chose to take part in the Bunny Run series of races starting with the Tuesday before Easter, and culminating in the now traditional end of series relay why they compete, and their answer will more than likely be: The Cadbury's Crème egg at the finish. The extensive chocolate Easter egg prize list. The same fixed 3 mile off road route. The specially brewed Hopppy beer available. The free yard of ale drinking contest. The junior version using a pint of orange. This years free raffle for bottles of spirits. The carrot cakes, blow up rabbits, giggle ball rabbits, jester hats...you name it and it is likely to be there! But more than anything it's the atmosphere generated by the above, and you the runners which make it an event that simply cannot be missed. One of the organiser's speciality is to always make it a night to remember if it happens that you're a birthday girl or boy, and if you happen to be the big '40' then watch out. There is always a rendition of Happy Birthday sung in harmony like only fell runners having a good time can, a signed card by as many people as possible, a suitable birthday cake and a drinking challenge. This year Holmfirth's Russell Bamforth celebrated his 18th at BR1, and duly took 90 seconds to dispose of a half yard of ale - not bad for someone who until that day had never indulged in alcohol!! While Russell came of age, two others were finding out that life begins at forty. At BR3, Darwen's Neil Holding a tea totaller, might have thought he'd stumbled the organisers, but a half-yard of orange proved a harder task than beer. Neil held up to the legend on his birthday cake of being a 'Cool Dude'. Being in the knowledge that Neil Taylor of Ilkley was forty at BR4, brought about four specially brewed Briscoe bottles of 'Taylor's Fortieth Tipple', and a curvaceous 'boob cake'. His courageous attempt at the yard of ale brought rapturous applause and whoops when he finally stopped the clock at 6 minutes and 43 seconds. A feature of every Bunny Run is that the juniors have a drinking contest in the Guide Inn, after the prize giving, their task is to drink a pint of orange and then place the empty glass on their head. The man from Del Monte says YES to four times winner Gareth Johns who's best time was 6 seconds, Victoria Rogan won twice the best being 9 seconds, and Danielle Kane won the other two.

BUNNY RUN ONE

West Yorkshire
CS/3m/300ft 30.3.99

SARAH'S DEBUT

"It wasn't anything like I expected" was Sarah Rowell's comment after competing in her first ever Bunny Run, she found the lactic acid building up in her legs on the final long run in, but still improved the lady veterans O/35 record into the bargain by 46 seconds. In second and third were Kath Drake and Amy Green who along with Pam Farnworth in 36th position won the ladies team for Spenboro'.

After helping Bingley regain the Northern 12 Stage title at Wigan two days earlier, British champion Ian Holmes - who ran the 3rd fastest short stage - got back to doing what he does best...winning fell races.

Although admitting to being "very tired" after his road exploits, Holmes was first past the egg stage marker at the "Grinning Stone" - his 13th en route victory in 3-32, 2 seconds clear of Marc Moore now with Bingley, with Robe Hope 3rd.

Slippery footing on the steep bank on the long lap slowed all the 235 runners, including healthy 47 ladies considerably, despite it being a dry fine evening.

First Uncle Buck home was Steve Oldfield in 7th overall, who is the over 40 record holder at 18 minutes, and along with Pauline his better half are regular series runners. Bunny Run One is the only race where perpetual trophies are awarded, because it is the original one, these are in the form of cuddly bunny rabbits, that look like the real thing, but have an engraved plaque down their bellies with the winners names.

A new introduction this year was Bricoes Brewery supplying the Guide Inn with kegs of premium bitter aptly named Hopppy, and at £1-20 a pint a bargain well appreciated by the thirsty runners.

1. I. Holmes	Bing	17.40
2. A. Wrench	Tod	17.57
3. R. Hope	P&B	18.03
4. S. Livesey	Clay	18.06
5. G. Oldfield	P&B	18.14
6. M. Horrocks	Clay	18.32
7. S. Oldfield	BfdA	18.52
8. I. Greenwood	Clay	19.00
9. M. Moore	Bing	19.04
10. J. Wright	Tod	19.07

VETERANS O/40

1. S. Oldfield	BfdA	18.52
2. R. Crossland	BfdA	19.34
3. D. Thompson	CaldV	20.21
4. A. Robinson	Clay	20.53
5. D. Britton	FellandD	20.58

VETERANS O/50

1. J. Holt	Clay	20.26
2. P. Carr	Kghly	20.48
3. D. Rhodes	BfdA	22.23

VETERANS O/60

1. M. Mahoney	StBedes	24.37
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LADIES

1. S. Rowell O.35	P&B	20.41
2. K. Drake O.35	Spen	22.17
3. A. Green	Spen	22.58
4. H. Johnson	Ilk	23.11
5. M. Green O/40	Bing	23.55
6. J. Tompkins	LeedsUni	24.18
7. S. Taylor	Bing	24.19
8. P. Oldfield O/40	BfdA	24.21

