

ROTHERHAM HARRIERS & A.C.

Are proud to present the 129th running of the

CHRISTMAS DAY HANDICAP RACE FOR THE CHALLENGE TROPHY

- **THE RACE IS OPEN TO ATHLETES WHO ARE AGED 15 OR OVER ON THE DAY**
- **THE START/FINISH IS ON THE PAVEMENT AREA DIAGONALLY OPPOSITE THE PARK HOTEL**

THE RACE DISTANCE IS EXACTLY 5 MILES AND TAKES PLACE ON THE PAVEMENTS AROUND HERRINGTHORPE PLAYING FIELDS, AND CONSISTS OF 3 LAPS (the first lap will be run in the anti- clockwise direction, with athletes being instructed to change direction to clockwise at the end of the first lap, followed by changing back to anti-clockwise again for the final lap)

THE FIRST RUNNER will set off at 11:00am **PROMPT**

PLEASE NOTE there will be no showers or changing facilities – come ready changed!

PRESENTATION OF RACE AWARDS will take place at the nearby Park Hotel following completion of the race.

PLEASE OBSERVE the long-standing club tradition of bringing a **SMALL GIFT WRAPPED PRESENT** for exchange with other competitors at the prize presentation.

AWARDS

FIRST FINISHER:- THE CHALLENGE TROPHY; SECOND FINISHER:- BILL BURNS TROPHY

FASTEST MEN'S TIME ON THE DAY:- TROPHY; FASTEST LADIES TIME ON THE DAY:- TROPHY

FIRST UNDER 23 ATHLETE TO FINISH:- THE SAM HOWIS TROPHY

NEW THIS YEAR!!! THE FAMILY TROPHY. AWARDED FOR THE LOWEST AGGREGATE FINISHING POSTIONS FOR TWO MEMBERS OF THE SAME FAMILY.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES –MONDAY 19th DECEMBER 2016

ENTRY FEE:- £3:00

RETURN ENTRY FORMS TO JIM BROGAN OR HAND IN AT THE KIOSK.

PLEASE NOTE – it is essential that entries close on 19th December to allow the handicapper sufficient time to work out the handicaps.

PLEASE ALSO NOTE

The race is open only to members of Rotherham Harriers & A.C. **WHO HAVE PAID THEIR MEMBERSHIP SUBS FOR 2016** (this will be checked against club records).

For handicapping purposes please provide details of performances in road races during 2016 – these should be in the range 5miles – 10Km if possible). The more details you can provide, the more accurate will be your handicap. Few details may result in a severe handicap, particularly if you are new to the event).

NAME:-

AGE IF UNDER 23 ON RACE DAY:-

EVENT & DISTANCE

TIME

CHRISTMAS DAY HANDICAP RACE FOR THE CHALLENGE TROPHY

First held on Boxing Day, 1888, this Rotherham Harriers event can proudly claim to be one of the worlds longest established athletics events. The event began the year after the clubs foundation in 1887 and has continued every year since. The event is truly an amazing piece of athletics history and it belongs to **YOUR** club. And remember, being a handicap race, **ANY ONE OF THE STARTERS CAN WIN.**

The event is a tradition we **MUST** continue at the club. Those who took part in the inaugural event way back on Boxing Day 1888 would have been astonished and proud to witness how Rotherham Harriers have continued to embrace this event. Let's hope that in 100 years time the Harriers of the future are still maintaining this wonderful tradition. The trophy itself is an amazing piece of sporting history, and lists every single winner.

In recent years there has been a strong desire to open the event up to younger athletes, and in 2011 it was decided that 15 year olds could also compete. We now have a trophy for the first under 20 competitor to finish. This is the **Sam Howis Trophy**. Sam won the event in 2008 at the age of 16. Sadly Sam died in 2012, and it was felt by the club that it would be a fitting remembrance to Sam to have a trophy presented in his honour.

This year we again look forward to a good entry. But this year especially the club wishes to see the event graced by the presence of our younger athletes, those who are going to carry on the clubs proud traditions for many years to come. The present 5 mile format has been going for a number of years and now enjoys a spectator friendly route on the pavements around Herringthorpe Playing Fields

All who enter are assured of a fair handicap, provided by the clubs Endurance Coordinator and Coach, Pete Shaw.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING MANY OF YOU ON CHRISTMAS DAY IF YOU CAN MAKE IT.

Jim Brogan

(see overleaf for race details and an entry form)