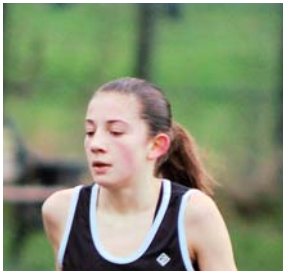


Rotherham Runner



Rotherham Harriers & AC January 2007 Ser 4 No 30



Stef Burns

Individual gold and team silver at Skipton. A great season.



Victorious U17 team in the Yorkshire Cross-country: Natalie Grant, Laura Spence and Jessica Fawcett report p 4

STOP PRESS

Sports Hall Wednesday Sessions Suspended

Following the fire at Herringthorpe Leisure Centre and after consultation with the Management, Sports Hall Sessions on 17th and 24th January are cancelled. The sessions will resume at 6.15pm on Wednesday 31st January 2007.

The executive committee of the club regrets this action but it is due to circumstances beyond our control. If you require further information please contact Secretary Bert Norburn



Consistent running this season! Curtis Benton at Skipton

Next month we will take a closer look at the male performances young and old

2006 Winner, Peter Shaw with the Challenge Cup, and surrounded by previous winners; John Comrie, 1996, Jim Gallacher, 2002, Peter Neal, 1982, Kerry Booth, 2003, Gill Taylor, 2005, Sharon Burton, 1991, Mark Ruddleston, 1983 & 1993, Keith Rollinson, 1956



Pete Goes One Better This Year

Having run a close second last year, Peter Shaw made no mistake this time with a typical 100% run which saw him take Luke Brady with some 400m to go at the end of a generally well-handicapped Christmas Day Race. Luke looked good for a long time after reeling in the front runner but it was Pete's day. Jim Brogan's full report is on page 3.



Award Winners at the Christmas Celebration and Awards Evening, Trades Club, Rotherham Friday 22nd December 2006.

This year we tried a new format with the Young Athletes and Seniors receiving their accolades at the same function. The evening was a tremendous success. Guests were treated to a fantastic buffet supplied by parents and athletes a big thank you to them, Santa Claus managed to drop in spite of a heavy schedule he presented a seasonal Gift to over 50 of our youngsters.

Chairman Jim Brogan Welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview of the year:- Santa Claus arrived looking resplendent in his red and white robes. He presented gifts to over 50 of our youngsters before speeding off to other duties A delicious Buffet was had by all.

The following awards were then presented The **Maurice Jackson Awards** Announced by Kevin Thomas presented by Stephen Gaines The AB sponsored awards, presented by Club President Dave Johnson

Christmas Crackers

Well, seven of them anyway! Though president Dave Johnson does seem to be enjoying himself. The event as a whole was a great success, even for curmudgeons like Ed who don't like discos!

Jack Phipps, Patricia Muller, Best Middle Distance performance, Most Improved athlete presented by Club President Dave Johnson

The **Peter Elliott Award** presented by Club President Dave Johnson. This is an annual award is for the best middle distance performance by any member of the Club

Club Championships and Mileage Awards 2006 presented Club President Dave Johnson

A Special Award to Jenny Blizard, as is always done to mark international selection.

RH Ladies to the fore at Santa's, Men Star at Braithwell

Santa's Special - 17/12/06

1	26.58	HH	Martin Broadhead		38	38.27	Ian Brookes + 'Max'
2	29.32		Dan Birkinshaw		39	38.53	Helen Wade
3	29.44		Muneer Saif	3rd	40	38.54	Pat Rooney
4	29.45	RH	Natalie Grant	1st Fem	41	39.24	Ian Hetherington
5	30.14	U/A	Lee Vernon	-	42	39.45	Malcolm Rhodes
6	30.21	Bann	Steve Phillips	1st MV40	43	39.55	Bev Sutton
7	30.47		Steve Ford	-	44	40.33	Roger Cook
8	30.52	MRC	Andy Thompson	-	45	40.40	Richard Green
9	31.08	MRC	Steve Durdy	-	46	43.22	Cain Green
10	32.01	RH	Brian Harney	1st MV60	47	43.30	Bann Georgina Cliff
11	32.15		Lee Crow	1st MV50	48	44.03	Malcolm Procter
12	32.36		Martyn Gaynor	-	49	44.03	Rod Rivers
13	32.44	RH	Peter Humphries	-	50	44.30	Bann Anne Langley
14	32.51	RH	Laura Spence	2nd Fem	50	44.30	Tick Karen Gordon
15	33.05	RH	Ray Howarth	-	52	44.34	BAC Liam Hickling
16	33.09	RH	Jessica Fawcett	3rd Fem	53	44.35	Mick Concannon
17	33.19		Ian Soakell	-	54	44.57	Tick Christine Stimpson
18	33.43		Claire Stephenson	-	55	45.07	Theresa Elliott
19	34.10		Mick Nunn	-	56	45.48	VHR Amanda Knagg
20	34.31		Phil Adderley	-	57	45.49	Martin Simpson
21	34.40	BAC	Scott Mapplebeck	-	58	47.11	MRC Ray Mathews
22	34.43	Bann	Malcolm Briggs	-	59	48.25	RH Alan Bryden
23	34.49		Dave Swann	-	60	48.52	Gail Nixon
24	35.18	BAC	Keith Binney	-	61	51.45	MRC Sarah Higham
25	35.19	U/A	Stephen Grant	-	62	51.53	MRC Sandra Lowndes
26	35.28		David Booth	-	63	51.54	MRC David Sears
27	35.58		Nina Hague	1st FV40	64	55.21	MRC Caroline Bennett
28	36.34	RH	Phil Roberts	-	64	55.21	VHR Liz Westby
29	36.39		Ken Chapman	-	66	59.23	BAC Amy Stables
30	36.40	U/A	Trevor Parady	-	67	60.42	BAC Shaun Hogton + Fudge
31	37.05	BAC	Alvin Hickling	-			
32	37.09		Derrick Green	-			
33	37.26		Will Liversidge	-			
34	37.27		Roy Nixon	-			
35	37.47		Bev Soakell	1st FV45			
36	38.18	MRC	Jim Rust	-			
37	38.18	MRC	Karen Osborne	1st FV50			

There was good RH support for our colleagues' races at Kimberworth and Maltby, though we can do better numerically!

