

Yorkshire Cross-country 1997

## Yorkshires Bittersweet Again

Team Championship medals at under-13 girls and under-15 boys were our reward on the day for a fine turn-out at the annual Yorks Cross-country held this year on rough pasture at Thirsk; a relatively flat course but difficult undulating going in places. Once more the Yorkshires proved irritating in some ways with several near misses and only the two strong squads in the awards, with third place. But the exasperating thing about our performances in this competition is that, once again, we can equally well look at it from entirely the opposite perspective. Firstly, as Dennis Russell pointed out, Rotherham was the only club in the county to turn out in team strength in all events. After that, it has to be said that finishing fourth or fifth or so in a county competition is by no means bad, and it is only as a measure of our standards and our ambitions that we might regard it otherwise.

The under-13 quartet were unlucky into the bargain, with Fiona Dobson backing up the scoring three of Teresa McNaney, Linsey Muscroft and Charlotte Watt we tied on 29 for second place but lost out on the countback of third placed runner. Teresa took the bronze medal. Nicola Chell led the under-15 efforts, although the team was well out of contention, but at under-17 again aggravating luck as one point inched us out of the awards, despite a fine third place for Carla Foster.

With four to count in all the boys races, the under-13s were again just two points out of the medals, Liam Rooney heading their effort in 10th place. Tom Smith was first RH home in 19th place in the under-15 event though we did not threaten the medal positions. At under-17 the team was successful, all the more rewarding as they are at the lower end of the age group, with Cain Green and Jamie Silk to back up the scoring four which was Steve Bates, Richard Lomas, Ian Whitaker and Jamie Russell.

At junior men the result was a curate's egg, as James Dixon, Richard Chapman and Robert Rhodes were prominent in 5, 8 and 10th position, and Chris Aston turned out to complete a team just prior to leaving the area to join the Royal Marines. James however is still a non-scorer, and despite Chris' effort we were still a man

short from what would have been an easy team win.

Katy Storey headed the ladies' attempt; she is running really well since joining the senior ranks albeit still as a junior this year. With her 20.31 she narrowly shaded Julie O'Mara by 9 seconds, and Janet Hindley made up the scoring not far away in 21.07. This was not sufficient however to repeat last year's silver medal performance, our overall performance perhaps reduced by the indisposition of runners through illness or the same-day Round Rotherham.

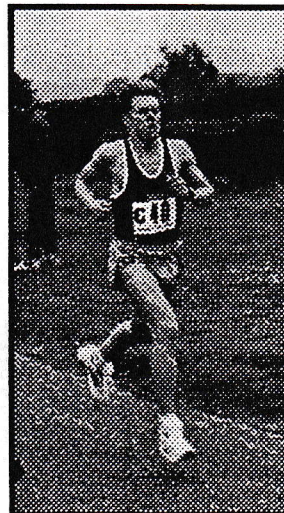
The gentlemen went one better than last year, finishing fourth to Leeds, clear winners, Hallamshire and Holmfirth. In fact we thought for a while we had beaten Holmfirth but their late runners were just good enough by 8 points. Hallamshire were only 25 in front, and we could easily have headed them really, though Leeds were well away. Darren Hale had a good run, in 12th but of course he was a declared non-scorer, which left Luke Field and Rob Holladay as our leading runners teamwise. Luke had a goodish one but Robert wasn't happy on the day with the undulating terrain, but he is a good club man and stuck at it. Rotherham HAC was represented professionally and impressively by some of its best supporters, with John Comrie (4th scorer), and just out of the scoring list Mark Ruddleston and Martin Connolly. Phil Roberts managed sixth scorer despite being not well and only going as back-up in the first instance. Icing on the cake really was the returns to racing of Richard Harris (3rd scorer) and Paul Venables (5th scorer).

Just as last year, you could not have wished for better ambassadors from our club, though the result was a slight irritation. You don't always get the results you think you deserve. You just have to handle it. Darren too was disappointed, having the class on his day to get Yorkshire selection but missing out here.

This month we say farewell for a while to Paul Bennett (left below) and Chris Aston (right). Chris has joined the Royal Marines and will be based in the West country whilst Paul is moving to the States



Yorks RH 1st and 2nd placed Daren Hale and Luke Field seen right above in their pre-RHAC days leading the field at Penistone. Mark Ruddleston (centre) has been in great form too. Mark and Darren took team awards behind Paul Bennett at Cleethorpes on Jan 1.



