



November
1997

Serving the Rotherham Runner
First Wednesday each Month

National 6-Stage Relay

Relay Teams Rampant

Rotherham make light of Absences

A brilliantly professional performance from all concerned saw the best-ever Rotherham athletics performance at Sutton Park last week. Not only placing tenth in Great Britain, but doing it in the enforced absence of Rob Holladay and Dave Tune is a result which could scarcely have been believed a short while ago. What confidence it must give our young athletes to know we can produce this quality with top men missing- and we have to mention the likely return of Chris Parkes among others, and arrivals such as Darren Hale. Interesting prospects for the spring 12-stage!

"All concerned" doesn't just mean the six runners, far from it. As has so often been the case, it means generous, sensible and sensitive support from organisers and reserve runners. On this occasion, Mark Ruddleston, unlucky not to be in the six readily agreed to do his training in Sutton Park rather than Listerdale to cover possible contingencies, and captain Peter Neal was on call in dual capacity. Ruled out himself, Dave Tune took runners to the race and I was happy to see Steve Gaines doing a photo-shot at the far end of the course. Success at this level demands this sort of support, it makes a

North 6-stage report

RH Knocking at the Door

A sound start from Darren Cooney in his first major relay back at RHAC was backed up by rampant efforts from Rob Holladay and Dave Tune which saw Rotherham's improving outfit in justified second place for a spell. John Comrie couldn't quite hold it but he ran well having stepped in late as replacement for bug-struck Paul Bennett, and kept us well in the hunt. A typical Luke Field effort on five left Lee Collingwood with a prospect of taking third, but we were unfortunate that Sunderland's Malcolm Price easily ran the fastest leg of the day to take himself well clear of RHAC, swallowing up Salford on the way and putting the wind up Bingley who had been well clear. Aggravatingly close to the medals, this was however a brilliant performance and hints at what is to come. Better yet, the B team ran very smartly, helped by a best time from Mark Ruddleston who is really on form, and support from late inclusions Phil Roberts and Peter Morris, Peter helping us out whilst not really back to racing yet.

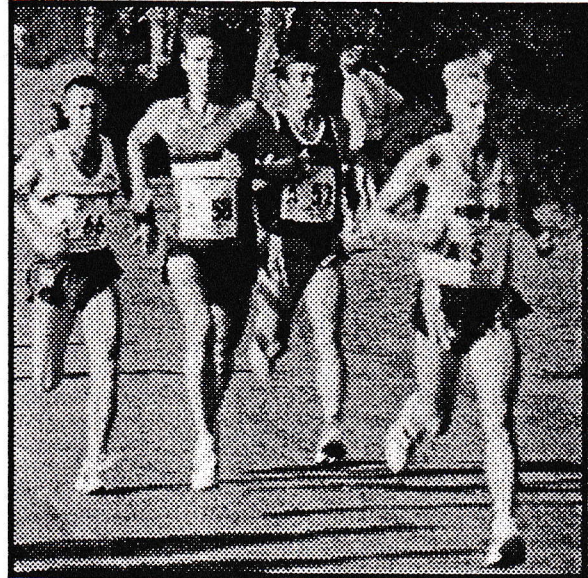
Their 23rd place saw them third amongst the 'B' teams behind Salford and Leeds City, and I don't have to elaborate on what that implies for the 12-stage relays. In fact, had Rotherham 'A' been eliminated, say by disqualification, Rotherham 'B' would have qualified us, since Salford B, Rotherham A and Leeds B would all have been omitted leaving RHAC 'B' 20th! Disqualification is not such a remote possibility as might have been thought, both Doncaster B and Barnsley B got the elbow together with Wakefield B for folding their numbers down, or maybe 'club colours', we're not sure which. So did top man Martin Jones (Horwich) on stage 4 whilst lying 14th.

Bingley got out of jail in my view, running pretty weakly for them and aided enormously by Salford's selection policy which saw them name a qualifying race then stick by the result although they knew it was pear-shaped.

huge difference and we have always known it. The point is though, a lot of people are doing it.

Let's put it in perspective. As far as I know, no Rotherham senior team has ever done better. Not in athletics, not outside athletics.