Young ladies and vets 60 battled it out for us at Santa's in the shape of Brian Harney, Pete Humphries, Laura Spence and Jess Fawcett but none could approach the storming record-breaker of Natalie Grant, who in fact ran the leading men very close with the exception of Martin Broadhead. Nice to see Alan Bryden back.

A good race with less than the usual degree of cold; thanks to Pat Rooney and colleagues.

At Braithwell on Boxing Day the sexes were 'reversed' as RH men took all the category places whilst the ladies winners were on the whole elsewhere.

Mark Ruddleston, Dave Nuttall, Terry Eastwood, Peter Neal, Dave Booth and Pete Humphries took category prizes if memory serves me right; I haven't seen any results yet, whilst Olivia Neal also prized.

The second year on this "new" course, another good event for which we thank Brian Lowndes and colleagues at Maltby RC.

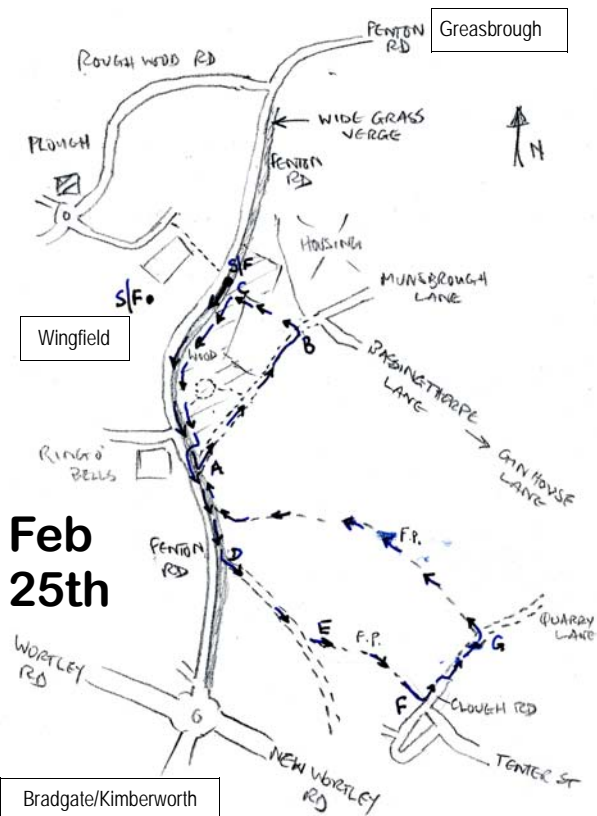
Editorial

Bassingthorpe Spring is in the middle of the wood at the side of Fenton Road. Hence the title of this new race, which joins Ulley Res and Prince in the Park, and more established races Treeton Torture and Easter Chucky as "local" events. All being well, I have another in hand from Whiston around Treeton Dyke and Kerry Booth has checked out an open-day type race at Kiveton on the new parkland.

This might be too many in all, but we will evaluate them and act accordingly no doubt. It is essential that we maintain mutual support with Kimberworth and Maltby in order to keep our running scene good and healthy (Pat and Brian have similar views) and we will be making some effort to extend this mutual support, for example to Tickhill.

Bassingthorpe Spring

Another new RH venture takes place on Sunday 25th February with an 11 am start. Entries will be taken in advance for this open race (permit applied for) or can be made on the day 10.30 onwards at the Plough, top of Roughwood Road (for those of you who remember the Woodman 10k, not far from Lapwater Road). The route is a two-lapper of grass verge on Fenton Rd, Munsbrough Lane, the wood at the side of Fenton, footpath down to Clough Rd, and the "Khyber Pass" footpath back up to the Ring o' Bells. (One lap race for newer runners). Sponsored by Newton Wright Construction Company; usual prizes. Please make sure we are not outnumbered by KRC and MRC!!



Fixtures

Sat 20 Jan	NoEAA U20/17/15 Indoor T&F Champs open EIS Sheffield
Sat 20 Jan	Ulley Time Trial 11am
Sun 21 Jan	York Half FULL open Knavesmire
Sat 27 Jan	North England Cross Country Champs clubs Heaton Park Manchester team/individual entries closed
Sun 28 Jan	NoEAA Senior Indoor Track & Field open EIS Sheffield
Sun 28 Jan	Meltham 10k open
Sun 28 Jan	Tigger Tor Fell Race (Tolley A.C.)
February	
Sat 03 Feb	Schools XC areas various venues
Sat 03 Feb	SY Schools AA areas Championships Penistone Grammar School 10.00am
Sat 10 Feb	UK Indoor Championships 1 EIS
Sun 04 Feb	Dewsbury 10K open 9.30 Fee £12. B Diskern 01924 529981. 955 runners 06
Sun 18 Feb	Wombwell 5 open 10.30, £6 allemby@blueyonder.co.uk
Sat 24 Feb	Ulley Time Trial 11am
Sun 25 Feb	Snake Lane 10 open Pocklington. Fee £6. No E/D. Limit 850. 8 Wheatlands Close, Bassingthorpe Spring 6 off road Plough Roughwood Rd Wingfield
Sun 25 Feb	
March	
Sun 04 Mar	Norton 9 open 11.00. E5. cd 25 Feb. Norton 9, "Colby" West End Road Norton
Sat 10 Mar	ECCA CC Champs club teams Herrington Country Pk, Sunderland
Sun 11 Mar	Treeton Torture 5k open Start 11:00 am. 1 mile fun run @ 10:30 am
Sun 11 Mar	Doncaster Half Marathon (inc. SOUTH YORKSHIRE CHAMPIONSHIPS)
Sun 11 Mar	Dronfield 10K open 11.00, Scout Hut Pentland Road Dronfield. Last year 622 run
Sun 18 Mar	Spent 20
Sat 24 Mar	English Schls CC Champs areas Leeds
Sun 25 Mar	Ackworth Half open
Sun 25 Mar	Easter Chuckie open 11.15 Wath Rugby Club off-road Club Champ race.
Sat 31 Mar	Northern 6 & 12-Stage Road Relays club teams tba

Running Shorts

CHRISTMAS DAY 2006

Blow by Blow



Luke lap

Cleethorpes NYD

Whilst many of you would be sleeping off the night before, Harrier Phil Hooles went to the seaside on New Years Day and took on the Cleethorpes 10K Challenge finishing in 2nd place on 32m 48s. Dave Nuttall finished overall 8th but was first Over 45 on 36m 09s.