JUNIORS U/16

1. M. Buckingham	Unatt	20.36
2. A. Foster	Settle	21.53
3. J. Carter	Spen	22.23
4. I. Harvey	Tod	22.34
5. S. Clegg	Bing	22.49

BUNNY RUN TWO

West Yorkshire
CS/3m/300ft 6.4.99

WHAT A BLUNDER

For the first time ever we didn't bag the numbers a mega mistake, as the 234 runners set off around Harden moor the sun was out. But by the time the majority of the runners were descending through the wood the Heavens opened with rain coming down in stair rods. With runners numbers disintegrating because of the rain, the finish recorders had a major problem and it's only thanks to Michael Fryer and Linda Crabtree, along with Geoff Garnett the timer that kept the race literally afloat. Our solution was to ask the runners if they could remember their numbers, but most couldn't, or got the digits mixed up. So we ended up writing down the surnames of the runners and constructed the results that way, not an easy task when you consider at minimum you have a runner finishing every two seconds! It does help having a long finish funnel which is just one person width, one other mention, we hope you all said thanks to our Crème Egg Bunny Girl Claire Drake who was out in all weathers dishing out the those well earned eggs. The moral of this tale is you will never run in another Woodentop race without your number being in a plastic bag come hell or high water... or even sunshine!

Series winner last year, Ian Holmes and Kath Drake notched up comprehensive victories. Holmes was actually 17 seconds quicker than last Tuesday despite the freakish downpour, "once the rain started coming down, all I was interested in was getting back to the finish as soon as possible", said a bedraggled Holmes, who also took the egg stage in 3-26.

Shaun Livesey in second is the only real threat to Holmes in the series, but he has led Clayton Le Moors now to two team victories with backing from Mark Horrocks and Ian Greenwood.

One of the pleasing aspects of the Bunny Runs is the amount of under 16's competing on average it's 30 a race, boys and girls inclusive. Many parents choose to chaperone their siblings around the course, but several find the pace of their youngsters too quick for comfort. Mark Buckingham is the class apart averaging around 21 minutes for the course; can you better that dad?

At each race, Mary and John from the Guide Inn donated 3 bottles of spirits for a prize draw, which meant all runners had a chance of winning, a surprise was the amount of under 16s who won the alcohol. Our only concession here was that they must be accompanied by an adult, and that they bought the prize for £5, and we made sure the kids collected the money.

1. I. Holmes	Bing	17.23
2. S. Livesey	Clay	18.05
3. M. Horrocks	Clay	18.31
4. S. Oldfield	BfdA	18.37
5. T. Plant	Belper	19.02
6. I. Taylor	Unatt	19.02
7. J. Wright	Tod	19.14
8. I. Greenwood	Clay	19.18
9. B. Whalley	P&B	19.20
10. S. Sweeney	Bowland	19.22

VETERANS O/40

1. S. Oldfield	BfdA	18.37
2. R. Crossland	BfdA	19.53
3. J. Butler	Kghly	20.24
4. A. Nixon	Prest	20.47
5. D. Britton	Felland	20.52

VETERANS O/50

1. D. Rhodes	bfdA	22.27
2. M. Coles	Skyrac	23.38
3. C. Tordoff	Bing	24.32

VETERANS O/60

1. M. Mahoney	StBedes	24.52
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BUNNY RUNS

**Rounded up by
Dave and Eileen
Woodhead**

LADIES

1. K. Drake O.35	Spen	22.24
2. S. Corbin	P&B	23.07
3. A. Green	Spen	23.14
4. H. Johnson	Ilk	23.37
5. L. Kemp U/16	Holm	23.47
6. J. Tompkins	LeedsUni	24.07
7. E. Spencer U/16	Skyrac	24.09
8. P. Oldfield O/40	BfdA	24.26

JUNIORS U/16

1. M. Buckingham	Holm	21.15
2. A. Foster	Settle	21.35
3. G. Johns	Holm	21.58
4. I. Harvey	Tod	22.11
5. J. Carter	Spen	22.21

BUNNY RUN THREE

West Yorkshire
CS/3m/300ft 13.4.99

SAM 'STAGED' A WIN

1988 and 1990 English champion Shaun Livesey added another first to his long list of achievements - a prestigious Bunny Run victory.

Despite finishing regularly at the sharp end of these evening races, Livesey had never notched up a win. Three days earlier he was disappointed with his 5th at Pendle, and took some ribbing over being beaten by veteran Steve Oldfield, but revenge was 'sweet' as he left Oldfield 11 seconds behind. The now 36 year old also led his team Clayton to the team eggs again.

