



Congratulations to Jenny Blizard who was on song at the Liverpool Half marathon with a 1.15.53 winning performance



Our colleague Luke Brady, a former cancer patient and now one of RH's top supporters. Also now a fundraiser. You can help by sponsoring Luke for London at [www.runningsponsorsome.org/lukebrady2](http://www.runningsponsorsome.org/lukebrady2) or at the club



Mark Ruddleston continues to be a class act and dropped by to help ensure the success of the Bassingthorpe Spring race

**Thick and Fast**

**South Yorkshire Road League** is almost on us. If you blink your eyes, you'll miss it- three races in April with the last in May

**Track & Field League** also, on the 26th, with NJL the day after

**Quote:**

**'We are very proud of you all...'**

.....Sid Scoop (reports page 3,6 & 7)

What better headline could we find? And what more can I say than to wholeheartedly agree with the sentiments of Sid and Steve Gaines, who in their various ways report the culmination of the cross-country season in these pages. Not only has Sid been encouraged into making not one but THREE Sid Scoop reports; encouraged also into turning out in the challenging Bassingthorpe Spring event where he finished a decent 30th place, though probably handicapped by his notebook, pen and laptop.

Photos below are of the bronze medal winning U 20 team from the national XC (report page 4). And how nice it is into the bargain to see Jade and Jess back doing well.

The other photo is of Rosie Edwards at the Inter Counties champs. Rosie was the first scorer in the RH&AC U20 women's team, also in the Yorkshire senior women's winning team, and now selected to run for England in the Home Countries Cross Country International to be held at Edinburgh on the 29th March the day before the World Cross Country Championships. We all wish her a successful run.



**Bassingthorpe Spring:- Organisers well happy!**

The Bassingthorpe cross-country event could not have been better on the day. It was only intended as a local club race really, hence the lack of widespread entry forms, but a lot of effort went into advertising at RHAC and on the internet, with newsletter and even direct mailing to encourage support. I can only say that the club response was magnificent really, with a very fine turn-out of runners and no shortage of assistance- by plan or on the day (I got the feeling that many would have turned out anyway, which is even better!). This was the third race of the Kimberworth-Maltby-Rotherham series and again as at Braithwell RH success was very pronounced. (Next in series is Maltby Memorial Race, 28th May). It is good to see that RH members are again supporting their own events- and of course encouraging their organisers!

After seriously considering dropping the race this year, it came as a pleasant surprise that runners were so positive about it. It's no cakewalk

for a start, at 26 metres of climb per mile it's only just short of fell standards (30m) and it was hard work despite the fact that I shortened it to 5.25 miles this year. Perhaps the unusually fine day helped? Generously sponsored for a second year by Clive Davenport (Newton Wright Construction Ltd), the race was based at the Plough Inn, Roughwood Road where we had a warm welcome from hosts George and Colleen Austin. George and Clive are pictured (right) with ladies' winner Eleanor Thomas, who has been putting together an impressive list of performances in cross-country and subsequently road races this winter.



Results, comment and more pictures page 3)

**South Yorkshire Road League**

2008 Numbers are now on sale in the kiosk - price £6 for the 4 races

You need to confirm which age category you are in when you collect your number.

The age categories are:-

**Male** U17, Senior, Vet 40-44, Vet 45-49, Vet 50-54, Vet 55-59, Vet 60-64, V65-69.

**Female** U17, Senior, Vet 35-39, Vet 40-44, Vet 45-49, Vet 50-54, V55-59.

If you change age groups during the series, your first age group applies.

Prizes are awarded for the lowest times for the 4 races in the series.

The races are:

<b>Doncaster</b> (Hayfield Lakes)	<b>Weds 16th April</b>
<b>Penistone</b> (Oxspring)	<b>Weds 23rd April</b>
<b>Rotherham</b> (Dinnington Rugby club)	<b>Weds 30th April</b>
<b>Barnsley</b> (Worsborough)	<b>Weds 14th May</b>

All races start at 7:00pm

The prizes will be presented in the Worsborough Sport & Social club after the last event.

**SUPPORT YOUR CLUB**

**Secretary's Report**

**Steve Gaines**

**New Members**

The following applications were approved at the last committee meeting: Gemma Williamson (13), Jennifer Massingham (11), Sam Fisher (15) Welcome!