Janet Hindley returned to competition after a lengthy lay off with illness and took the 2nd place in the Ladies Over 40 category finishing on 44m 40s. It was great to see Janet back on the road after such a long break.

Seniors just squeezed out in Notts XC Relays

The Rotherham quartet of Mark Ruddleston, Richard Harris, Jenny Blizzard and Darren Cooney were just squeezed out of first spot in the Notts AC XC Relays in Wollaton Park on 27th December taking second spot just over a minute slower over the 4 legs.

We had taken top spot for the previous 4 years, Jenny Blizzard was second fastest lady 13m 14s just beaten by International Steeple Chaser Tara Kryzwicki 13m 07s.

Jenny smashes her 10K PB

Jenny Blizzard took part in the Blackburn Harriers 10K at Edisford Bridge on news years eve and took a massive 3m 30s off her previous PB over the distance. She finished in 38th position but was 2nd Lady finisher to Preston Harrier Helen Clitheroe. Helen was also part of the International GB & NI team who took part in the 'World Marathon Road Relays' in Japan the race which marked Jenny's International debut. What a way to end 2006.....

(Report by courtesy of Don Gill Rotherham Advertiser)

Thank you Corus and Kevin Thomas

Club Secretary Bert Norburn is delighted to inform members that Corus Engineering Steels of Aldwarke Rotherham have awarded us £250 towards club funds. This is in recognition of Kevin's work within the Club under his employers Ambassador Awards Initiative. Our thanks go to Corus and to Kevin for this kind donation. For those of you who do not remember in 2002 Kevin received a North of England AA Merit Award for services to athletics (sporthall) having been nominated by SY-CAA.

Julie Briscoe (nee O'Mara) had a son Elliot (!) (8lb4oz) on 30th December and reports they are both doing well. Our congratulations and best wishes to all the family.

LONDON MARATHON ENTRIES

The draw for club entries to the London Marathon took place after the Christmas Day Race. The following were successful: Phil Haigh , Malcolm Rhodes , John Clarke, Steve Rossall

Secretary's Notes Bert Norburn

Welcome, Willkommen, Bienvenuti, Bienvenida, Bienven, Failt, Croeswaid, Welcum etc
In December the Executive Committee accepted the following membership application was accepted :- Helen Walker 26 T&F XC

Just another reminder Subs for the new season can now be paid.

At the 2006 AGM the rates for 2007 were set.
Juniors (U 18) and Concessions (full time students) £10
Seniors (Over 18) £20
Family £30



These payments DO NOT INCLUDE MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS DUE TO ENGLAND ATHLETICS IN APRIL 2007 which have been set at £3 per athlete (Applies to ALL competitive athletes aged 11 years and over as at 31/8/07). If you wish to include this payment with your subscriptions simply add the amount required.

We have approx 400 subscription paying members, to date 74 of them have paid this years subs.

This is very important revenue without it your club will cease to function please pay your subs NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

1. Pete Shaw 29:23
2. Luke Brady 38:34
3. Mark Ruddleston 28:12
4. Alan Gregory 31:44
5. Malcolm Rhodes 39:17
6. Mick Marsters 32:10
7. Mathew Asbridge 34:28
8. Sharon Burton 35:54
9. Kerry Booth 34:06
10. Phil Widdowson 34:52
11. John Comrie 32:24
12. Gill Taylor 36:08
13. Alan Byden 47:07
14. Phil Smales 41:34
15. Jim Gallacher 43:07
16. John Kirk 36:18
17. Phil Roberts 39:20

Fastest Times

1. Mark Ruddleston 28:12
2. Pete Shaw 29:23
3. Alan Gregory 31:44
4. Mick Marsters 32:10
5. John Comrie 32:24

Fastest Ladies

1. Sharon Burton 35:54
2. Gill Taylor 36:08

Once again we were lucky with the weather. The day of the 119th running of the race for the Challenge Trophy was overcast but not too cold, basically ideal conditions. This year the field was down to 17 runners, with notable absences being Steve Gaines (still recovering from a hernia operation), Peter Neal (severe hangover apparently), and Brian Harney (off celebrating Christmas elsewhere, against his wishes). Following his unsuccessful comeback to the event last year, your truly was relegated back to his normal position of starter/timekeeper.

This year the first runner off was Alan Bryden, still on the comeback trail following surgery, but showing a steady improvement in form. And at the end of the first lap, Alan was still some 2 minutes and 40 seconds clear of the second place man, and indeed, to scratch runner mark Ruddleston's horror, had started his second lap before Mark had even started the race. However, this is the Christmas Day handicap race, where absolutely anything can happen (and usually does!)

At the end of the first lap things were very tight between positions 3 to 5 with only 37 seconds covering them. As always, speculation was mounting as to who the likely winner would be, with the big movers on the lap being Alan Gregory (up 2 places) and Pete Shaw (up 3 places).

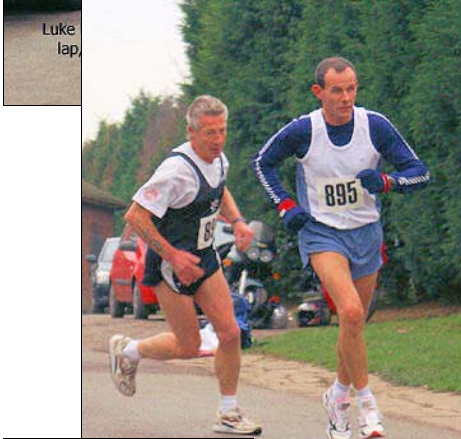
Early starter Luke Brady was still being tipped at this point, being in a solid looking 2nd place at the end of lap 1. Despite running the fastest lap time of the day in 9 minutes 20 seconds, scratch runner Mark Ruddleston had yet to begin his customary charge through the field.

The end of lap 2 saw Alan Bryden still clinging on to the lead, but by a mere 3 seconds now from Luke Brady. Unlucky Malcolm Rhodes, in 3rd place, contrived to slip at the turn, hitting the ground heavily.