It was Wharfedale's Sam Wadsworth though, who shot to the head of the 189 strong field, anxious to add his name to the illustrious list of en-route 'egg stage' winners. He actually took the one kilo bar of chocolate prize by out dipping his rival Andy Beevers in 3-26, only 4 seconds shy of Holmes' record. Wadsworth did pay for his exertions as Beevers virtually ran into the back of him, once the marker was passed, and tailed home in 68th place in 23-0 7. Meanwhile Beevers kept the pace going and eventually finished 4th in 19-01.

Kath Drake claimed her second win, and her 4th series title to date - 1993, 1994, 1998 and 1999, this was also her 10th victory, but Kath didn't have things all her own way. Karen Slater was the fastest away, and seemed to be swept along at a much too faster pace which eventually caught her up at the 2 mile mark. In second, a relative newcomer and name to watch was 32 year old Helen Johnson, who was closing on Drake in the latter stages to finish only 4 seconds adrift in 47th position and one position. This was Johnson's best result in a Bunny Run ever, and shows she's progressing after a viral infection affected her winter training.

Settle's Sally Shepherd sealed the series victory in the under 16's, along with Mark Buckingham who will feature highly in the English Junior championships for 199 9. Whilst Mick Mahoney of St.Bedes took the O/60's, and Christine Porritt the O/50's lady title.

1. S. Livesey	Clay	18.23
2. S. Oldfield	BfdA	18.34
3. M. Horrocks	Clay	18.41
4. A. Beevers	Leeds	19.01
5. B. Whalley	P&B	19.05
6. T. Waterworth	Clay	19.11
7. J. Hemsley	Ilk	19.14
8. I. Taylor	Unatt	19.22
9. C. Loftus	Kghly	19.26
10. S. Bottomley	Eccles	19.39

VETERANS O/40

1. S. Oldfield	BfdA	18.34
	Kghly	19.41
3. R. Crossland	BfdA	20.04
4. P. Hughes	StBedes	20.21
5. D. Thompson	CaldV	20.39

VETERANS O/50

1. S. Sanderson	BfdA	22.37
2. M. Coles	Skyrac	23.38
3. C. Tordoff	Bing	23.58



Sam Wadsworth, Wharfedale, Bunny Run 2 Photo: Steve Bateson

BUNNY RUN FOUR West Yorkshire CS/3m/300ft 20.4.99

RIVER RUN

The records kept on tumbling for Ian Holmes as he claimed his 4th Bunny Run title in 6 years, his 16th race win and 15th en route 'egg stage' victory.

Torrential rain and strong winds gave Holmes another record as well - the slowest winning time ever by 30 seconds. Not that this bothered the actual course record holder at 16-43 however, as he slogged it out through the deep puddles and running water, which are normally recognisable as paths, tracks and bridle ways. His battle with Sean Willis to the egg stage marker at Grinning Stone proved eventful, as Willis tried every trick in the book to withstand the challenge. "Certainly it was the closest ever egg stage finish I've been involved in" commented Holmes. Times were unavailable here, because our timer couldn't see the start or hear the air horn due to the weather, and mist which enshrouded Harden Moor, but it was slow.

As normal Holmes eased off the pace, allowing Shaun Livesey to take the lead, but on the long loop through the woods Holmes quickly gained control. It was on the slippery steep banking climb shortly after where Livesey chose to zig zag to find better purchase, whereas the direct approach was favoured by Holmes that a gap appeared.

Despite admitting to being "very tired" and "looking it", after being out sprinted at the Anniversary Waltz 3 days earlier, Holmes commented mischievously, "because we couldn't have a Lancastrian, Shaun Livesey winning the series for the first time, could we?"

Holmfirth's Lisa Lacon won her first Bunny Run here, finding the atrocious conditions to her liking; after placing 3rd the previous week in her series debut. In the overall Amy Green and Sally Corbin tied for 2nd, behind Drake.

All prizewinners in the overall series received a special bottle of "Holmsie's Bobtail Brew" courtesy of local brewery owner Paul Briscoe, (who finished 6th in the Three peaks race days later). The beer, which marks Holmes' achievements in this popular series, carries the legend: 'This traditional stout celebrates the achievements of the undisputed King of the Bunny Run series, Ian Holmes. It makes his British championship pale into insignificance!' Of course not forgetting they also had choice of chocolate Easter egg off the table, to accompany the beer. Then the merriment really started with the wonderful buffet of sandwiches, quiche, sausage rolls, pizza and yummy sticky caramel slices.