**Subs and England Athletics affiliation update**

To date 141 members have paid 2008 subs. All members who have yet to pay are reminded that the subs increase by £5 if not paid by the end of March.

We have been advised that there will be a delay to issuing the new 2008/2009 competition licences (due to system problems). It is likely that the licences - which run from 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009 - will be issued in May.

We are still working on actions to get the club membership database accurate and up to date.

There are some 500 names on the membership database list, of which 300 paid subs last year.

The aim is to ensure that only current active members, who have paid competitor or associate membership subscriptions are on the database. Please note: Coaches, registered Officials & Club Officers receive free membership.

**Review of the club committee structure & roles**

The club executive committee are reviewing the current committee structure and make-up.

The aim is to ensure that we have a structure that covers all of the necessary areas needed for a successful club.

This means having committee members who are able to represent and deal with the following areas of responsibility: Athlete welfare & competition, Coach and Officials co-ordination, Event organisation, Club membership, organisation and Finance, Club development and publicity.

Any changes will need to be agreed at the AGM by the voting membership.

Rather than wait until then, we are making some temporary changes to cover those areas where we need action now. We are considering the cessation of both the Young Athletes & Social secretary roles.

We have introduced a new Coaching Co-ordinator role, and Jim Brogan has agreed to cover that.

We have a vacancy for an Officials Co-ordinator.

If anyone wishes to put themselves forward for a committee role, please see Steve Gaines, Jim Brogan or Peter Humphries.

Similarly let us know if you have any views on areas or issues which require action or attention, so we can address them as part of this review.

**Welcome to new coaches**

Nichola Myers has joined our coaching squad (looking after U13 & U15 boys middle distance). Matt Fenwick has now achieved grade 1 accreditation, and Ricky Thorpe grade 2 sprints accreditation. Matt will be working with the U11 /U13 reception group, and Ricky will become the sprint coach for young and intermediate athletes.

**Fixtures: March 2008 to May 31st**

**ROTHERHAM THURSDAY**

**Peter Humphries**

**March**

Sat 29 Mar	road	Ulley Time Trial 6	RH.guests11 am provisional date Last
Sun 30 Mar	road	City of Lincoln 10k	open
Sun 30 Mar	trail/f	Easter Chucky 10k & Fun run	open Wath Cricket C, Revised course
Sun 30 Mar	road	Wilmslow Half Marathon	open FULL
Sun 30 Mar	track&f	Winter Warm Up	open Scunthorpe (form on RH web)
Mon 31 Mar	trail/f	Trunce	open Oxspring

**April**

Sat 05 Apr	road	Rother Valley 10k	open City of Sheffield
Sat 05 Apr	trail/f	Silkstone Shuffle	open Barnsley AC
<b>Sun 06 Apr</b>	road ch	<b>Northern 12 &amp; 6 Stage Relays</b>	<b>clubs Catterick Garrison 11.30</b>
Sun 06 Apr	track&f	Spring Open Meeting, Herringthorpe	open All Age groups
Sun 06 Apr	trail/f	Baldon Boundary Way	open
Sun 13 Apr	road	London Marathon	open
Sun 13 Apr	track&f	Open Track & Field	open Doncaster
Sun 13 Apr	track&f	Wakefield Spring open meeting	open All ages. £2 per ev C/D 2nd April
Wed 16 Apr	road	South Yorks Road League	SY clubs Hayfield prob
Sat 19 Apr	track&f	Sheffield Festival of Athletics	open
Sun 20 Apr	road	Rothwell 10k	open Leeds
Wed 23 Apr	road	South Yorks Road League	SY clubs Penistone prob
Thu 24 Apr	trail/f	Hartcliffe Hill Race	open Penistone
Sat 26 Apr	track&f	South Yorks T&F League	SY clubs all ages t.b.c.
<b>Sat 26 Apr</b>	road ch	<b>National 12 &amp; 6 stage Relays</b>	<b>clubs Suton Park 12 noon</b>
Sun 27 Apr	road	Sheffield Half Marathon	open
Sun 27 Apr	track&f	National Junior League	club teams match 1
Wed 30 Apr	road	South Yorks Road League	SY clubs Dinnington

