# ROTHERHAM HARRIERS & A.C.

Are proud to present the 139th running of the

## CHRISTMAS DAY HANDICAP RACE FOR THE CHALLENGE TROPHY

**Please see overleaf for a description of the event's history**

**THE RACE DISTANCE** : **5 KILOMETRES (2 laps of Herringthorpe Playing Fields)**

**THE ROUTE:** Takes place on the pavements around Herringthorpe Playing Fields. 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.

**THE FIRST RUNNER** : is off at **10:30am PROMPT**

**THE START/FINISH IS ON THE PAVEMENT AREA DIAGONALLY OPPOSITE THE PARK HOTEL**

**THE RACE IS OPEN TO ALL ATHLETES WHO ARE 1st CLAIM MEMBERS OF THE CLUB, AND WHO ARE UP TO DATE WITH THEIR SUBS.**

**PLEASE NOTE** there will be no showers or changing facilities – come ready changed!.
**PRESENTATION OF RACE AWARDS** immediately after 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**
**THE FAMILY TROPHY. AWARDED FOR THE LOWEST AGGREGATE FINISHING POSTIONS FOR TWO MEMBERS OF THE SAME FAMILY.**

**CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES – 15th DECEMBER 2025**
**ENTRY is FREE**

RETURN ENTRY FORMS TO JIM BROGAN, by email at jim_brogan10@hotmail.com. Any queries ring Jim Brogan on 07950402774.

PLEASE NOTE – it is essential that entries close on 15th December to allow the handicapper sufficient time to work out the handicaps.

HANDICAPPING

For handicapping purposes please provide details of best performances in road races during 2026– Preferably of 5Km distance and can include 5Km park runs. Please note every entrant will be expected to have filled in this entry form. Anyone found to have not submitted times for 2026 will receive a handicap at the Handicapers discretion.

**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 will still be 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 23 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.

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)