



A for Effort

Looking back at 9/10th January leaves the over-riding impression of a really superb two days in our cross-country history. Icing on the Saturday cake was a very smart team win for our under-13 boys to take the Yorkshire team title, and a pleasing bronze medals performance from the ladies where fine runs by Julie O'Mara, Katy Storey and Sharon Marshall scored the success backed up by Jane Clarke, Lindsay Whitaker and Mary Rhodes.

Rhian Hastey took the honours with the individual bronze medal and backed up by very solid running from John Marshall, Richard Stephenson and Ben Hague the gold team medals were well earned from Bradford GS who were some 28 points adrift. Andy Booth, Scott Harwood, Michael Burke and Lee Johnson placed the second string eighth.

The men's team finished fifth, and perhaps we sometimes are over-critical of our performances and achievements; this was a good general standard of entry (better than last year) and a fine result on the day arrived at by the generous and willing support of a good many runners. County cross-country has never been our strong point and the call to support on this occasion was heeded by numerous people. Thank you all, there will be times when we perform poorer and finish higher. Top scorer was Robert Holladay captaining the team; he reckoned it the hardest course he had encountered, but stuck with it to head home a scoring team which had Richard Harris who is getting back to form, a lively Mark Ruddleston and then Steve Tompkin, John Comrie and Lee Collingwood rallying to the flag backed up by Mick Tune, Jeff Crofts, Robert Rhodes and Steve Philips. All of which is not to say that fifth will do.

Whilst primarily aiming at the northern and national, Darren Cooney allowed himself to be talked into running this one but it didn't work out, having to retire at lap 2 not breathing well. A great pity (although our result only moved one place down) but hopefully not a problem later on when the area competition takes place at Graves Park. Dave Tune, ineligible for the Yorkshire, would like to defend his northern title there although he now has to consider also the national status he has recently earned with fixtures building up. Andy Aked and Chris Parkes are both entered, but injuries of course threaten their participation. Rob Holladay will probably miss the northern, as the date clashes with national indoor events which are on his calendar.

As a result of their efforts on Saturday the following have been chosen to represent the county: R.Hastey and J. Marshall at U13B, L.Rooney 1st reserve at U15B, I Whitaker on nomination at U17, L.Muscroft at U13G, T.McNaney at U15G, L.Whitaker 1st reserve at Junior Ladies.

Inside: Venables leads vets triumph p2
Tune, Holladay, Clarke successes p3

Brilliant Weekend for RH Cross-country

Rotherham's staging of the Yorkshire country Cross-country at Herringthorpe Valley Park was an outstanding success. It doesn't just happen; I spent an enormous amount of time studying and planning the course, but what settled the question of how well it would go was the generous and skilful support of a large number of colleagues. Mick Hague, apart from collaborating on the course, organised just about everything else, and the expertise of a big team headed by cross-country secretary Dave Johnson made it happen. We thank the officials and staff of Rotherham MBC for their co-operation, and apart from the above, all who assisted, particularly (hoping I omit no-one) Bert Norburn, Brian Harney, Ralph Rowbotham and Jim Brogan, Andrew Aked, Mick Aked, David Haywood, Jamie Tattershall, Peter Morris, Jerry Spencer, John Atkinson, Phil Roberts, Peter Adams, Steve Gaines, Peter Ruddleston, Arthur Jeavons, Mick Field, Lee Johnson and Alan Bryden. Thanks too to Peter Neal who took the team organisation off me.

There was apparently some scepticism about holding it here- maybe fuelled by last year's mess at Thirsk. But you can be proud of the fact that a number of visiting officials though it the best spectator county venue, and best organised county championship, that they had attended. Well, they said it- so I repeat it to you. There was a suggestion it could be held again in Rotherham for the millenium year: not out of the question but I would have thought the runners like a change of area and profile each year. A county cross-country relay was also mentioned.



Three great supporters! Jeff Crofts (568) and John Atkinson (2nd right) stood by their teams. Steve Elvidge (639) came from Holmfirth to marshal all day Saturday and ran a stormer to back up Paul Venables in the gold team Sunday. Where is this taken?

RH Vets a Rare Breed: Venables strong as ever

As indicated on the signposts, Graves Park is of course the location of the Rare Breeds Centre and there were some rare breeds to be seen on Sunday. Not least a rare (these days) winter visit from Alan Gregory, and John Atkinson in unusual plumage.