**May**

Sat 03 May	track&f	Northern Athletics League	clubs Match 1 Hull
<b>Sat 03 May</b>	t&f ch	<b>BUSA Championship</b>	<b>open also 4th and 5th</b>
Sun 04 May	cross	Treeton Torture	open
Sun 04 May	ya t&f	National YAL	clubs match 1 N 1 E Doncaster
Wed 07 May	trail/f	Tigger Todger	open Tolley AC
<b>Sat 10 May</b>	t&f ch	<b>Yorkshire T &amp; F Champs</b>	<b>open Don Valley also 11th</b>
Sun 11 May	road	Larwood Surgery 10k	open Shireoaks, Worksop
Wed 14 May	road	South Yorks Road League	SY clubs Worsbrough prob
Sat 17 May	track&f	South Yorks T&F League	SY clubs 8-15 years
Sat 17 May	road	Rotherham Hospice Run for All	open Herringthorpe
Sun 18 May	ya t&f	National YAL	open match 2 N Premier Sheffield
Sun 18 May	road	Eyam Half	open
Tue 20 May	trail/f	Tolley Moor Fell Race	open Tolley AC
Wed 21 May	road	Askern 10k	open Askern AC
Thu 22 May	track&f	South Yorks T&F League	SY clubs seniors t.b.c.
Thu 22 May	road	Horwich Jubilee Races	open start of a series
<b>Sat 24 May</b>	t&f ch	<b>Northern T&amp;F Champs</b>	<b>open U15/17 also 25th</b>
Sun 25 May	track&f	National Junior League	SY clubs match 2
<b>Sun 25 May</b>	t&f ch	<b>CAU Inter-counties T&amp;F Champs</b>	<b>select also 26th</b>
Tue 27 May	trail/f	Hallam Chase	open Hallamshire H
Wed 28 May	trail/f	Memorial Race Maltby	open Wesley Centre KMR 7pm start £3

THURSDAY evening runs are about to start. Timely to have a reminder about what and where they are.

We are aiming to have the first on **Thursday April 3rd** as the clocks go forward on the 31st March.

**VENUE:** possibly the Loyal Trooper at South Anston. Confirmation at the club Wednesday 26 March, Monday and Wednesday following OR on the website (new pages) OR by phone 01709 549125

**POINTS OF INTEREST:** the run would take in Anston Stones Wood which is very attractive anyway and has early spring flowers in some profusion.

**MEET:** at the pub car park for a 6.15 start

**RUN:** for about 5-7 miles steady, but you can cut short. Nothing foolish.

**AFTER:** a brief drink if you have time & inclination

**HOW THESE EVENTS WORK**

A number of colleagues have volunteered or been levered into offering an event. Briefly,

1 you select a venue either near your home or somewhere you know. Not at or very near Herringthorpe, we already do that. Not a huge distance away as people may well be working etc prior to the run.

2 if it's a pub or other private place, ask the landlord etc for their blessing. They are generally happy in exchange for the custom.

3 have in mind a middle-distance run which has some interest for other members

And that's all. We don't need buffets organising or changing accommodation etc. It's very casual. Only one, or two might turn up, or many might. Time will tell. If no-one turns up, you have a pleasant training run yourself. !!

Basically, just don't go to a lot of trouble. The points are, to make it casual, but to offer a run in a different area to where we normally run.

Some friends have offered a run from their home. This most generous gesture will be taken up but it needs a bit of planning to avoid "numbers" problems and consequent distress to neighbours.

**Summary:**

**THURS 3 APRIL 6.15 start LOYAL TROOPER, SOUTH ANSTON to be confirmed**

Bassingthorpe Spring 9/3/08

## Spring in the Air

Pretty much the full strength of RH male category champions gave it a shot at Wingfield on the 9th March, so it came as hardly a surprise that that's where the prizes went. And of course some of the ladies. Mark struggled to wake up on lap one but then went away after some early pace-pushing from Mark Woodhouse and Dave Booth in particular. Mark R continues to be a class act however, and had this one under control throughout part two.

It's nice to see Pete Shaw back amongst it locally, heading up a hat-full of sharp runners. I was most impressed by a number of runners who took part to support when clearly not at the racing fittest: heavy training for London maybe; Grindleford the day before perhaps; and so on. Their presence helped ensure the event success and does not go un-noticed.

Pictures below are Hayley and Natalie Flintham and Sophie Kirby on the receiving end of Easter egg prizes for the short course race as is winner Georgina Spencer (right).