Let's put it in another, different perspective. As Luke's father, George Field pointed out humorously at Sutton Park- it's taken us 110 years to get to tenth. We intend to get much higher, and at the rate things are going, 110 weeks might be a more realistic time scale. / stage by stage..page 2



With key efforts on stage 1 at both the northern and national 6-stage Darren Cooney has made a brilliant return to relay running at RHAC. Above Darren (52) is on the way to bringing us home 10th on the fierce national opener

**Cross-country Sun 9th November
Cannon Hall 11 am. RHAC lead but
the lead is fragile! See you there**

**Winter Series Event 1
WOODMAN**

**Wednesday 12th November off at 6.45 from
the Woodman, Midland Road (near Bus
Garage).**

**New route about 10k
Some changing at the pub
Beer and a bite after.**

National 6-Stage Road Relay Stage by Stage. Sutton Park 25/10/97

With Rob Holladay forced to attend a training course, Darren Cooney was obvious choice for lead stage though we could have used him in several different places, especially as Dave Tune had been fighting off flu for a week.

1	Darren Cooney	17:00	10th
2	Lee Collingwood	17:21	10th
3	Paul Bennett	17:23	10th
4	Andrew Aked	17:48	9th
5	Luke Field	17:55	9th
6	John Comrie	18:23	10th

1	Birchfield H	1:40:36
2	London Irish AC	1:41:47
3	Bingley H	1:41:50
4	Southampton RC	1:41:55
5	Salford H	1:43:18
6	Bgh of Hounslow	1:43:57
7	Tipton H	1:44:06
8	Westbury H	1:45:13
9	Liverpool Pem & SC	1:45:45
10	Rotherham HAC	1:45:50
11	Bristol AC	1:46:13
12	Leeds City AC	1:46:21
13	Notts AC	1:46:53
14	Aldershot F&DAC	1:47:00
15	Bridgend AC	1:47:02
16	Bedford & CAC	1:47:03
17	Chester-le-Street AC	1:47:13
18	Liverpool H&AC	1:47:14
19	Trafford AC	1:47:24
20	Sale H	1:47:33
21	Thames Valley H	1:47:34
22	Stourport AC	1:47:35
23	City of Stoke AC	1:47:44
24	Redhill RR	1:47:45
25	Hallamshire H	1:48:06
26	Coventry Godiva H	1:48:29
27	Longwood HAC	1:48:50
28	Border H	1:48:59
29	Bideford AC	1:49:21
30	Derby & CAC	1:49:24
31	Ranelagh H	1:49:41
32	Thames H&H	1:50:00
33	Solihull & SHAC	1:50:18
34	Shaftsbury Barnet H	1:50:25
35	Holmfirth H	1:50:29
36	Telford AC	1:50:45
37	Leicester Coritanian	1:50:53
38	Nene Valley H	1:51:13
39	Birmingham Rowth.	1:51:24
40	Havant AC	1:51:27
41	Gateshead H&AC	1:51:50
42	Sunderland H&AC	1:52:00
43	Rugby & DAC	1:52:11
44	City of Bath	1:52:46
45	Elswick H	1:52:51
46	Beaumont Leys	1:52:55
47	Plymouth H	1:53:04
38	Newham & Essex B	1:53:08
49	Hillingdon	1:53:09
50	Bromsgrove & R	1:53:11
51	Kent AC	1:54:15
52	Huncote H	1:54:19
53	Massey Ferguson	1:54:34
54	Mansfield H	1:55:00
55	West Bromwich H	1:55:29
56	Corby AC	1:56:05
57	Kidderminster H	1:56:25
58	Cheltenham AC	1:56:16

1 Darren Cooney 17:00 10th
The first stage of the short relay is the fiercest road race you will ever get in. A calm head is essential as many good runners have come unstuck when the race kicks in at the half-mile uphill. Not only are the top teams there, but numerous lesser outfits with only the one top runner place him there. Getting back toward his best, Darren ran us a top-class first stage very close to the front, clocked our fastest time on the day, and what's more he, looked as though he enjoyed it. No coincidence that Darren's return to RHAC has seen our two best ever performances.

2 Lee Collingwood 17:21 10th
Leg two is a classic spot to go backwards. No such problem, Lee is running well and this was a cracking performance, right on the pace trading places with Bingley and Tipton. Lee is one of our best supporters; how well he deserves this success. (Also orchestrated the apres-ski tea party in Doncaster Market Place).

3 Paul Bennett 17:23 10th
Not always present in the relay teams, having been more track-oriented, Paul has a fierce road pace when he turns his hand to it. He brought RHAC home first on the first leg of the northern 12 when we first qualified in '95 and it is nice to see him a part of this success in his last few months before relocating to USA early in the new year. Completely at home holding 10th place and keeping a clutch of runners less than 20 seconds in front.