1. I. Holmes	Bing	18.41
2. S. Livesey	Clay	18.48
3. P. Sheard	P&B	18.54
4. M. Horrocks	Clay	18.58
5. S. Willis	Tod	19.10
6. G. Oldfield	P&B	19.13
7. S. Oldfield	BfdA	19.16
8. S. Wadsworth	Wharfe	19.31
9. I. Greenwood	Clay	19.38
10. T. Waterworth	Clay	19.53

VETERANS O/40

1. S. Oldfield	BfdA	19.16
2. R. Crossland	BfdA	20.28
3. P. Hughes	StBedes	21.14
4. J. Butler	Kghly	21.31
5. A. Shepherd	Settle	21.40

VETERANS O/50

1. S. Sanderson	BfdA	22.47
2. D. Rhodes	BfdA	24.09
3. M. Coles	Skyrac	24.27

VETERANS O/60

1. M. Mahoney	StBedes	26.05
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LADIES

1. L. Lacon	Holm	23.12
2. S. Corbin	P&B	23.49
3. A. Green	Spenn	24.05
4. H. Johnson	Ilk	24.24
5. A. Dennison	BfdA	24.52
6. K. Rogan	Wharfe	24.58
7. A. Lloyd O/35	StBedes	25.02
8. J. Hodgson	Sadd	25.09

JUNIORS U/16

1. J. Henry	Spenn	21.21
2. M. Buckingham	Holm	21.38
3. J. Carter	Spenn	22.30
4. A. Foster	Settle	23.04
5. G. Johns	Holm	23.31

TRIVIA

Two and a half million fluffy Easter chicks are born on Easter Sunday.

Eight million chickens are eaten on Easter Sunday! 80 million Easter eggs are sold.

15 million visit church.

19 million visit DIY stores and it's the busiest time for A&E Hospitals.

3RD SUNNY BUNNY RELAY

West Yorkshire

CS/3 x 3m/300ft 27.4.99

SIMPLY THE BEST - THE RELAY

The traditional end of series relay attracted record 52 teams of 3, nearly a staggering twice as many as in the previous years, which resulted in several new course records. The claret and gold vests of Pudsey & Bramley with the 3 fastest leg runners overall, Gary Oldfield 12-53, Gary Devine 12-56 and Shane Green 13-04 were easy winners in a new record.

An unusual feature is the weird and wonderful names that are concocted by the runners, this year Tree Fellas, Three Planks, Just Made It, Mixematosis, Missmatch, Over T'll and 3 Generations were just a few. Also family teams are encouraged with 7 taking part, this can comprise of your Great Aunt Bessie twice removed, Uncle Bulgaria, as long as there's a pimple connection we're not bothered. In this category the House of Hounslow under the Wharfedale name set a new record of 47-41, comprising of Sam, Martin and Steven (dad and two sons).

Another sad mad category is the solo relay, this year 'Johnny No Mates' alias Paul Buckley set a new record for this category of 54-22, and ran successive legs of 17-33, 18-22 and 18-27. 'Pudsey Pacer' Mick Lolley the former record holder was beaten into second place this year in 57-11 and 41st position.

Pudsey and Bramley Girlies won the ladies section with Estelle Brown 19-15, Sarah Rowell 16-02 and Angela Srivastava (Pange) 17-13 finishing 31st with a time of 52-30 well short of P&B's record of 46-10. Maybe if Sarah hadn't run the Three Peaks two days before finishing 2nd, she may have clawed a few more places back! Missmatch were second ladies with Jane Leather 18-31, Caroline Harding 19-02 and Sally Corbin 15-29, Sally's time proved the fastest of the night, and collected the chocolate bonus, an Easter egg of course.

Under 16 team Holmfirth Heroes and over 40 team Tree Fellas were the other record setters with 46-27 and 47-03 respectively.

There were two teams who kept the same runners as last year Susie Jolly, Pauline Oldfield and Debbie Crossland comprised Red, White and Blue, and family team Halifax Triers, Nick Fryer, Michael Fryer and Linda Crabtree.

A special mention though must go to the Landlord and Landlady of the Guide Inn, John and Mary, who only took the pub over 2 weeks previous to the races starting after running a Post Office in Northumberland. They literally were thrown in at the deep end, and Tuesdays will never seem the same again.

1. Pudsey & Bramley	38.53
2. Keighley & Craven	42.02
3. 3 Planks	42.38
4. Yeadon Chicken Skins	42.54
5. Tree Fellas O/40	43.03
6. N. Derbyshire	43.13
7. Pudsey & Bramley Ramblers	43.18
8. Wharfedale 'B'	43.44
9. Preston 'A'	43.54
10. Fellandale 'A'	44.02



Amy Green, Bunny Run regular
Photo: Steve Bateson