

## Athletics

# Golden Jubilee for lady harriers

It's very much the year of the women athletes in Rotherham because the ladies' section of Rotherham Harriers celebrate their golden jubilee this year.

As part of the celebrations, there is to be a ladies-only six mile race on April 24th, and the club intends making it worthwhile for all entrants by providing a memento of the occasion for every finisher.

Runners are expected from a wide area, and a big turn-out is on the

cards... with an invitation going out not only to experienced runners but also starters.

"We hope plenty of locals will come along and anyone interested has plenty of time, nine weeks, to get fit," said a Harriers official.

"Anyone who wants help or encouragement is very welcome to a training night at Herringthorpe on Monday or Wednesday at 6.15."

There will be categories for intermediates, seniors and veterans (over 35) and an extensive prize list.

The ladies' section was formed on April 23rd, 1932, so the women's race is as near to that date, 50 years on, as is possible.

That inaugural meeting took place at the home of Mr and Mrs Eddie de Roeck, and among those present were Victoria and Marjorie de Roeck, Mary Rawlins, Mary Burns, Frances Conway, Blanche Hamshaw, Kathleen Harris, Olive Rawlings, Edith Willett, Lily Wilson and Hannah Latham.

The minutes of that meeting recorded: "It must be realised this was an entirely new venture and the thought of being seen running through the streets or on Herringthorpe fields was already causing a little apprehension, not to say a little giggle or two as well."

However, it was not until 1932 that the newly-formed section was able to entertain opposition, and this followed the opening of Herringthorpe pavilion, complete with showers, lockers, etc.

The first recorded opponents were the women's section of Hallamshire Harriers

After the race, on April 24th, it is hoped to have a social event with as many old members joining present day ones, as possible.

● For entry or further details, send sae to Peter Humphries, at 72, Green Lane, Wickersley, and entry fee is 50p, or contact any Harriers' member.