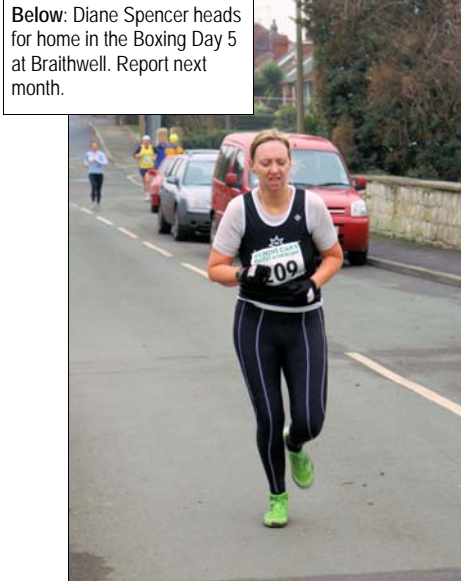
However, such is Malcolm's commitment he was quickly back on his feet in pursuit of Luke and Alan. Meanwhile the battle was hotting up behind them. Alan Gregory (6th), Pete Shaw (7th) and Mark Ruddleston (12th), were making huge inroads by gaining 4, 5 and 4 places respectively.

And so to the finale. The last lap burn up saw Pete Shaw surge through the field, moving up 6 places, to take the trophy for the first time. Luke Brady hung on tenaciously to second place, with Mark Ruddleston placing third for the second year in succession. Pete Shaw had finished second in 2005, his first attempt at the event, and now his name was to be added to the historic Challenge Cup.

Afterwards, the prize presentation, held upstairs in the function room of the nearby Park Hotel, was graced by the presence of 1956 winner Keith Rollinson, who did the honours of presenting the prizes. Roll on next Christmas.....



Top: Long-time leader Luke Brady on lap2; winner Pete Shaw is seen overtaking Mick Marsters.
Below: Diane Spencer heads for home in the Boxing Day 5 at Braithwell. Report next month.



+

**Keith Degge;
Maurice Cook
Tony Gardner**

Just too late to include in the December newsletter, I am sorry to pass on information from Ralph Rowbotham that we have lost two former members in Keith Degge and Maurice Cook.

Then on Christmas Day I heard that Tony Gardner also has passed away.

We remember them fondly and offer condolences to their families and friends.

Good Show but Problems Abound

Yorkshire Cross Country Champs 2007
6th January, Aireville Park Skipton.

Steve Gaines reports:

For those who do not know the venue, or have not run here before, this is a good old fashioned West Yorkshire course ie very hilly and very muddy. The weather on the day wasn't brilliant and the club shelter proved to be a popular spot. We were even having to repel boarders when the rain was heavy. [This was not a problem that our near neighbours (Hallamshire) seemed to be suffering from].

We had entered a total of 60 athletes with teams in all age categories except junior men. In the event, we were unable to finish complete teams in all categories due in the main to the viral infections that seem to have afflicted nearly everyone in South Yorks over the Christmas period.

However we did have a good number of runners, and a great team of supporters. Thanks to you all for turning out.

The highlights of the day, for me, were: The team spirit and runners commitment in all age groups. The victories, and team medals in the U15 girls & U17 womens events, and the selection of several club runners for the Yorkshire inter-counties team.

Also I would like to thank Petes Neal & Shaw, and Jim Brogan for helping to take the tent down; and Nigel Brookes for his team photography. (the full set of photos will be added to the website later).

On to the race results, in running order:-

U13 Girls

1 Maddy Winzer	13:33	Richmond & Zetland
14 Natasha Hatswell	14:09	
		Teams
38 Megan Bailey	15:41	1 Hallamshire
52 Sarah Wilding	16:30	2 Rotherham
54 Melissa Hellewell	16:33	9 Rotherham

Natasha - a good club supporter in the SY races had a good run, and was well supported by recent new member Megan Bailey. (Megan displaying some of her Dad's strength to come through strongly). Sarah made up the scoring team, chased home by Melissa. Olivia Neal warmed up, but did not start due to the ongoing problem of stomach muscle pain, and Georgina Arif had to drop out due to further problems with her foot injury.

Best wishes for a full recovery and a return to racing to both of them

U15 Girls

1 Stef. Burns	17:20	Team
6 Robyn Lancelley	18:41	1 Hallamshire
19 Poppy Knowles	20:17	2 Rotherham (4th last year)
57 Chelsea Johnson	25:16	3 Bingley

In the week leading up to the race, Dennis Russell (Stef's coach) had been worried that Stef would still be suffering or weakened by the earlier illness.

This proved not to be the case! Stef ran sensibly and strongly leaving the start field in 3rd place - but looking relaxed she re-entered the field with a lead that was never reduced.

Robyn continued her excellent much improved form this season (She finished in 43rd position last year) to gain her first Yorkshire vest. Poppy also ran well to complete the scoring trio, with club stalwart Chelsea completing the team.

U15 Boys

At last! a full team starting the U15 race! I was looking forward to cheering them in at the finish, when I heard "Could someone from Rotherham harriers go to the First aid tent....." Liam Thompson -who has been a great supporter in the SY series this year- had a bad injury to his knee and had, understandably, to pull out of the race. James, Cian and Sam all ran well.

1 Mohamed Yasim	16:59	City Of Sheffield
-----------------	-------	-------------------

40 James Moore	20:30
48 Cian Scothern	21:18
54 Sam Howis	22:13

U17 Men

Another first, we had enough entered runners for a team! Allison Booth remarked that they had travelled to Skipton, looking forward to the fact that David would compete in his first ever RH team in the Yorkshires (having run in U13,U15 & U17 age groups). However it was not to be again. Just before 10 am I was advised that Daniel Emson -who had confirmed his availability on Friday morning, could not run due to an ankle injury. At this point I was getting so used to being one short of what was needed, I feared that one of the 4 tent poles might pull out.

David (Smith), David (Booth) & Nathan did us proud. David S also entertaining the tent crowd by cleaning the surplus mud off his spikes with a pair of very clean gloves - which in fact belonged to Kevin Thomas!