• Xmas Day Race

# TOMPKIN TOO STRONG

Sadly the fields are ever depleting, but the races are getting closer if anything. Steve Tompkin confirmed our view of his potential by a very strong run which saw him deservedly home in 35.05 but it wasn't until after the Stag on the way back that the threat became apparent. Ken Ridgeway looked likely earlier than Phil Allen looked a clear winner until he ran out of steam at the Stag, at which point a volley of quicker runners took over. Mark Ruddleston was flying throughout and Steve must have heard his footsteps in the later stages. Phil Smales hadn't given up either and only 26 seconds separated the three of them at the end, a great tribute to Jim Brogan's handicapping. Pete Adams weighed in fourth, he has been running well, and Darren Hale ran the fastest on the day by some three seconds from Mark to take fifth place. Maybe he had needed to work a bit harder early on, these events are deceptive; or maybe he had a bit too much to do from the scratch mark he was given.

The only lady competitor this year, Vicki Haigh, ran 14th in 49.14. Vicki joined us last month in preference to other local clubs, she has already been prominent in both road and cross-country races, and is a very welcome addition to our strength. Thanks are extended to Jim for the handicaps and to all helpers on the day, particularly David Haywood.

PREVIEW

## Yorkshire Vets Cross-country

Sunday next, 11th January sees us defending the titles won at Ilkley last year, Brantingham Park, Humberside (near South Cave), is the venue this time with a 1pm start for all except over-40 men who start at 2pm. Changing and admin is at Ioncam RUFC which is signposted off the main Hull road some way before the Humber Bridge. In this region it could be flat, but we know it won't, it will be up and down the side of the Wolds, and the chances of it being dry are slight to nil. As they say, it's the same for all. A small but elite entry from the ladies goes to defend or improve county silver medals whilst at over-50 Terry Hawley strengthens a squad lined up behind Malc Palfreyman, who is well in form looking for individual honours though the terrain is not his favourite. But some measure of Malcolm's chances can be judged from his win in the Wolds Vets' Wolds Tough Ten at Rothwell, Lincs back in September where he ran 58.21, and he ran well all last season. We look like fielding an over-60 team for the first time into the bargain.

The county champions at veteran I, we are in good shape to hold this title though the loss of Dave Hindmarsh who has persistent knee problems does not help. Big strength is coming on line this year from Phil Roberts and Martin Connolly but not yet. But we have a big bonus in the impressive return to racing of Dave Ritchie, adding to the experience which has been evident in the SYXC events through Paul Venables, Peter Neal, Alan Chell and Steve Gaines. Jim Brogan too is welcome back after a long absence, Alan Gregory is unfortunately having to work but we hope for the best in Peter Morris' case after some pre-planned non-running medical attention. Not normally renowned for cross-country, Steve Elvidge and Jerry Spencer were named as back-up, but Steve has had to pull out injured.

Xmas Day Race 1998

position		actual time since go	time
1	Steve Tompkin	35:05	51:05
2	Mark Ruddleston	33:10	51:11
3	Phil Smales	36:32	51:32
4	Pete Adams	40:13	52:13
5	Darren Hale	32:58 fastest	52:28
6	Tim Perks	37:46	52:32
7	Phil Allen	50:37	52:37
8	Ken Ridgeway	45:13	53:03
9	Phil Roberts	35:54*	53:06
10	Don Creamer	50:31	53:31
11	Jim Brogan	38:27†	54:17
12	Ian Horsley	51:30	54:20
13	John Clarke	46:58	54:43
14	Vicki Hague	49:14	55:44
15	Frank O'Neill	55:56	55:56
16	Henry Marston	46:42	56:42
17	Paul Haynes	46:24	56:44

\* missed his start (actual time 34.50)

† missed his start (actual time 38.22)