Three magnificent team performances at Graves Park confirmed Rotherham's position at the heart of veteran athletics as the ladies and over-50 men won silver county cross-country awards whilst the over-40 men won back the county trophy which Homfirth had taken from us last year. Thus RHAC are again county champions on both road and country, and they did it without a number of injured runners, notably Peter Neal, Martin Connolly, Peter Morris and Phil Roberts. It bodes well for the summer; Chris Beighton too is hopeful of getting back though he of course has a long path yet.

It's hard to believe Hilary Garrison dislikes cross-country so much; she had a stormer to finish in third place O/35 and looked completely at home. We couldn't match Denby Dale's packing but Gill Bunker and Sharon Burton knew exactly what they had to do to keep second place and did it without fuss, Gill picking up the O/45 bronze into the bargain with a final lap surge.

Jerry Spencer is newly O-50 and had a fine inaugural run 12th but it was Malcolm Palfreyman who led the RH contingent home in 7th place. A good class contingent of runners around Malcolm could not match the Bingley stars however led by Peter Probyn, they took gold. With Tony Turner away down-under, Terry Hawley and Brian Harney provided excellent team support but it was a surprise visit from Mick Marsters, sick and injured, which found our third scorer thereby pipping Leeds CAC by just one point to take second place.

Derrick Clarke and John Lynch had strong runs at vet III though there is no official team at this level.

The first lap of four for the younger men saw Paul Venables neck and neck with Alan Buckley and Simon Rennie of Hull, Paul was on form and dropped the Hull man and everyone else except for the staggering performance of Buckley, who claimed he was running for the Homfirth team result (remembering he had run 22nd the previous day at Rotherham). He gradually inched away and although Paul never let him go it was irreversible, he had to settle for second but thereby taking first county O-40 as Buckley is O/45. But of course the gap behind stretched as well and this set up a really brilliant scenario. On the first lap I calculated RH losing to Holmfirth, though the yellow shirts of Sheffield and Bridlington sometimes confuse the issue. But in the middle of the race two stunning surges by Alan Chell, taking him eventually to ninth, and even more so from Steve Elvidge, swallowed up the Holmfirth support. Steve eventually was unluckily out of the medals in fifth place overall.

Gary Durham, (right) in maybe his first team race for RHAC and certainly his first as a vet since he took the status on Boxing Day, can have been in no doubt as to the position as there were so many supporters shouting it. He was one behind Holmfirth's third and fourth scorers and he had to hang on to them. And he did as the race moved on, although Steve Gaines had the win in his hands too, three places back, had there been any problem.

Excellent support from officials and non-vet runners helped a great deal at Graves Park but what helped more was team back-up, once you have experienced it, it cannot be questioned. Non-scorers apart from the possibility of pushing down the scorers of other teams play their vital part in an outing like this. Great support therefore from John Atkinson, storming on the road but barely ever seen on the country, Phil Eddison back after a longish lay-off, and Alan Gregory out of semi-retirement though he indicates we should not expect him too often on the soft ground.



Yorkshire Vets Cross-country
Graves Park Sheffield
Sunday 10th Jan 1999

Men O/50

1	P.Probyn (Bingley)	33:38
2	B.Hilton (Leeds)	34:27
3	N.Robson (Bingley)	34:57
7	M.Palfreyman	36:32
12	J.Spencer	37:34
16	M.Marsters	37:56
22	T.Hawley	38:35
31	B.Harney	39:39

Teams

1	Bingley HAC	12
2	Rotherham HAC	35
3	Leeds CAC	36

Men O/60

	D.Clarke	
	J.Lynch	

Ladies

1	A.Dennison (Bradford Aird.)	40:16
2	S.Cariss (Bingley)	40:26
3	H.Garrison	40:37
11	G.Bunker	42:59
13	S.Burton	42:23

Teams

1	Denby Dale	19
2	Rotherham HAC	27
3	Hallamshire H	

Men O/40

1	A.Buckley	33:02
2	P.Venables	33:34
3	S.Rennie	33:43
4	A.Normandale	
5	S.Elvidge	34:18
6	R.Harbishier	
7	J.Redman	
8	J.Kerr	
9	A.Chell	35:02
10	N.Moneghan	
11	J.Butler	
12	P.Shaw	
13	R.Burn	
14	A.Hauser	
15	J.Ewart	
16	I.Moore	
17	G.Durham	35:45
18	N.Duggan	
19	K.Newman	
20	S.Gaines	36:01
26	J.Atkinson	36:27
31	P.Eddison	36:59
	A.Gregory	