My personal thanks to officials and marshalls notably: Jim Brogan, Gill Taylor, John Spencer, Alan Gregory, Ralph Rowbotham, Arthur Jeavons, Wendy Fuller, Paul Campbell, Tony Sarjeant, Kevin Thomas. And to Steve Gaines and Peter Neal for the tent.

Many thanks to all participants especially from KRC and MRC. We look forward to seeing you at the Memorial Race (May).



1	Mark Ruddleston	Rotherham Harriers	32.29	VM45
2	Mark Woodhouse	Kimberworth S	32.53	SM
3	Pete Shaw	Rotherham Harriers	33.16	VM50
4	Dave Nuttall	Rotherham Harriers	33.27	VM45
5	Darren Naylor	Wombwell SAC	33.44	SM
6	Howard Darwin	Rotherham Harriers	33.51	VM40
7	Peter Neal	Rotherham Harriers	34.03	VM50
8	Bob Tintinger	Rotherham Harriers	34.53	VM60
9	Terry Eastwood	Rotherham Harriers	35.21	VM50
10	David Booth	Rotherham Harriers	37.01	JM
11	Steve Gaines	Rotherham Harriers	37.18	VM50
12	Mark Elliott	Kimberworth S	37.36	SM
13	Mick Cochrane	Rotherham Harriers	38.14	VM60
14	Phil Eddison	Rotherham Harriers	38.30	VM50
15	Terry Hawley	Rotherham Harriers	39.27	VM60
16	Alvin Hickling	Kimberworth S	39.31	VM50
17	Kerry Booth	Rotherham Harriers	39.33	VM45
18	Jerry Spencer	Rotherham Harriers	39.59	VM50
19	Geoffrie Beattie	Sale H	40.14	VM50
20	Eleanor Thomas	Rotherham Harriers	40.22	SL
21	Paul Ashwood	Kimberworth S	41.55	SM
22	Janet Hindley	Rotherham Harriers	42.03	VL40
23	Keith Binney	Barnsley AC	42.10	VM60
24	Sharon Burton	Rotherham Harriers	42.21	VL45
25	Jim Rust	Maltby RC	42.24	VM50
26	John Kirk	Rotherham Harriers	42.27	VM50
27	Peter Townson	Rotherham Harriers	42.30	VM40
28	Phillippa James	Rotherham Harriers	42.33	VL40
29	Debbie Hogarth	Kimberworth S	42.40	VM45
30	Ian Hindley	Rotherham Harriers	42.40	VM45
31	Ken Chapman	Kimberworth S	43.25	VM60
32	Nina Hague	Kimberworth S	43.34	VL40
33	Marisol Carrera	Bingley	44.12	VL35
34	Carol Beattie	Steel City S	44.24	VL50
35	Mick Hill	Rotherham Harriers	45.23	VM50
36	Phil Roberts	Rotherham Harriers	45.25	VM50
37	Phil Haigh	Rotherham Harriers	45.42	VM50
38	Dave Wright	Rotherham Harriers	46.22	VM50
39	Ruth Carnall	Kimberworth S	46.33	SL
40	Dave Thorpe	Maltby RC	46.59	VM50
41	Claire Chapman	Kimberworth S	47.58	SL
42	Lee Barraclough	Kimberworth S	49.06	SM
43	Barbara Rusling	Maltby RC	49.18	VL45
44	Lynne Schuller	Maltby RC	49.20	VL45
45	Georgina Cliffe	Kimberworth S	49.31	VL35
46	Harvey Antcliffe	Kimberworth S	50.11	VM60
47	Andrew Green	Kimberworth S	53.34	VM40
48	Diane Spencer	Rotherham Harriers	54.22	VL40
49	Ann Marie Hainsworth	Bannatynes	54.31	VL40
50	Nick Scarr	Bannatynes	59.38	SM
51	Christine Kirk	Rother Vy Swallows	60.57	VL45
52	Ray Mathews	Maltby RC	62.00	VM60
53	Paul Stephenson	Rotherham Harriers	62.12	VM60
54	Maggie Steel	Bannatynes	63.28	VL40



## The Sid Scoop Report

Bassingthorpe Spring 5.25mils - 9 March 2008

Terry Eastwood was stood at the bar in the Plough Inn when a bowl of nuts said "you are the best looking man I have ever seen." Suddenly, a one armed bandit commented, "you are the ugliest man I have ever seen." Terry approached the landlord who explained that the nuts were complimentary & the bandit was out of order.