4 Andrew Aked 17:48 9th
Plagued by injury and illness over the last year or so, Andrew was eager to get back into the team despite not being 100% back on form and how well he ran. Hopefully having turned the corner, he held and then improved our placing. Notts AC, who moaned at him a lot for not joining them last year, have been strangely silent.

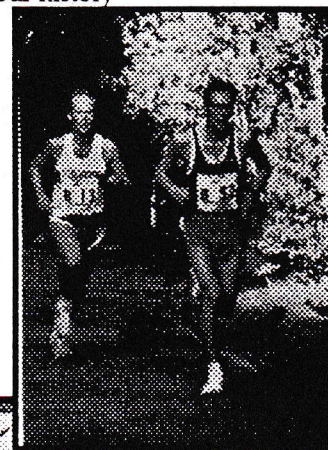
5 Luke Field 17:55 9th
It is hard to believe that Luke has been at

this game for only a year, having been invited to RHAC at the '96 Hallcross event. How fast he has learned. And how fast he is running, he never put a foot wrong.

6 John Comrie 18:23 10th
Possibly our strongest current supporter, John is at the top of his form and was very keen indeed to make his mark in the six-stage team while the chance was there. Brought into the northern team late, he changed his work-shift on the chance of a national place and along it came. There was never any chance of John losing much ground on the anchor stage.

Even as we reflect on such a proud achievement, we have to remember how fragile success can be. We still have no reserve of population, student or otherwise, no city centre, no immense funding. No-one comes to Rotherham by chance. But they have come because of our runners and our organisation and our aspirations. By the efforts of all of you they will keep coming. Ordinary runners, top runners, beginners. Above all, top people.

Lee Collingwood had a stormer at the national. Lee is pictured below sorting out Bristol AC for the first time in our history



RHAC Ladies 4-stage road relay squad pictured at Don Valley (result p.3):
(back row) Janet Hindley, Sharron Marshall, Joanne Chapman, Caroline Dauris;
Katy Storey, Gillian Bunker, Julia Jennings, Hilary Garrison

Northern 6-Stage Relay

Don Valley 4/10/97

RHAC A

Darren Cooney	20:15
Rob Holladay	19:59
Dave Tune	19:39
John Comrie	21:24
Luke Field	20:35
Lee Collingwood	20:37

RHAC B

Martin Connolly	21:54
Mark Ruddleston	21:38
Mick Tune	22:02
Steve Inglis	21:40
Pete Morris	22:31
Phil Roberts	22:06

1	Bingley H	2:00:45
2	Sunderland H	2:01:01
3	Salford H	2:01:24
4	Rotherham HAC A	2:02:29
5	Salford B	2:03:45
6	Morpeth	2:03:57
7	Leeds CAC	2:04:06
8	Sale H	2:04:52
9	Trafford	2:05:19
10	Gateshead H	2:06:03
23	Rotherham HAC B	2:11:51
other local		
11	Longwood H	2:06:28
16	Hallamshire H	2:07:52
20	Holmfirth	2:10:05
30	Barnsley	2:13:09
31	Wakefield	2:13:14
33	Sheffield AC	2:14:06
42	Chesterfield DAC	2:17:15
45	Doncaster & SAC	2:18:14

Northern Women's

4-stage relays

Don Valley 19/10/97

1	Salford H	44:41
2	Sale Manchester	45:11
3	Hallamshire H	45:37
4	Leeds City	47:03
other selected local teams		
13	Rotherham HAC A	50:17
17	Barnsley A	51:34
24	Rotherham HAC B	54:36
27	Hallamshire H B	55:23
36	complete teams	

RHAC A

Julia Jennings	12:28	20th
Hilary Garrison	12:37	18th
Janet Hindley	12:33	14th
Katy Storey	12:39	13th

RHAC B

Caroline Dauris	13:35	29th
Sharron Marshall	13:50	29th
Joanne Chapman	13:57	27th
Gillian Bunker	13:24	24th

Inter-Counties Barnsley 10k

Dave Tune did no harm to his international standing or the Rotherham's club standing by a superb 4th place at Barnsley where an RH squad of real depth hit the 10k for the first time in a long while. It was great too to see Rob Holladay in blue and white, Yorkshire colours, he ran 22nd to count in the Yorkshire team but was also scored in the RH team, and with John Comrie, Lee Collingwood and Luke Field in great form it was no surprise that RHAC placed well, with Luke and Lee getting the team scoring spots. This being the inter-county AAA 10k championship, many clubs had teams running in county colours or club colours or both. Though well behind National champions Birchfield who certainly targeted this event, our result can be gauged by the well-known names who were later arrivals for Bridgend, Westbury and Basildon.