Woodhouse 7 1997

1	L. Collingwood		35:45
5	P. Venables		37:46
6	P. Rowland		38:20
7	P. Mangles		39:10
11	S. Gaines		40:00
30	J. O'Mara	L	43:34
34	K. Booth		43:42
40	P. Humphries		44:23
61	R. Burton		46:47
64	D. Taylor	L	46:54
65	T. Drake		46:55
72	A. Charnock		48:06
81	T. Hawley		49:02
83	M. Rhodes		49:13
97	G. Benton		53:09
116	V. Haigh	L	56:13
124	S. Bagshaw		57:50

156 runners

Percy Pud 10k

1	R. Holladay		30:04
2	P. Bennett		30:17
7	L. Field		31:09
10	D. Hale		31:41
11	not counted		32:15
18	A. Chell	V4	33:02
25	J. Crofts		33:45
36	J. Comrie		34:34
82	M. Herrington	V45	36:24
91	K. Booth		36:37
101	J. Hindley	L	36:47
123	H. Garrison	LV	37:27
127	S. Wraith	V4	37:34
129	S. Marshall	V4	37:34
130	P. Haigh	V4	37:34
132	R. Howarth	V45	37:39
155	R. Burton		38:25
199	A. Charnock		39:28
204	W. Beardshall		39:41
216	M. Uttley		39:52
251	P. Makin	V45	40:45
262	P. Whittaker		40:58
266	K. Thomas	V45	41:06
286	D. Russell	V45	41:32
294	D. Beaver	V45	41:38
295	G. Bunker	LV4	41:43
312	M. Rhodes	V45	42:07
315	R. Butterworth		42:07
316	A. Mirfin	V5	42:07
334	P. Staley	V4	42:30
438	A. Browne	V5	44:38
452	W. Burke		45:06
480	J. Baker	LV5	45:42
481	G. Benton	V4	45:42
544	P. Widdowson		46:48
570	K. Horan	V5	47:10
597	D. Khan		47:43
648	J. Pike	LV5	48:42
649	A. Taylor	V6	48:45
696	J. Clarke	L	49:53
709	M. Guinn	LV	50:06
836	J. Dobson	LV5	53:33
866	I. Reid	LV5	54:25
916	A. Jeavons	V6	56:30
1018	J. Beaver	LV45	63:45

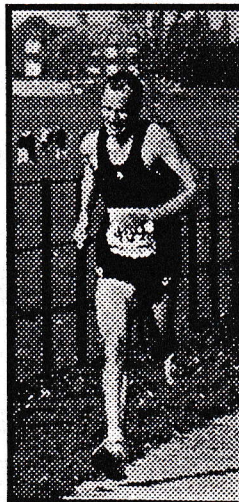
1036 runners



Yorks Vets hopefuls Malc Palfreyman (left) and Paul Venables (right) will be leading the charge at the 50's and 40's titles this week.

Malcolm has had a great season whilst Paul is again threatening good times after injury.

Malc is captured at the Ferriby event whilst Paul is completing the Hallcross.



•London Marathon

Our failure to obtain club entries to the London Marathon this year is greatly to be regretted. We will try to ensure that this mistake is not repeated.

•Road Awards Evening

This is likely to be held in early February and will be announced in the February News Briefing.

•Vets Cross-country Relays

The National relay event for veterans is unlikely to proceed this year; the authorities have asked for any interested parties to come forward to organise them. At short notice, this scenario is unlikely.

•Races

Cleethorpes New Year's Day 10k

A little lack of publicity in our area this year and of course no entries on the day, failed to deter RH diehards. Rotherham runners stamped authority on the event in positions 2,3 and 4 through Paul Bennett (31.33), Darren Hale (31.51) and Mark Ruddleston (31.57). Despite a slight calf problem Phil Roberts ran a smooth 33.49 and I think Graham Benton also was there. Scoring Darren Hale or not, this was a winning team. Paul is showing true road speed now and is indeed in winning shape but opted not to mix it with winner on the day Pete Whitehead (SKYRAC) who ran 30.58 without being pressed. Pete, who is based in Vancouver, is building his training for London.

Ward Green 6

Rob Holladay second placed as last year, again it was Mick Jubb from Derby who took first spot. Tema prizes for Rob with John Comrie and Luke Field.

Braithwell Boxing Day

Mark Ruddleston, Steve Tompkin and Phil Roberts provided RHAC 1-2-3 in this pleasant little local 5-mile event, our participation courtesy of Maltby RC.