### President

On the start line of the first Harriers race of the 2007-8 KMR series promoted by President Peter Humphries, there was one question to be answered. Was Fat Lad Hindley's first tentative training steps when the recent earthquake occurred more than "purely coincidental?"

In order to bring 21<sup>st</sup> century reporting into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, I had a novel idea of following club stalwart Mark Ruddleston to see what makes this former clock salesman tick. Unfortunately he set off at a speed approaching Mach 1 & Plan B was to follow anyone in front of me. 32mins 29secs after Jim Brogan had blown the starting whistle, Mark crossed the line to score a confidence boosting win which can only enhance his chances of Olympic selection. In an exclusive interview, he said "the time has come for me to put my reputation on the line in these type of events."

Coach Shaw's cunning plan to introduce double sessions in the preceding week, culminating in a Sunday rest day for his group, paid dividends as he finished 3<sup>rd</sup> with an excellent 33.16. Yorkshire 060 Cross Country Champ Bob Tintinger clocked an impressive 34.53 for an equally impressive 8<sup>th</sup> place while top Junior David Booth was 2 places behind with an auspicious 37.01.

### First Lady

First lady was Eleanor Thomas who was 20<sup>th</sup> overall with 40.22. In another exclusive interview, she claimed her current good form was due to reading Jim Brogan's latest coaching manual "So you want to run as fast as Mark Ruddleston." "If only I had read up to chapter 3, I maybe could have gone sub-40 today" she said.

A total of 54 athletes completed the event, including 27 Harriers. Finally, thank you to all the officials, marshalls & hosts for helping to make this event a success.

Peter informs me that the course included 26m of climb per mile & the minimum requirement for a Fell Race is only 30m! Could Steve Gaines please advise where it is possible to prepare for such an event in Doncaster? Next race in the series is the Memorial Race to be promoted by Maltby RC on Wednesday 28 May.

Sid Scoop

### Bassingthorpe Spring Short Course Run - Results

Posn	Name	Club	Time
1	Georgina Spencer	Rotherham Harriers	22.43
2	Hayley Flintham	Rotherham Harriers	26.00
3	Sophie Kirby	Rotherham Harriers	27.32
4	Chris Flintham	Unattached	28.41
5	Natalie Flintham	Rotherham Harriers	28.54
6	Jenny Horan	Rotherham Harriers	28.56
7	Luke Brady	Rotherham Harriers	28.57

# National Report

ECCA National Cross Country Championships

Alton Towers 23rd Feb 2008

This was the first time that this venue had been used for a National championships, (it had been used once for a Midlands champs) and the course proved to be very hilly, muddy and hard.

The venue did however have some attraction - the theme park was open! As team manager I was unsure of the net benefit of this, and didn't know whether people ran faster to spend more time on the rides or slower to allow more energy for the rides.

We had an increased turn out over last year with 38 runners and 5 scoring teams (29 runners and 4 teams last year). Thanks to you all for turning out.

Pride of place goes to the U20 women's team who won bronze team medals, but again we had teams in both the U13 events and this is very encouraging - and a credit to the athletes & parents. There was plenty of vocal support around the course, particularly near the top of the killer hill

On the domestic side, the weather was calmer than a) last year at Sunderland b) the County Champs at Huddersfield, and c) The Northern champs, with the result that the tent remained in place for the whole day. I had managed to select a prime site for the tent, only yards from the burger stalls/ hog roasts. What a shame therefore that Nigel Brookes, our best eater, could not be there to sample the food!

For the first time many of the female runners were wearing face painted club stars, courtesy of make up & wardrobe dept. The 7 pointed star however proved difficult to replicate on the day.

Thanks to Jim for his help with issuing numbers, Alison for the photos and Petes Neal & Shaw for help with the tent.



## Loitering within Tent?

A mixed-age group at the National. Thanks for this photo and many others in this edition to secretary Steve Gaines, who has provided a truly attractive website section with his cross-country reports, results, and galleries.

### Under 13 Girls

Another good turnout, with 7 athletes running. The team was led home by Codie, who didn't repeat her tremendous form of the Northern champs, but nevertheless had a solid run. There was good back-up from the other runners, resulting in a respectable 29th team place.