Dave ran a smart 48.12 in the Peace Race 10 miles at Carlingford, Belfast, last month with only Andrew Pearson from the UK in front, though four Kenyans were. Dave is off to Saudi Arabia relaying shortly together with Messrs Anderson & Hawkins of Bingley among others.

Nike Barnsley 10k team result

1st team		3rd team		5th team	
Birchfield H	32 pts	Bridgend AC	147 pts	Basildon AC	214 pts
Rob Birchall	2	Darren Hiscox	12	Nick Wetheridge	9
Justin Pugsley	6	Gareth Davies	30	Eamonn Martin	46
Carl Warren	10	Dale Rixon	41	Ian O'Leary	72
Julian Moorhouse	14	Carl Cabele	64	Chas Macconnachie	87
2nd team		4th team		6th team	
Rotherham H	140 pts	Westbury H	204 pts	Barnsley AC	359 pts
Dave Tune	3	Chris Buckley	31	Zak Merchoud	13
Rob Holladay	22	Rod Jones	34	Rob Elstone	91
Luke Field	56	Mick O'Doherty	36	Jason Squibb	107
Lee Collingwood	59	Dave Adams	103	Keith Nettleton	148

Runners' News

•Some surprises in the results from Sutton Park. Having got it wrong in the northern, the fancied defending champions, Salford got it wrong again winding up 5th. Numerous clubs seemed to be lacking personnel, but nonetheless put out a representative side- we know all about that, having done likewise, as all clubs sometimes must. But it meant first geordie club was Chester-le-Street in 17th with next Gateshead in 41st whilst Border (Carlisle) only managed 28th. After so nearly upsetting Bingley at Don Valley, without Brian Rushworth and Malcolm Price Sunderland could only manage 42nd at Sutton Park. Recent big hitters Blackheath and Morpeth weren't there at all.

•RHAC youngsters had a good day at the Northern Young Athletes relays; results including a great bronze medal place for the U-13 girls will be in the December edition.

•Continuing his fine form, Mick Tune ran a fine 72.38 at the Rheims Half-marathon, finishing as first Briton in the process- not bad in a field of 3-4000 runners. He was also at the Karrimor mountain event last week but has aggravated an injury into the bargain.

•Darren Hale's impressive 2.22 (4th) at the Manchester Marathon saw him take the Army championship to add to his Yorkshire title won at Sheffield earlier this year. Basher Hussain won in 2.19; with typical modesty Darren reported his main adversaries for the Army title were not there on the day- but what was abundantly clear is that it made no difference, they wouldn't have run this time. He is proving very sharp, and even more promising, over a range of distances.

•Members numbers drawn at the Homestead social evening 28th October. £70 no.245 Ian Lanceley, £10 each nos. 208 Ted Parkinson, 62 Frank Wagstaffe, 96 Rose Addison. 200 sold. Thank you Brian.

•Congratulations to Steve Inglis on his selection for the North of England U-20 team at Ghent last weekend. Steve follows in the footsteps of Dave Tune and Robert Holladay, both of whom found the event a useful stepping stone on their way to international honours. After a variety of promising performances it was Steve's run at the northern 6-stage which attracted attention. I think Dave Tune had something to do with pointing selector Robbie Wood of Liverpool Pembroke in the right direction.

•Congratulations to Ian Instone who won the Yorkshire Veteran 800m title in August at Don Valley. Ian lives at Kippax; it is over a year since he took a run in the Yorkshire vets relays with us at Mickleton, he clearly hasn't got any slower.

•Anne Goggin has left RHAC first-claim for her local club Stamford Harriers. Anne is clearly a powerful runner and we are sorry to lose her services, although her studies over the last 18 months have kept her away from proper competition. She has now relocated permanently from her former Lound, Retford home to Stamford and wishes to compete locally, but will retain RHAC 2nd claim membership. We wish Anne all the best at her new club.

•Steve Tompkin was second senior, fourth overall, at the Worksop Half in a fine 1.13 time. Results are awaited. He would make a good relay runner!

•I still haven't given Malcolm Palfreyman due credit for winning the Wolds Ten back in August- but it isn't overlooked, we'll get the full run-down in it shortly.