Abbey Dash

30.46 from Paul Bennett saw him take impressive 7th place in a class field with Darren Hale 15th (31.24). With John Comrie clocking a fine 32.51 and recent signing Keith Williams 6th vet at 34.01 Rotherham were well to the fore, but Darren and Keith properly entered as non-scorers we did not expect team awards, but the organisers rated us third nonetheless. Other reported times included Paul Rowlands (34.26) John Atkinson (35.33), Mark Ruddleston (35.51), Janice Streets (46.20), Robert Streets (47.20), Pat Wells (50.00).

Pat was in action also at the Seven Sisters Marathon back in the autumn with Jenny Baker running 4.10 and Ken Horan 4.40.

•This month we say farewell, we hope not permanently, to two of our promising (!) road and cross-country runners. Chris Aston has left the area having left school to pursue his ambition of joining the Royal Marines, and Paul Bennett is relocating to Illinois, U.S. for an indefinite period, certainly a couple of years. With the general employment climate as it is here, who knows, but we hope from the running point of view that he will be back, as indeed Chris. From all colleagues at RHAC, best wishes to Chris, and to Paul and Claire.

•Many thanks to Jack Phipps and his associates for organising of the Christmas Lottery which resulted in a profit of £525 to the club. This is a huge sum in times when finances are not a strong point. Tickets sold amounted to £825 and there were three prizes at £100 purchased. Other prizes were donated by members, for which many thanks. To claim phone Dave Johnson on 562516. Winnings tickets, number, holder and prize, are:

1	817	Joe Austin	£100
2	1380	Chris Watson	£100
3	1235	Morag	£100
4	393	Richard Burton	Whiskey
5	1394	Alison Brown	Wine
6	119	R.Hopkinson	Wine
7	1084	Pam Rolland	Wine
8	1043	Holroyd Wine	
9	743	Jackie Vernon	Choc Biscuits
10	570	Trevor Johnson	Wine
11	16	Barry Padfield	Wine
12	90	D.Johnson	Roses chocs
13	131	Mick Hague	Biscuits
14	397	R.Burton Scarf	
15	631	A.Charnock	Qual Street

Yorks XC Under-13 Girls		
3	T.McNaney	10:08
5	L.Muscroft	10:18
21	C.Watt	11:23
38	F.Dobson	12:25
44	runners	

1	SKYRAC	11
2	Rowntrees	29
3	Rotherham HAC	29

Yorks XC Under-15 Girls		
32	N.Chell	15:27
44	C.Birch	16:23
45	K.Allinson	16:33
47	R.Kelly	16:47
52	runners	

1	Halifax H	34
7	Rotherham HAC	78

Yorks XC Under-17 Girls		
3	C.Foster	14:26
19	L.Whitaker	16:23
26	J.Greaves	18:09
29	C.Stephenson	19:47
29	runners	
1	SKYRAC	36
7	Rowntreest	41
15	Halifax H	47
16	Rotherham HAC	48

Yorks XC Under-13 Boys		
10	L.Rooney	9:36
12	R.Hastey	9:41
13	R.Stephenson	9:44
40	B.Hague	11:02
41	A.Booth	11:06
49	J.Gill	11:58
50	runners	
1	Bradford GS	60
2	SKYRAC	70
3	Skipton	73
4	Rotherham HAC A	75

Yorks XC Under-15 Boys		
19	T.Smith	13:17
49	S.Francos	14:53
52	D.Russell	15:08
58	J.Gallacher	15:46
64	runners	

1	Spensorough	33
10	Rotherham HAC A	178

Yorks XC Under-17 Boys		
5	S.Bates	17:26
13	R.Lomas	17:55
17	I.Whitaker	18:08
18	J.Russell	18:13
34	C.Green	20:11
37	J.Silk	21:14
40	runners	

1	Barnsley	35
2	Holmfirrh	41
3	Rotherham HAC A	53

Yorks XC Junior Men		
5	J.Dixon ns	23:49
8	R.Chapman	24:31
10	R.Rhodes	24:42
19	C.Aston	26:52
22	runners	

Yorks XC Senior Ladies		
19	K.Storey J	20:31
20	J.O'Mara	20:42
29	J.Hindley	21:07
48	S.Marshall	22:49
71	J.Chapman	25:31
73	L.Padfield V	25:41
84	M.Rhodes V	31:18
86	runners	