Teams

1	Rotherham HAC	35
2	Holmfirth H	40
3	City of Hull	tb

SOUTH YORKS

The South Yorkshire cross-country championship, which doubles as the last of four in the series, will be at Grange Lane, Barnsley (more or less Monk Bretton) next Sunday 17th January. First race will be as usual the senior/vet men at 11 am. The course is pretty flat I am told. Approach from Rotherham via Greasborough & West Melton and the course is just right off Stairfoot roundabout as you approach Barnsley after the Wombwell by-pass (dirn. Wakefield). If you arrive by M1 motoway you could exit at Birdwell and take the new Dearne Valley link road as far as West Melton/ Wombwell, picking up the above route there. Or go through Barnsley centre- if adrift, its not far from the football ground. Good support has marked the series in all but senior men, where it has been thin- and Andy Aked is regrettably not fit to turn out in a series he has already won in effect.

WOODHOUSE 7

Dave Tune joined us for a pre-Xmas blow out at Woodhouse and ran away with the event with consummate ease, putting into perspective fine runs from Leeds' Scot Mitchell and Askern's Dave Bond, second and third. Paul Venables followed up fourth, that being first vet by a big margin, and a Rotherham sweep of the medals was completed by Steve Gaines as first O/45, Jerry Spencer first O/50 and Janet Hindley first lady.

The event was shadowed somewhat by the collapse of a visiting runner near the start, who subsequently died. Our sympathy goes out to his family, also in another way to the race organisers at Doncaster that such a thing should come about in so enjoyable and friendly an event.

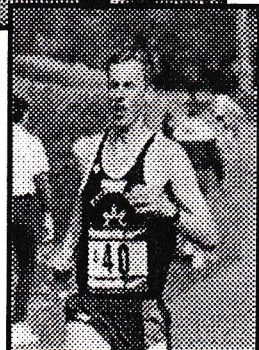
Dave of course was to be seen at Durham over the holiday period taking on the world's best cross-country runners and the fact that TV concentrated in the late stages on Jon Brown does not mislead us, Dave had a fine run beating a number of luminaries including Richard Nerurkar. Including too I believe a certain K.Critchley who won the Yorkshire at HV Park on Saturday. (We might note in passing that Dave took the Doncaster 5k crown off Yorks silver medallist Ian Mitchell last year into the bargain).

Robert Holladay had a good run too in the short Durham event B race, where a number of participants ran faster than some of those in the A race, this being the one that cost John Mayock so dearly after he was misinformed by a lap marker. 'Runners should know' is one response, but when any runner is going flat out it is never that easy.

Woodhouse 7

Sunday 20th December

1	D.Tune	35:06
2	S.Mitchell (Leeds)	36:18
3	D.Bond (Askn)	36:23
4	P.Venables 1st V	37:46
5	S.Wright (D&S)	38:10
6	D.Ward	38:32
7	S.Elvidge V	38:53
8	P.Mangles V	39:27
9	M.Tune	39:40
12	S.Gaines 1st V45	40:17
15	J.Spencer 1st V5	40:40
20	A.Gregory V45	41:31
25	P.Eddison V	43:13
32	J.Hindley 1st L	43:56
38	T.Hawley V5	44:59
39	B.Harney V5	45:08
63	L.Day LV	48:03
78	V.Haigh L	51:52
99	S.Bagshaw V6	59:16
106	G.Benton V	61:41



December victors!
Rob Holladay and David Tune; winners at Ward Green and Woodhouse, and among the fast men at Durham

XMAS WINNERS

Rob Holladay ran a stormer to win at Ward Green on Boxing Day taking about half a minute off his previous best 6 time. In the process he laid the bogey of Mick Jubb of Derby, who had bettered him on two previous occasions. No bad performance this, the course is needless to say villainously hilly.

Another Rotherham winner at the same time was Jane Clarke, first lady at the Bolsover 10k. Always a strong runner anyway, Jane has the benefit of advice and coaching from Chris Beighton and Roy Bailey, and is putting it to good effect.

ROUND ROTHERHAM

Time and space have conspired to stop me printing the results of the highly successful event, but I will, hopefully next month. In particular though, Adele Morris asked me through the briefing to thank all her sponsors at the club; she raised a vast sum of money by her participation, I am sure she quoted something over £500.