Club Christmas Party

5th December at the

Cricket Club,
Clifton Lane.

8-11.30 pm

£2 (pay at the door)

Disco- Bar extension

CROSS-COUNTRY SCENE

Yorkshire Senior & Veteran Cross-country

These are now confirmed as follows.

Venues and Times

Yorkshire Senior is on Saturday, December 13th at the Flatts, Thirsk (not at Thirsk Racecourse, actually in Sowerby).
U13G first off (3000m) at 11.10, U13B (3000m) 11.30, U15G (4000m) 11.50, U15B (4500m) 12.10pm, U17W (4500m) 12.30, U17M (6000m) 1.00pm, Senior Ladies (6000m) 1.30pm, Junior Men (8500m) 2.10pm, Senior Men (11000m) 2.10pm.

Entries.

All except senior ladies and men refer to coaches particularly Dennis Russell, Malc Whitaker.

SENIOR RUNNERS: there is unlimited entry but you must be pre-entered. I will enter many likely runners but you must approach me to make sure you get included to be on the safe side.

Eligibility

Runners must have been born in the county of Yorkshire or acquired qualification by having resided nine months continuously in the county before the event.

Closing date November 20th (Thursday); I must post the entries on club night Monday November 17th which is the absolute deadline.

Yorkshire Vets is on Sunday, January 11th at Brantingham Park, South Cave, which is in Ferriby 10 country just short of the Humber Bridge.

All races 10k: all ladies at 1pm, men 2A/2B + at 1pm, 1A/1B at 2pm.

Teams: 1pm races three to count, 2pm race four to count.

NB Rotherham hold team title at over-40, O-50 third, ladies second.

Entries.

There is no limit to entries except the cost but all must be pre-entered. All interested runners make sure you tell team manger in good time especially if not a regular runner in these events.

Closing date is Monday January 5th; I must send the entries during the week before so club night Wednesday 31st December is my deadline but as this is New Year's Eve you may wish to not leave it until then.

(Not all members' d.o.b. are known, if requesting entry make sure the team manger knows your age group (counted as on the day).

National Vets Cross-country Relay

Information is still awaited from the organisers. (Midland Vets).

Other Cross-country Dates.

South Yorks. The Rotherham turn-out in the first event was impressive, especially with so many rival clashing events (6-stage relay, Worksop, Hólmfirth, Rotherham Town centre). It would do no harm to drive it home to be on the safe side.

November 9th Cannon Hall first race senior men at 11am

Cannon Hall is at Cawthorne, north-west of Barnsley, exit 37 west from the M1.

November 23rd Campsall: same times

Campsall is in Norton 9 country, A1M, A1 northbound, first major exit (signed Pontefract), follow signs.

If you have not yet run, enter Wednesday at RHAC or on the day (Mrs. Allen).

Last of series Sunday 18th January Cantley Park. This is also the individual championship, if you enter on the day don't leave it late, you won't get in. Anyone can run in the SY series, including 4th, but the individual championship has South Yorks birth or residence qualification like the main county qualification.

North of England Championships (team & individual)

Saturday 31st January at Heaton Park, Manchester. Details have been received and will be in December issue.

Closing date is Saturday 13th December so I must send entries in the week prior to that and as these entries require addresses as well as dates of birth, deadline to me will be club night Monday 8th December.

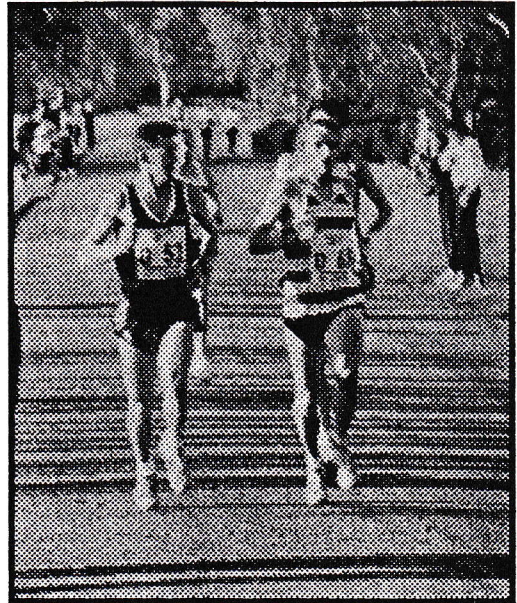
National Championships

Saturday 14th March at Leeds. Details awaited.

National Relays

Saturday 21st February at Mansfield. Details awaited. Teams of 4, may be limits on numbers.