1	Hallamshire	21
2	Leeds	27
3	Bingley	30
4	Imperial	50
5	Rotherham	68

Yorks XC Senior Men		
12	D.Hale ns	31:17
21	L.Field	31:47
27	R.Holladay	32:06
33	R.Harris	32:25
38	J.Comrie	32:48
40	P.Venables	32:50
41	P.Roberts	32:53
49	M.Ruddleston	33:22
56	M.Connolly	33:46
292	runners	
1	Leeds	62
2	Hallamshire	165
3	Holmfirrh	192
4	Rotherham	200

New Year Fixtures 1998

Sun 11 Jan	Yorks Vets XC Champs, South Cave
Sun 18 Jan	SYXC4 and Champs, Cantley Pk
Wed 21 Jan	Winter Ser 3 Travellers Kimberworth 6.45
Sun 25 Jan	Tough Guy 10, Tetterhall
Sun 25 Jan	Knavesmire Half, York 10am
Sun 25 Jan	Marsh House 10k Huddesfld 11am
Sat 31 Jan	North England Cross-country, Manchester
Sun 1 Feb	Moorside 10k, Meltham 11am
Sat 7 Feb	SY Schools, Graves Park
Sun 8 Feb	Dewsbury 10k 11am
Sun 8 Feb	Ferriby 10 12 noon
Sun 15 Feb	Stamford 30k 11am
Sun 15 Feb	Liversedge Half, Roberttown noon
Sat 21 Feb	Nat XC Relays, Mansfield
Sun 22 Feb	Snake Lane 10, Pocklington
Sun 22 Feb	Doncaster Duddle 40 7.30 am
Sun 22 Feb	Huddersfield RR 10k 11.15am
Sun 1 Mar	Norton 9

further Forward Fixtures early 98

Sun 1 Mar	Norton 9	Sun 29 Mar	Sheffield 10k
Sun 8 Mar	Stafford 20	Sun 29 Mar	Ackworth Half
Sun 8 Mar	Chesterfield Spire 10	Sun 29 Mar	East Hull 20
Sun 8 Mar	Pontefract 10k	Sat 4 April	Coniston 14
Sat 14 Mar	National XC. Leeds	Sun 19 April	Wakefield 10k
Sun 15 Mar	Wombwell 5		
Sun 22 Mar	Doncaster Half		

## Winter Series

The Green Bricks event went smoothly over the same course as last year, a good evening had by all. Awards on the night went to Mark Ruddleston who is certainly on good form, from Richard Harris who was happy to be back racing after a virus problem sidelined him for several months. John Comrie took third, with Steve Tompkin just out of the awards. Peter Neal was back for the veteran award, in 5th place from Lee Crowe in 7th, with class performances from Jerry Spencer (8th) ahead of Jim Rust (11th) for the over-45 medal and Terry Hawley (10th) taking the over 50 award with Tony Stuart close behind. Keith Dutton again took the over-60 section.

Sharon Burton won the ladies section from Jenny Baker with Bev Soakell third.

The next race is at the Travellers, Kimberworth, courtesy of Pat Rooney and colleagues, on Wednesday 21st January off at 6.45. Phone PH or PR for confirmation should the weather turn ugly.

## Club Championship Results

Subject to recount and some late results which just could have a bearing, it looks like this.

John Comrie 1997 Club Champion with Luke Field runner-up, Ian Lanceley in 3rd place. Both John and Luke have had a brilliant year, both for their own running and the club. Ian might have done even better had not unfortunate injury put him out of action late in the season. It looks like 12 completed 10 races, and 2 ladies, though Jen Baker perhaps did also.

Provisional List for your final checking: please be warned there may always be late amendments when colleagues read these notes.:

John Comrie	979	1st
Luke Field	975	2nd
Ian Lanceley	973	3rd
Andy Parkin	944	
Kerry Booth	914	1st B sect
Richard Burton	913	highest races
Roy Butterworth	906	
Alan Charnock	861	1st C sect
Graham Benton	836	1st vet 40
Malc Rhodes	828	
Alan Mirfin	813	1st vet 50
Phil Widdowson	721	
Hilary Garrison	994	1st lady
Gillian Bunker	979	2nd lady

Winter Series 3  
Weds 21 Jan  
Traveller's  
Kimberworth  
6.45

## 1998 New Club Championship Series

Early comments would be welcome regarding the races for this year. I would aim to provide the same basic outline of races, but with a few interesting changes as usual. It is getting difficult to avoid making it a 10k series, as marathons have virtually disappeared and ten mile races are following. Maltby has now gone and appears to be a 10k if run this year, though Ferriby is in fact on.