Fixtures: Don't forget these:

Sun 17 Jan	South Yks XC Champs, Barnsley
Sat 30 Jan	Northern Cross-country Graves Park
Fri 5 Feb	Awards Night
Sun 7 Feb	Ferriby 10
Sat 12 Mar	National Cross-country Newark

Yorkshire Cross-country Herringthorpe Valley Park Saturday 9th January 1999

U13 Boys

1	D.McQuarrie (Rntrs)	11:26
3	R.Hastey	11:55
7	J.Marshall	12:30
11	R.Stephenson	12:36
15	B.Hague	12:47
31	A.Booth	13:21
37	S.Harwood	13:49
48	M.Burke	14:23
55	L.Johnson	14:42

Teams

1	Rotherham HAC	36
2	Bradford GS	64
8	Rotherham HAC B	171

U15 Boys

1	S.Enright (Holx)	16:34
9	L.Rooney	17:52
25	S.Winter	18:54
34	S.Francos	19:29
44	P.McGrath	20:22

Teams

1	Holmfirth	29
5	Rotherham HAC	112

U17 Men

1	R.King (Holm)	21:35
17	P.Marshall	23:59
39	R.Lomas	25:23

U13 Girls

1	Z.Gowland (Wakfd)	12:54
5	L.Muscroft	13:16
14	A.Hague	14:06

U15 Girls

1	S.Holah (Pud & B)	15:33
4	T.McNaney	15:52
27	G.Wright	17:50
36	L.Carnell	18:23
47	E.Thomas	19:44

Teams

1	Bingley H	30
8	Rotherham HAC	67

U17 Ladies

1	N.White (Holm)	19:17
30	C.Birch	28:29

Men

1	K.Critchley (Sale)	36:59
2	I.Mitchell (Longwd)	39:59
3	C.Moore (Bingley)	37:15
23	R.Holladay	39:50
34	R.Harris	41:08
40	M.Ruddleston	41:42
48	S.Tompkin	42:24
51	J.Comrie	42:33
52	L.Collingwood	42:45
73	M.Tune	44:29
79	J.Crofts	45:04
97	R.Rhodes	46:31
115	S.Phillips	48:44

Teams

1	Bingley HAC	60
2	Leeds CAC	103
3	Hallamshire H	179
4	Holmfirth H	225
5	Rotherham HAC	248
6	Longwood H	252
7	Pudsey & Bramley	311
8	Sheffield AC	389
9	Barnsley AC	419
10	Knivesmire H	472
11	Spenborough	506
12	Barnsley H	654
13	Skyrac	680

Women

1	C.Greenwood (Bingley)	23:23
2	P.Thackray (Hallam)	24:11
3	J.Clark (Puds&Bram)	24:24
7	J.O'Mara	25:04
12	K.Storey	26:22
15	S.Marshall	26:44
26	J.Clarke	27:47
45	L.Whittaker	30:42
63	M.Rhodes	38:48

Teams

1	Hallamshire H	23
2	Leeds CAC	25
3	Rotherham HAC	34
4	Imperial AC	36
5	Bingley HAC	45
6	Pudsey & Bramley	47
7	Skipton AC	73
8	Valley Striders	80
9	Knivesmire	99
10	Spenborough	145
11	Holmfirth H	147
12	York Acorn	158

Green Bricks

Wednesday 9th December

1	M.Ruddleston		RHAC	30:08
2	S.Elvidge	V	RHAC	30:14
3	S.Tompkin		RHAC	30:28
4	J.Atkinson	V	RHAC	30:44
5	P.Roberts	V	RHAC	31:53
6	S.France		KS	32:08
7	T.Turner	V5	RHAC	32:20
8	A.Gregory	V45	RHAC	32:53
9	P.Eddison	V	RHAC	33:15
10	J.Spencer	V5	RHAC	33:20
11	I.Newsome		RHAC	33:22
12	J.Rust	V45	MRC	33:33
13	T.Stuart	V55	MRC	33:47
14	D.Green	V5	KS	33:59
15	J.Comrie		RHAC	34:13
16	S.Durdy		MRC	34:45
17	P.Fielding		RHAC	35:00
18	A.Rowe		KS	35:17
19	B.Harney	V5	RHAC	36:05
20	M.Concannon	V45	RHAC	36:28
21	I.Soakell	V	KS	36:36
22	I.Brookes		KS	37:11
23	N.Shaw		RHAC	37:31
24	M.Uttley		RHAC	38:07
25	C.Dauris	L	RHAC	38:07
26	M.Swift		KS	38:35
27	L.Day	LV	RHAC	38:44
28	R.Houghton	V45	MRC	39:06
29	D.Sears	V5	MRC	39:22
30	P.Widdowson		RHAC	39:46
31	D.Clarke	V6	RHAC	40:11
32	M.Davis		RHAC	40:19
33	B.Soakell	LV	KS	40:27
34	H.Marston	V5	RHAC	40:27
35	R.Cooke	V45		40:32
36	M.Rhodes	V5	RHAC	41:29
37	R.Strike		UA	41:42
38	P.Martin	V45	UA	41:54
39	K.Dutton	V6	RHAC	42:13
40	K.Booth		RHAC	42:15
41	D.Burke		RHAC	42:19
42	B.Lowndes	V5	MRC	42:47
43	D.Thorpe	V5	MRC	42:49
44	S.Hudson		UA	42:58
45	I.Horsley	V	RHAC	43:00
46	P.Rooney	V	KS	44:30
47	M.Senior	V45	KS	44:41
48	D.Weatherburn	V55	RHAC	44:42
49	D.Wordsall		MRC	45:53
50	J.Sears	LV	MRC	46:00
51	C.Clarke			47:10
52	J.Gallagher	V	RHAC	47:11
53	D.Creamer	V6	RHAC	47:50
54	R.Rowbotham	V6	RHAC	51:58