All our runners are eligible for the North and National events (transferring runners still qualifying run as non-scorers). There is no limit on entries (save cost) but all runners must be pre-entered so be sure to tell PH if you are interested.



Andrew Aked's return to form is more than impressive. The day after running stage 4 at the national he headed the RH attack at Graves Park, which was instrumental in giving us a lead in the men's events. Actually we're not sure exactly how senior/vets stand as Steel City lost their entry lists!

Andrew is pictured above (52) at Sutton Park in the national having a close look at Tipton before launching a late assault.

November Fixtures

Sun 2 Nov	Barnsley 10k 1pm
Sun 2 Nov	Barnsley Vets 10k 11.30
Sat 8 Nov	Aaron XC Relays, Leeds 1pm
Sun 9 Nov	Gaurdian Angels 5 Huddersfield 11am
Sun 9 Nov	SY XC League 2 Cannon Hall 11am
Wed 12 Nov	Woodman 10k (Winter Lg) 6.45
Sun 16 Nov	Roundhay Pk 3 & 3 Leeds 10am
Sun 16 Nov	Doncaster Dome 10k CANCELLED
Sun 23 Nov	SY XC League 3 Campsall 11am
Sun 23 Nov	Clowne Half 10am
Sun 30 Nov	Emmerdale 5k Esholt 10am
Sun 30 Nov	Percy Pud 10k Loxley 10.30am
Sun 7 Dec	Abbey Dash Leeds 9.30am
Sat 13 Dec	Round Rotherham
Sat 13 Dec	Yorks XC Champs, Thirsk
Sun 21 Dec	Woodhouse 7 11am
Sun 21 Dec	Coalite 10k, Bolsover 10.30

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

The support of Yorkshire Windows is greatly appreciated.

Transcript of road and cross-country secretary's report to the AGM 1997.

Mr President; ladies and gentlemen:
Last week, as you are no doubt aware, we had a successful day in the northern 6-stage relay.

This comment is from Athletics Weekly; Weds October 8th.
" Now we can assess the real strength of athletics in England. How many clubs had no trouble at all fielding teams for the area road relays? How many struggled? How many had athletes seriously disappointed to not get in the teams? How many had members who couldn't care less whether they were asked to run? How many pbs were run around Rushmore, Sutton Park or Don Valley? And, most important of all, how many are looking forward to finding twice as many in April?
Trevor Frecknell, Editor."

You will form your own judgement of our answer to this query.

This year we have again dominated road and cross-country running in South Yorkshire. And increasingly, we have moved up the rankings in the north and nationally.

Not without the occasional hiccup however. Back in October shortly after the 96 AGM, having placed 10th and 31st in the northern 6-stage we ran foul of a number of circumstances, losing runners on the day to illness and officialdom and only made 31st at the national.

But there is no panic these days, back to normal as we cleaned up the SY XC league as usual, winning mens, womens, Junior womens, vets, lady vets, U13L men and U15B. Chris Parkes was SY champion tying with Dave Tune, Paul Venables vet champion, other champs Katy Storey U17W and Liam Rooney U13B. Steve Bates U15 (Doncaster) but since has come to RH

If you wanted, a club could buy top talent. It could never buy grass roots; commitment during good times and hard; belief and generosity. It could never buy the tremendous work done, and future involvement of people like Mike Palmer and Kevin Thomas who are doing so much with the younger age groups.

As I have sometimes said in the news briefing, RHAC owes enormous debt to the many parents and coaches who bring out and develop the talent and interests of the runners themselves. We should be encouraged by the dedication and standards of coaches and organisers like John Broadhead, and Lyn & Dave Carnell and Phil Allen and particularly in our area Dennis Russell and Malcolm Whittaker for amongst other things the fine standards they have set our young athletes.

YA! the Yorks XC the Ladies and U17L won silver. The U15 Boys won gold, overturning Holmfirth. The Men were 5th despite all our Yorkshire problems. Steve Bates, still at Doncaster was individual champion.

When a runner of the calibre of Steven Bates comes to us it is not because he sees the grass greener. Rather, amongst the many considerations, he sees organisation, standards, quality social and sporting behaviour, planning and vision, communication, a two-way contribution to our development and his.

In addition to Steven, we have welcomed many runners to Rotherham this year, some of them returning to their club. It may be that there will be more, and perhaps from a wider area. If they come for the right reasons, they will continue to be welcome, even vital to our future.