It would be nice to include the Wombwell 5 in our list this year to pay our respects to James Dixon's former club, James having joined us this last season. Likewise, we ought to try to support Swallownest's efforts at their 10k as we did last year, but our support may be needed organisationally on the ground as well as running this year as Richard Harris' former club colleagues are feeling the strain a bit.

Though we have started off at Ferriby ever since I can remember, some colleagues were not too happy with it last year, so although it is apparently on, we thought we might begin with a change this year. Continuing our 'policy' of visiting new members on their own ground, we thought of starting off on February 8th at the Dewsbury 10k on Keith Williams' home territory- an event which has proved popular with colleagues in recent years. The trouble is, there are apparently plenty of people who still do favour Ferriby, and there are ever fewer 10 mile events. We will therefore include Ferriby as first race, and as second race the Snake Lane 10 at Pocklington on Feb 22nd with the popular Norton 9 as our third race. Possibly to follow would be Wombwell 5, Doncaster Half, and East Hull 20. We will visit Keith with the Wakefield 10k later.

## WINTER SERIES (2): GREEN BRICKS SHORT 6

1	M.Ruddleston	RH	29:21	
2	R.Harris	RH	29:52	
3	J.Comrie	RH	30:01	
4	S.Tompkin	RH	30:12	
5	P.Neal	RH	31:24	
6	G.Durham	RH	32:08	
7	L.Crowe	V	KS	32:15
8	J.Spencer	V45	RH	32:59
9	A.Gregory	V	RH	33:03
10	T.Hawley	V5	RH	33:04
11	J.Rust	V45	MRC	33:36
12	T.Stuart	V5	MRC	34:21
13	T.Perks		RH	34:27
14	D.Green	V5	KS	34:39
15	P.Rooney	V	KS	34:50
16	J.Beckett		RH	34:55
17	M.Senior	V45	KS	35:09
18	B.Harney	V5	RH	35:19
19	S.Durdy		MRC	35:24
20	R.Butterworth		RH	35:27
21	P.Humphries	V5	RH	35:37
22	M.Gaynor		KS	36:17
23	H.Marston	V5	RH	36:18
24	D.Buxton	V45	MRC	36:45
25	M.Uttley		KS	36:54
26	M.Nunn	V45	KS	37:10
27	M.Cochrane	V5	RH	37:55
28	I.Brookes		KS	38:04
29	D.Booth			38:05
30	D.Russell	V5	RH	38:25
31	S.Burton	L	RH	39:06
32	R.Cooke			39:50
33	I.Soakell		KS	39:56
34	M.Rhodes	V45	RH	40:00
35	D.Burke		RH	40:35
36	J.Baker	LV	RH	41:15
37	B.Soakell	LV	KS	41:21
38	T.Smith		RH	41:27
39	I.Horsley	V5	RH	41:34
40	G.Bunker	LV	RH	41:54
41	K.Dutton	V6	TOT	42:05
42	J.Harney	LV	RH	42:15
43	R.Green	V4	KS	43:18
44	D.Thorpe	V45	MRC	43:50
45	D.Creamer	V6	RH	44:18
46	S.Dobson	LV	RH	44:50
47	P.Widdowson		RH	45:00
48	D.Sears	V45	MRC	47:49
49	P.Wells	LV	RH	47:50
50	B.Lowndes	V45	MRC	48:09
51	J.Sears	LV	MRC	48:09

Published by Peter Humphries at Wickersley Comprehensive School by kind permission of the Head of School.  
This publication is aimed at the improved road and cross-country running of all Rotherham Harriers members.

Contact no: 01709 549125

Whilst I aim at the first Wednesday each month, because of school closures/holidays etc  
(a) there is no August publication and  
(b) sometimes publication is delayed to the following week

**The support of Yorkshire  
Windows is greatly  
appreciated.**