1 Jonathan Brownlee	21:23	Bradford GS
23 David Smith	24:39	
27 David Booth	25:36	
33 Nathan Buckingham	26:41	

Senior Men

Although we had a good club performance last year (when the event was held at Herringthorpe) I did have some concerns (fuelled by the lack of senior men at the Northern's and Nationals last year) that we may struggle to get a team. I need not have worried, the level of support was tremendous -with 9 runners going to the start line. Too good to be true.. I was certain that the entire squad would spontaneously combust or something, but no, they all ran with considerable guts and effort and we finished 11th team.

All our earlier runners were impressed with the hills in the lower field, the senior men had 3 laps to do!!

Jon, Richard & Phil finished lower down the field than last year, and probably slower than they would have liked. Richard also taking a bad fall on one of the descents. Excellent support from Chris & Simon, with Dan just holding off Howard for the 6th scorer, and John & Steve completing the team. Thanks to you all - bring on the Northern's!!

1 David Webb	LC	40:13
19 Jon Thewlis		43:47
37 Richard Harris		45:52
58 Phil Hooole		47:49
76 Chris Moran		49:08
98 Simon Mounsey		50:47
131 Dan Jones		53:47
132 Howard Darwin		53:51
143 John Spencer		55:23
169 Steve Rossall		58:20
209 finishers		

U13 Boys

Fergus Roberts	11:33	Richmond & Zetland
35 Curtis Benton	14:11	
51 William Johnston	14:50	
74 Andrew Lidster	23:18	

In the week leading up to the race, it was looking as though we were (at long last) going to field an U13 boys team. Unfortunately Alex Carroll had been ill since before Christmas, and Nicholas Myers had to pull out on Friday evening with sickness. On the day Curtis continued his consistent performances this season and new (in Dec) members William and Andrew ran their first ever county championship, and ensured we had one more runner than last year!

U17 Women

Although this is our strongest age group currently, and were easily last years team winners, the team was not without problems this year. Jade Allen was unable to run due to illness, & Natalie had been suffering with a cold the week

before the race, only deciding to run on the Thursday evening. Dennis was not sure how much she would be weakened by the illness. In the race Natalie ran strongly up to the departure from the top field - and the start of the hills. In



this shot she is hotly pursued by Laura and Jessica. Watching the race from the top of the biggest hill, I could see Natalie still running well, but being pursued by a fast running Laura Spence. Laura passed Natalie on the steep hill and at that point I thought that Natalie would be lucky to hold on to 2nd place - she looked so tired. As the results show she recovered on the downhill, held Laura's challenge up the last climb and sprinted in to a brave victory. As always the support was strong, Jess finishing one place higher than last year, and the dependable back-up from Laura (Barnes), Charlotte & Kim, as solid as ever.

1 Natalie Grant	19:33
2 Laura Spence	19:45
5 Jess Fawcett	20:32
24 Laura Barnes	23:07
27 Charlotte Vaughan	23:13
38 Kim Bateman	26:28

Senior & junior Ladies

This was one race where, in the week leading up to the event, I did not think I would have a problem getting a team, after all we had 10 runners entered (6 junior and 4 senior). I had already been advised that Jenny was invited to run in Belfast, but was still unconcerned - I mean a team of 3 from 9.....??? In the event we had 2 junior runners - due to illness, etc etc...

Rosie ran with her usual drive and commitment, but failed to keep with the winner of the junior event on the day. Behind Rosie, Sarah was having a great run finishing in her highest Yorkshire position, and gaining county selection for the first time. Tremendous!

1 Lorna Young	24:46
2 Rosie Edwards	25:22
8 Sarah Barnes	29:10



Silver medallists Chelsea Johnson, Poppy Knowles, Stef Burns and Robyn Lancelley



Laura Barnes, Charlotte Vaughan and Kim Bateman featured at the Yorkshire Cross-country, Skipton.

The photo on the right (courtesy Pat Rooney KRC) shows Mick Cochrane receiving his South Yorks O-60 gold award for cross-country from SY president Ralph Rowbotham. Mick was looking forward to taking on Dave Trickett but in the event Dave was injured.



South Yorkshire Cross-Country

South Yorkshire Cross Country, Final league & Championship Race
Winterhills, 14th Jan 2007

The 4th and final cross SY cross country event in this season's programme, was held in glorious sunshine. The course was hilly but with generally good underfoot conditions, and received favourable reviews from all the runners I spoke to.

The 4th event decides two sets of awards - the Championship awards, based upon positions in these races; The overall league positions, based upon the lowest points total from all 4 of the races (points are awarded equal to the finishing position in each race).

The event was organised by our club, and I must thank the following: Bert, Jim, Alan Bryden, David Haywood, and David Johnson for their dawn start and help in setting out and controlling the course. David Booth, whose crutches proved very useful, for marshalling and directing, and Marilyn and Alison for organising the refreshments. A much appreciated service which also made around £140 for club funds.

A big thank you to Nigel Brookes for taking the excellent photos shown in RR and on the web

The running order is changed for this last event, the Seniors go first to allow the results to be ready for the presentation. Our representative numbers in the senior events were much reduced, due to a number of runners competing in the Yorkshire Vets XC champs later on that same day.

The results in running order were:-

Senior, Junior & Vet Men Championship Pos'n	Overall League Position
1 John Heneghan Sheff.Uni	
16 Chris Moran	4th
33 Dan Jones	9th
35 Howard Darwin (V40)	6th
49 John Spencer (V40)	10th
53 Steve Rossall	14th
58 Mike Cochrane (1st V60)	1st
65 David Scholey (U20)	
66 Kerry Booth (V40)	17th
88 Kevin Thomas (V50)	
96 John Brian	

The key question for me, for this race, was " Will Kevin and David finish this time....?"

I had enquired earlier during the week at William Hill book-makers, as to the available odds on them both finishing this hilly hard course, and was advised to buy a lottery ticket instead, since the odds on winning were better! In the event they both finished, with David smiling and claiming

that he enjoyed the course. No comment from Kevin.

Congratulations to Mike for winning the O/60 championships and overall prizes

Senior, Junior and Vet Women

Rosie Edwards managed to win the ladies race for the first time this season. Nicola Squires (Hallamshire), who had struggled to stay with Rosie's early pace, but had won all the 3 earlier races, could not hold on this time. Rosie's winning margin in the end was 17secs, a great run which gave Rosie both overall and championship Gold medals. Sarah Barnes had another solid run finishing 8th overall on the day and 3rd U20. Sarah had missed the 3rd race, due to a heavy cold, and would have been second overall if not for that.