Darren Cooney, back from SAC, Darren Hale Yorks Marathon champion and swiftly getting faster over short courses. In the vets, Ian Temperton came from Stainforth to join ex-colleague Dave Hindmarsh, since then Tony Turner and Keith Williams have made the switch from Kimberworth and Spensbro respectively. The Toselands from Wombwell have joined the Bates', whilst at senior level Peter Pleasants from BAC though sadly he is injured again. Another is imminent.

Inspirational running was evident from prodigal sons returned when Chris Parkes stormed the walls of the northern establishment at Durham, having given an international field 100 yards start to run 3rd. We finished 9th, the ladies 8th, whilst Paul Venables was getting back to his old self in a fine vets national xc relay where we placed fifth, and Yorks cross country championship which we won impressively at Ilkley to the probable chagrin of Bingley Harriers. Our ladies took silver, o-50 men took bronze.

There was perhaps a time when club running and competition running could be clearly separated; I don't think we can do that anymore. The bulk, the rank and file as it were are quite rightly very proud of their representative teams- but they have every right also to be proud of their own efforts to maintain and improve standards of performance and of sportsmanship; and whilst being sometimes fiercely competitive, standards of sheer niceness which are envied by other clubs over a wider area than you might imagine.

Relations with our neighbouring clubs continue to be good, with splendid meetings co-operatively organised. In the Winter leagues 14 runners did all 5 races. There was very good support from RH, Kimberworth and Maltby. These are first class social events also,

and Inter-club relations are great.

If sometimes names like Dave Tune and Robert Holladay seem over-prominent you have to realise that it is not only their regular top performances but their tremendous commitment to their club which puts them in that position. Both again have achieved GB honours.

But they are far from unique. I could read a book of names who have impressed throughout this year, as in others, by their sensible and sensitive support. I will however mention one or two. Better support could not be available than what we have had from Mark Ruddleston. Barely a year since his arrival, Luke Field is ever-present and ever-improving. The "eastern contingent" typified by Lee Collingwood, and Paul Rowland who commutes from deepest Kent cannot be faulted for their involvement.

I would however mention one whose involvement and commitment outweigh most if not all. He won our Xmas Day race. He has been our club champion and is well on the way to repeating that success in 1997. He has been prominent in black vests for a long time and is now winning races of quality such as Selby Half last week. He is a regular member of our relay teams and has made himself a fine runner from humble beginnings. We do not have a better club performer or supporter than John Corrie.

In the National XC, we took a very early decision not to go to Southampton, largely for financial reasons. But at the National XC Relays we were 15th both men (best ever) and women. When we refer to financial problems, it is opportunity to say a word of thanks to our main supporter this year, Mr. Mike Yarett of Yorkshire Windows, without whom we would be feeling a cold wind to say the least.

The northern 12-stage wasn't brilliant on the day, but we got away with a sound result. Dave Tune got injured but showed commendable club spirit by completing, and at the national we put matters straight by a best ever 23rd place.

Vets results have continued excellent. At the National Vets 8-stage we were 8th in GB, our best in the modern era. Gregory & Co are old hands at this game. It is a fact that my best advice and support comes from vets area, notably messrs Gregory, Gaines and co. Perhaps the vets spend more time in the pub than others. Strongest of all is the work of Peter Neal who has again been an exemplary team & club captain despite the strange decision of RHAC to abandon the post. The same applies too to Julia Jennings who has done very good work in keeping together the ladies efforts on road and country where they have again represented us well despite limits of numbers. The posts may have been short-sightedly abandoned but the need for them is still there, and they should be re-established without delay.

In the Road leagues we won mens, veterans and ladies all by a big margin. We had 16 in the first 22 at last event. Pete Morris (vets) and Daren Hale (senior) were winners. (Darren is Yorks marathon champion & won the army championship last week-end). Steve Inglis won junior, and Hilary Garrison Lady Vet titles.

At our annual outing to Damflask we won mens (Ruddleston Bennett Morris Holladay), vets (Neal Temperton Chell Gaines), L vets (Burton Jennings Bunker) and had no fewer than 46 RH runners.

The vets, ladies and men cemented our year's effort on the road at Methley, retaining the men's title and placing teams 1st, 6th and 10th.

The new season opened at Wakefield last month with the Yorkshire 6 stage, 2nd, which we could have won. The Ladies were 2nd and 6th, U17 2nd, there was a vast RH performance in all age groups.