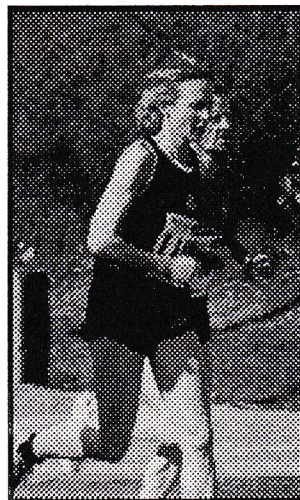
CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Two effects of the time spent on Yorks XC is that I am not up to date on the club championship which of course has now finished, and this news briefing is late. I will sort it out after this news letter. But what we can do is fix a date for the awards night, and start the new series. So here goes.

The Awards Night, usual format of championship and mileage awards with a bit of entertainment, will be on **Friday 5th February** at a venue yet to be arranged but which might be Rugby Club or Cricket Club. Full reminder and list of winners will be published all being well in the news letter of Feb 3rd.

The first event of the 1999 series, which I intend will be organised better, is Ferriby 10 dated Sunday 7th February (forms in the clubhouse).

Winter Series
Weds 20th Jan 6.45 off
Travellers, Kimberworth
West Hill !



Two more top supporters"! Hilary Garrison pictured at Sheffield and Richard Harris at the Hallcross. Both were in effective action in our XC teams at the week-end



XMAS DAY

WINTER SERIES

Mark Ruddleston flew home for the second winter series race but not far adrift were Steve Elvidge, Steve Tompkin, John Atkinson and Phil Roberts with KRC's Steve France first visitor, Steve is running well. A good night out for all I understand, thanks to all concerned and I am sorry that flu kept me away.

The next event is courtesy of Pat Rooney and colleagues at Kimberworth, Travellers at 6.45 on Wednesday 20th January. The usual arrangements: start time, awards, hill(s) etc etc.

Ian Horsley fought off the quicker starters and the Christmas cheer to head the field home for the second time in his career with Mark Ruddleston putting in the fastest time on the day.

This being a handicap start event, Frank O'Neil had been first away and whilst he was overtaken relatively early it soon became clear that the speedsters had a problem catching the next few. Jim Brogan, who handicapped the field well as usual, had said that the slower runners might have a better chance this year and so it proved. Robert Rhodes looked in with a chance at the turn but it's a long way back down to Boswell Street and the task was too great for Robert and for the chasing Steve Tompkin, last year's winner.

Jim said he though maybe we should handicap by a committee next year but I hope we talked him out of it.

Christmas Day Handicap Race	finish posn	actual time
1	Ian Horsley	48:10
2	Malcolm Rhodes	43:56
3	John Clarke	45:32
4	Robert Rhodes	35:57
5	Neil Shaw	41:35
6	Steve Tompkin	35:08
7	Henry Marston	44:38
8	Sharon Burton	43:27
9	Steve Gaines	35:38
10	Frank O'Neil	54:55
11	Patricia Muller	45:10
12	Brian Harney	39:05
13	Andrew Gaines	44:29
14	John Comrie	36:41
15	Ken Ridgeway	46:58
16	Caroline Dauris	45:35
17	Paul Haynes	46:21
18	Michael Roe	47:12
19	Mark Ruddleston	35:03
20	Phil Smales	39:42
21	Tim Perks	40:17
22	Wendy Roberts	57:37
23	Trevor Birks	41:08
24	Jaimie Robinson	39:29
25	Angus Rose	42:40
26	Pete Adams	43:10
27	Phil Eddison	42:15
28	Phil Roberts	41:15
29	Alan Bryden	57:02

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.