All our veteran ladies were competing in the later Yorks vets race.

U17 Women

The dominance of our athletes, in this category continues. This is amply demonstrated by the full results:-

Overall positions

1	15:30	Laura Spence	1
2	15:45	Jessica Fawcett	2
3	16:02	Kelly Hewitson	Hallamshire Harriers
4	17:13	Rosie Upton	Hallamshire Harriers
5	17:15	Laura Barnes	
6	17:35	Charlotte Vaughan	
7	18:46	Lisa Revitt	DoncasterAC
8	19:16	Rebecca White	
9	19:37	Alexandra Palmer	
10	20:28	Kim Bateman	6

Laura Spence and Jess Fawcett continued their excellent form this season. Both ran aggressively to seal their gold & silver medals. The usual number of black vested supporters were in attendance. Laura B having a good run.

U15 Boys

Cian was the only club runner to complete the full series, & was again our first finisher finishing a creditable 5th overall and 9th in the race. Sam Howis (11th) and new member Sam Johnson (12th) made up our finishing team. Again, I have no photos.

U13 Girls

Natasha continues her fine improving form this season, finishing 2nd in the race and in the overall positions. This is the closest Natasha has been to the overall winner - Remie Cockrell of Hallamshire - the gap being just 3 secs. Megan Bailey was our second scorer in 11th place, despite running much of the race with one shoe hanging off her foot, Melissa Hellewell was 15th, and Sarah Wilding 21st. Sarah

was the only other club member to run all 4 races finishing a well deserved 12th place overall.

Georgina Arif lost a shoe in the mud at the end of the first lap, and was unable to find it & finish.

U11 Girls

Georgina Spencer finished her 4th race in 12th place, and 9th position overall. Well done! Georgina was supported by Jessica Mangham in 18th place.

The full results are available on the SYAA website. I will add the full set of photos as soon as I can.

U17 Men

With David Booth not running, due to stress fracture in his foot sustained at the Yorkshire race, David Smith and Nathan Buckingham represented us in this group. David finishing 8th and Nathan 9th.

U15 Girls

Robyn and Abbie again ran well, and easily won the overall first two medals. On the last race however, they were beaten by Rebecca Newton (Hallamshire)

Position	Overall Positions
2 Robyn Lancelly	1
3 Abbie Vernon	2
9 Poppy Knowles	
12 Rachel Hall	8
15 Rebecca Middleton	
18 Georgina Palmer	10
21 Chelsea Johnson	

U13 Boys

None of our boys have finished all 4 races, and so are not eligible for overall awards. In the race Alex Carroll showed that he is recovering well from the cold that prevented him running the Yorks event last weekend, finishing 4th here. Nicholas Myers and Andrew Lidster, who have both been good club supporters since joining, finished 9th and 12th respectively.

U11 Boys

Only one club athlete, Jordan Small, has done all 4 races finishing 4th overall. Jordan has run well in his first year at cross country and deserves his good result.

New members were running here, showing great promise, with Aiden Hall, who finished 2nd, in what I think is his first SY race, and Ricky Benton 6th. Joe Hobson completed our finishing team in 11th place. Well done to you all

Christmas Celebration

Rotherham Trades Club, Friday 22nd December 2006.

This year we tried a new format with the Young Athletes and Seniors receiving their accolades at the same function. The evening was a tremendous success. Guests were treated to a fantastic buffet supplied by parents and athletes a big thank you to them, Santa Claus managed to drop in spite of a heavy schedule he presented a seasonal Gift to over 50 of our youngsters. The following is a synopsis of the evening:-

Chairman Jim Brogan Welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview of the year:-

"Good evening everyone, I'd like to welcome you all to the Rotherham Harriers Christmas Awards and Presentations Evening. Now this is a somewhat unique occasion, in that tonight we have representation from ALL age groups of the club, including children, seniors, veterans, and all of all our club activities including track and field, cross country, road running. In past years we have tended to have various separate functions but tonight, for the first time certainly in my memory, we have brought everything together into one huge all embracing celebration. And why not! We are big and very successful club and it's only fitting that ALL of the club should be here tonight to celebrate the festive season, and for ALL of us to applaud the many awards we will be seeing presented tonight.

But before we embark on tonight's various activities I would just like to briefly mention a few of the many success stories from the year gone bye.

Starting with Road events, we had success for both the senior men's and ladies teams at various times, with best placings for some years at the men's 12 stage and ladies 4 stage road relays. Indeed, Jenny Blizard, of whom you will be hearing more tonight, ran the fastest leg of the day by nearly half a minute in the ladies event, which is a tremendous achievement at this level. Performances of this calibre achieved International recognition for Jenny in the form of selection for the Great Britain team at the prestigious Chiba Ekiden relays held in Japan.

At Cross country our success has virtually been all about our under 17 ladies. Success has followed success in the past year. A clean sweep of team gold medals at Yorkshire, Northern and National levels really brought this successful squad to the public's attention, and at this year's National Cross Country Relays they achieved a tremendous silver medal performance. Next year hopefully looks like being another very successful year.

On the track it has been a very good year for our teams. The Young Athletes team achieved promotion to the Northern Premier League, after winning their North East league. Not to be outdone, our under 20's also won the Humber division of the National Junior League, but were unsuccessful at the play-offs in somewhat controversial circumstances. Still on the subject of controversial circumstances the senior team won their League in division 2 of the Northern league, only to be denied promotion to Northern League 1 thanks to a very dubious 'play off' which never actually took place.

Individually there have also been some great success stories in the past year in track and field. Natalie Grant took Gold in the NoEAA Indoor Championships at the EIS, Sheffield with a new CBP in the 1500m, and she quickly followed this up with a silver at 800m in the AAA indoor championships.

Now as I said earlier on, this is only a very brief review of this year's highlights, and you will be hearing more about our athletes achievements when we start the award presentations later. However please don't anyone be offended if they feel I have missed them out. I could honestly end up standing here all night reviewing all of the excellent achievements of the past year.