Last week our runners placed two teams in the top 25 in the north of England. The A team, having placed 20th, 11th and 10th in successive seasons after years in the wilderness, swept aside the annual bogeys of Leeds, Morpeth, Gateshead, Liverpool and Border to score a best ever fourth place in N of E. The B team, who ran an impressive 23rd, were in fact in qualifying position as third B team.

So it is after qualifying once in our history prior to 1995, we now can do it twice over.

This last performance was well-reported in the Advertiser and I wish to express our appreciation that Paul Rickett and his colleagues now do better recognise the status of road and cross-country running and Rotherham's foremost position in the sport. For being instrumental in bringing this about and doing a top-class job for the sport and for our club I wish to thank my friend and running adversary Don Gill for his continued hard work.

Mr. Chairman, I was born a pessimist, and if that is sometimes a depressing thing to be, it ensures that we will not be complacent about apparent success. Too many people, not far away, have shown us by their experience what an illusive thing it is.

We have been getting there. We have now almost got there. We face the task of finishing the job, and staying there.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
	Ferris by 10	Norton 9	Spence 20	Retford Half	Doncaster Half	Sheffield Mara Half	Sheffield Half	SYRL Dnn	SYRL 2	Aske m	SYRL 3	Wood Spa Half	SYRL 4	Swale 10k	Damask Rel	Wharfedale Ch	Doncaster Sk	Yorkshire Half	Aske m	Arms h	Erewash 10	Hallo ross 10k	Work top Half	Holmfirth 15	Percy Pud	Wood house 7	race s	total	
Atkinson, J																											4	338	
Beardshall, W	85	82																										4	330
Beaver, D																												3	208
Benton, G	78	67																										11	841
Booth, K																												7	633
Browne, A																												6	433
Burton, R	86	81	96																									15	1290
Butterworth, R	87	79																										14	1168
Carr, M																												3	196
Chapman, K																												5	427
Chamock, A	79	75	93																									12	978
Chell, A																												4	357
Clarke, D	84	77																										4	344
Clarke, J																												4	254
Cochrane, M																												3	222
Collingwood, L																												6	593
Comrie, J	100	98																										12	1146
Crofts, J	95																											7	652
Drake, T																												3	276
Eddon, P	91																											7	611
Field, L	98	93																										8	774
Gaines, S																												5	447
Gregory, A																												6	510
Halgh, P																												5	468
Hale, D																												6	594
Harvey, B																												7	558
Harris, R																												8	788
Hawley, T	90																											4	353
Herrington, M	88	84																										7	591
Holladay, R																												3	299
Horan, K																												5	398
Horsley, I																												4	280
Humphries, P	78																											8	649
Inglis, S																												6	566
Jeavons, A	61																											6	405
Joyce, A																												5	378
Lanceley, I																												10	971
Lynch, J																												3	228
Millson, P	82	76	95																									5	419
Mirfin, A	83	74																										8	621
Morris, P	92																											8	771
Neal, P	99	94																										7	665
Newbould, B	81																											6	439
O'Mara, K																												3	281
Palfreyman, M	93	88																										7	648
Parkin, A	97	95																										8	749
Phillips, S																												4	373
Rhodes, M	80	71																										10	752
Ritchie, D																												6	527
Roberts, P	96	92																										6	559
Ruddleston, M																												3	288
Shaw, N																												8	624
Silk, J																												5	341
Smales, P																												5	418
Spencer, J	94	89	99																									5	442
Tarbrush, J																												5	355
Temperton, I																												9	826
Tompkin, S																												6	552
Tune, M																												5	452
Turner, G	89	85																										8	688
Weatherburn, D																												9	815
Widdowson, P	77	65																										7	481
Wraith, S																												3	249
Aconley, R	97																											4	387
Baker, J																												8	767
Bunker, G	100																											9	881
Burton, S																												4	389
Dauris, C																												5	479
Fisher, P	98																											5	491
Garrison, H	100	100																										8	795
Hindley, J																												5	497
Jennings, J																												4	398
Marshall, S																												3	289
Streets, J																												3	285
Taylor, D	99	99																										6	591
Wells, P																												5	471

Club Championship Standings as at 5/11/97

Please check your races done, let me know if there are any errors. The lists show races done by members who have more than two races. Events remaining are Percy Pud and Woodhouse 7.
 Results are not yet available for Worktop Half and Holmfirth 15.
 We are trying to get results for the following races; if you have them you could speed the process up a good deal:
 Retford Half, Woodhall Spa; Yorkshire Wolds Half.