Now briefly a word about what we can expect tonight. Naturally we have a whole host of awards to come. Shortly we will be having the buffet, and thanks to everyone who provided a contribution to tonight's food. But before that, we will be having a visit from another very special guest. I'm sure it's not difficult to guess who this very special guest is. Even some of the adults are going to get excited when he squeezes his ample frame through the door. So please may I welcome, the one and only, Father Christmas....."

Santa Claus arrived looking resplendent in his red and white robes. He presented gifts to over 50 of our youngsters before speeding off to other duties

A delicious Buffet was had by all.

The following awards were then presented

The Maurice Jackson Awards Announced by Kevin Thomas presented by Stephen Gaines

These awards are presented at the conclusion of the cross country season. To qualify for them athletes have to complete all the four cross country races in the South Yorks CC Calendar. The gold award goes to the best overall performer in each age group and so on.

Before we presented the awards Kevin Thomas gave a brief outline:-

The 1950's are referred to in the history of the club as The Glorious Fifties. This was mainly due to the performance of the cross country section. In 1951 our senior men cross country team finished in 3rd place in the National Cross Country Championships. Maurice Jackson was Club Captain for many years in the 1950's, he was an international having represented England and was one of the best cross country runners ever produced by the club, being part of the successful 1951 team. He lived in Langold Village and was a miner by profession. Because of his prowess in Cross Country it is very apt that the club should put his name to the awards.

Scrutiny of the results from the 2004/2005 season enables the presentations to be made as follows:-

Under 11 Girls 1 Georgina Spencer 2 Brittney Sutton
Under 13 Girls 1 Poppy Knowles 2 Rachel Hall 3 Olivia Neal
Under 15 Girls 1 Robyn Lanceley 2 Chelsea Johnson 3 Stephanie Burns
Under 11 Boys 1 Cameron Rush
Under 13 Boys 1 Cian Scothern 2 Zac Rush
Under 15 Boys 1 Liam O'Malley

The AB sponsored awards. Announced by Bert Norburn presented by Club President Dave Johnson

"..I have great pleasure in presenting the following athletes with a cheque for £100:

Jade Allen, Natalie Grant, Claire Lebond, Stacey Lebond, Amber Merrills (cannot be here skiing with her parents in Austria), Thereza Oliver-Smith, Kelly Pagdin and Abbie Vernon,

This is in acknowledgement of their efforts this season which has resulted in them being placed in the top 20 National Power of 10 Ranking List. To achieve this level in competition is tremendous.

We are able pass on this reward thanks to sponsorship from an anonymous benefactor who not only has donated £100 to the athlete but also £100 to general club funds for each athlete aged under 20 years of age who achieved the top 20 target.

This year that represents a payment of £1600 to your Club. (The benefactor actually rounded the gift up to £2000 a tremendous gesture of support.)

When you consider that the 2006 year end accounts indicated a total expenditure of almost £14000 this should indicate the generosity of the anonymous benefactor.

The executive committee are delighted to receive the sponsorship and were particularly pleased how it rewarded individual effort and also contributed to the general funding of the club.

The anonymous benefactor has indicated that they would like to make the awards yearly a tremendous boost to our youngsters and the club."

Jack Phipps, Patricia Muller, Best Middle Distance performance, Most Improved athlete (Announced and presented as indicated) Announced by Bert Norburn presented by Club President Dave Johnson

The Jack Phipps Memorial Award

This is presented to the male person for services to the Club.

The nominations were

Peter Humphries (for website development and newsletter, organising two new races)
Brian Parkes (for coaching commitment to the Club)
Simon Pugh (for consistently representing the Club)
Phil Hoole (for supporting the Club in Road, Track and XC events)

The recipient was Peter Humphries

The Patricia Muller Memorial Award

Club Chairman Jim Brogan introduced this award new to the Club following the untimely death of our lady member. He outlined how the award was conceived and explained that it was presented to the female member for services to the Club

Patricia's husband Mo was present and he addressed the audience explaining what the award meant to him he was very warmly received.

The nominations were

Jenny Horan (for commitment to races and assisting other Club members on training runs)
Gillian Taylor (for her services in the roll as Treasurer organising senior ladies teams and for representing the club in races)
Allison Booth (for assisting in the Club shop)
Marilyn Norburn (for running the club shop)

The recipient of the award was Gillian Taylor
Mo Muller presented the award and said that he was absolutely delighted with the executive's choice of first recipient of the award.

The Peter Elliott Award

Announced by Bert Norburn presented by Club President Dave Johnson

This is an annual award is for the best middle distance performance by any member of the Club

The nominations were

Abbie Vernon, Jade Allen, Natalie Grant

With the following achievements:

NoEAA Indoor Champs Gold Medal 1500m CBP,
Bronze in 800m same event,
AAA's Indoor Silver Medal,
1500m Silver Medal in Yorkshire Championships,
Bronze in 1500m NoEAA Champs.
In AAA's Champs she finished 7th in 3K Final.
Selected to run in the Mini Olympics in Glasgow finishing in 5th place in 1500m

The recipient was Natalie Grant

Most Improved Athlete

Announced by Bert Norburn presented by Club President Dave Johnson

Awarded annually to the athlete who has shown most improvement in any area of club activity.

Nominations

Amber Merrills For her dedication, commitment and motivation in achieving entry into English Schools and taking Gold Medal in U15 Shot Put with a personal best.
Phillip Hoole For overall improvement in road racing and track

Joanna Walker For her improvement in Track Competition.

Gareth Moreton For his performances in 400m attaining

Continued page 7 opposite/

County English School Standard and ranked 5th in Power of 10 rankings for Yorkshire & Humberside

Stacey Lebond For attaining English School Standard in Hammer, taking silver medal in those championships ranked 2nd in Yorkshire & Humberside Power of 10 and 15th in National Power of 10 listings.

Liam O'Malley For achieving 4th ranking place in Yorkshire & Humberside Power of 10 Rankings and County English Schools Standard in the Triple Jump

Jenny Blizard For her transition from an outstanding Club and Regional athlete to an international Athlete.

The recipient was Stacey Lebond.

The executive committee would wish to congratulate all the nominees all of which warranted their nominations. The discussions to decide the recipients was lengthy and very difficult. There are probably many others who could have been considered but the executive could only consider the persons who received nominations.

Club Championships and Mileage Awards 2006

Announced by Stephen Gaines presented Club President Dave Johnson

Stephen Gaines thanked Alan Bryden for all his work in relation to these events and awards.

Mileage awards

These awards are for the number of racing and training miles logged in the year.

David Burke 2214 miles Gold award

Dave Weatherburn 1655 miles
Malcolm Rhodes 1351 miles

Silver award
Bronze award

For the highest total of points in all championship races.
Gillian Taylor 459 points from 9 races

Crystal vase
Matthew Asbridge 634 points from 14 races
Silver salver

Championship Awards

There were 22 races in this years championship in which 57 men and 28 ladies ran at least one race. These awards are given for achieving the highest points from eight races.

In the Men's competition we had the closest finish since the Club Championships was begun in 1985 by Peter Humphries. The championship went to the wire and was decided in the last race of the season at the Worksop half marathon. Nigel Brookes winning by one point from Matthew Asbridge with Neil Shaw a further one point behind Matthew.

Champion Nigel Brookes 388 points
Two crystal brandy goblets.
Runner up Matthew Asbridge 387 points
Two crystal beer tumblers.
Third Neil Shaw 386 points
Two crystal beer tumblers.

In the Ladies competition Gillian Taylor has been a clear winner after a tremendous season.

Champion Gillian Taylor 413 points
Two crystal brandy goblets.
Runner up Patricia Wells 386 points
Two crystal wine glasses
Third Joanna Walker 348 points
Two crystal wine glasses

Special Award to Jenny Blizard

Announced and presented by Bert Norburn presented by Club President Dave Johnson
It is usual for the Club to recognise any of our athletes who achieve International Selection. Tonight we are delighted to welcome Jenny Blizard in order to celebrate her selection in the Norwich Union Great Britain and Northern Ireland Team for the Chiba Ekiden Relays which were run in Japan on Thursday 23 November. The team in which Jenny ran achieved fifth place, their highest position since 1993 finishing in 2 hours 20 minutes 49 seconds, their second fastest time in the 17-year history of this race. Their quickest, 2:19:12, was fired by Paula Radcliffe, the world marathon record holder.

Jenny competed in the 6th Stage (7.2km): It was a strange distance, mainly uphill but she coped well enough with the extra pressure of running the 'glory leg' on her international debut to retain fifth place. Her time of 24:42 was ninth fastest overall.

Jenny quickly followed her first International vest with an England vest competing for England in the IAAF permitted cross country event in Belgium last week end. We would like her to accept this 8" lead crystal plate which has been suitably engraved to commemorate the achievement



Shots from Yorkshire Senior and Vets



Bottom left outer clockwise (not in any order): Steve Rossall, Jon Thewlis, Richard Harris, Chris Moran, Phil Hoole (Yorks). Richard took O35 silver at Yorks Vets. Paul Ruddleston taking bronze)45 at Yorks Vets; Peter Humphries hotly pursued by Gill Taylor on her way to individual silver O50 and bronze team O45 with Sharon Burton and Paula Fisher. Peter ran behind Malc Palfreyman and Brian Harney for team O60 silver. My apology to Pat Wells (can't find a picture) who won bronze O60. Above John Spencer and Simon Mounsey.

On the right you can see Howard Darwin just getting in frame behind Dan Jones at Skipton. Top rate supporters this year and I will get a better shot of Howard for February.





Picture Quiz

Not only is it top-class to see Janet Hindley back racing with us, it's great to have her back, with Ian, contributing to the newsletter! She has recently sent me four items for the quiz; two of them (which I DO know about!) are due next month, and two which are more of a mystery are presented here.

Jent says she would like to know "who the four chicks are with her dad" (her wording!). To clue you in a little if need be, Janet was Janet Oxley when single and her father, Arthur Oxley was a long-time stalwart of RHAC as a runner and subsequently as a coach. She says she has no idea who the team comprises in the other photo or what the occasion was. However, it looks suspiciously like snow on the ground in the background, warm bottoms being worn, and do certain face(s) look familiar? So ladies and gentlemen, what's the trophy? When? And who (else)?

Left A strong supporter of RH this season, Chelsea Johnson is pictured with the mayor of Rotherham being awarded for hard work and commitment in her school.

[We had the picture last month in a format which I couldn't open- problem now solved : Ed]



Last Two Months



The intriguing shot from Arthur Jeavons, a competition (or exhibition) entry, captioned "Photo by Peter Brook ARPS Rotherham Photographic Society 'Poems and Pictures' 2004" and was sent to Arthur by Dave Hibberd of Loxley., and it featured last month. It has caused some controversy. Arthur's interest in this picture is simple: what is it? The donor couldn't tell him as he is now medically infirm. The picture isn't too clear (as it an art exhibit!) and magnification for the number credits didn't help me. Some colleagues thought they could see the route as Brampton straight mile but I disagreed, mainly as none of the vests looked familiar, and the numbers don't look like typical RH numbers so I doubted personally whether it's our area at all.

However, David Haywood tells me that he DID order numbers such as these on at least one occasion!! I have been out to the straight mile at Brampton today to have another look: it could be there, I have to admit. If so, the hedge on the right has grown up a lot (quite possible of course) and the trees in the background are not there now. There IS a row of trees of the same height as that, but not poplars. They do look like ash trees, which could grow to that height in, say, 30 years. The area where they are is enclosed and locked (for a house) but I could see from the gate that there is, at least, (still?) one poplar amongst them.

My guess as to Herringthorpe Valley park for Hugh O'Mara's shot (left) was correct!

Steve Gaines writes: ".....I spoke to Hugh, who told me it was Herringthorpe Valley park, a SY league race in 1989. Hugh told me that the race was won by Carl Thackery. I have the results for 1989, and either Hugh has the wrong year, or the wrong winner. The 1989 winner was Simon Ellis. Other RH scorers were Phil Roberts 6th, me 21st, Dave Richards 28th, Hugh 32nd and Paul Davis 33rd.

Interestingly, one J Blizard was 20th in the girls race (running for SCS) That should be used for motivational purposes - to show what can be achieved from that base! "



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