#### Results

1 Jessica Judd Thurrock H.	11:22
47 Codie Marsh	12:31
194 Megan Bailey	13:45
291 Georgina Spencer	14:45
306 Emily Hutchinson	14:56
342 Rachel Owen	15:40
353 Elspeth Bovan	16:14
362 Hayley Flintham	17:17

#### Team

1 AF&D 53 pts  
29 RH&AC 838pts

### Under 13 boys

In a refreshing change from last year, we again managed to field enough runners to finish a scoring team. This was despite the fact that Michael Page was injured playing football in the days before the event, and we decided that he should not risk running, and that Quin Simms was ill and unable to run. The race itself was not without incident, Nick losing his shoe early in the proceedings, and this was not a course that suited socks!

#### Results

1 Fergus Roberts Ric & Zet	11:22
205 Nicholas Myers	12:38
232 Christopher Page	12:47
266 William Johnson	13:12
320 Jordan Small	14:09
352 Andrew Lidster	16:11

#### Team

1 AF&D 137 pts  
37 RH&AC 1023

### Under 15 girls

We had failed to finish a complete team in the Northern event earlier, but the lure of the Theme park ensured that we had enough for a scoring team. Emily led the team home in what was only her second race for the club. Madeline had a good run, and back up from the ever reliable trio of Rachel, Oliva and Melissa ensured a team score

### Results

1 Emilia Gorecka AF&D	12:27
48 Emily Fisher	14:22
245 Madeline Wragg	16:48
268 Rachel Hall	17:17
293 Olivia Neal	18:48
297 Melissa Hellewell	20:13

#### Team

1 AF&D 47 pts  
35 RH&AC 854

### Under 15 boys

We have struggled to get teams in all the boys age groups, and Sam Howis was the only runner to start today. The field numbered 347, and Sam's finishing position was commendable.

#### Results

1 Shaun Webb Ipswich	11:25
251 Sam Howis	14:09

### Under 17 boys

Again we are unable to turn out teams due to lack of numbers. Thanks to Liam for again pulling on the club vest and competing. Both Liam & Sam have been great supporters this season.

#### Results

1 Daniel Clorley Luton	14:39
263 Liam Thompson	18:38

### Under 17 Women

Following the county & northern team wins, we were hoping for the 3rd set of medals this season. Unfortunately Abbie Vernon was still struggling with the leg injury that bothered her in the northern event, and was advised not to run by her physio. This, and other absences, meant that we had only 3 runners - with no scoring team. Stef had a great run to finish 13th, and the second RH&AC scorer in the race (which was combined with the junior women's race). Robyn and Laura both ran well, and whilst we could not have challenged AF&D for the team gold, we would have got the silver had Abbie run to form.

#### Results

1 Laura Park Ellenborough	14:24
2 Charlotte Purdue AF&D	14:44
3 Louise Small AF&D	14:48
13 Stef Burns	15:21

40 Robyn Lanceley	16:29
57 Laura Spence	16:57

#### Team

1 AF&D 34 pts  
2 Royal Sutton Coldfield 210

### Junior Women

The first team medals in the northern event suggested that there may be a chance of a repeat today. However both AF&D and Sutton Coldfield posted very good team results, and the team 3rd place was a fair result. (It is a sign of the phenomenal club success that we are now disappointed with national bronze team medals!).

Rosie ran with the expected (& consistently solid) strong performance she has displayed all season and Jade had probably one of her best cross country runs. Natalie was clearly not flowing, and was disappointed with her run. Klachen was brought down in the start straight and struggled to get back into the race. The usual dependable team support was there from Jess, Kim and Annabelle.

#### Results

1 Steph Twell AF&D	13:53
2 Joanne Harvey Exeter	14:19
3 Charlotte Roach Vale Roy	14:33
6 Rosie Edwards	14:52
28 Natalie Grant	15:41
39 Klachen Cheshire	16:00
41 Jade Allen	16:04
55 Jess Fawcett	16:43
105 Kim Bateman	18:54
106 Annabelle Grady	19:00

#### Team

1 AF&D 55 points  
2 Sutton Coldfield 84  
3 RH&AC 114

### Junior Men

This is David's first year in this category, and he had a good run. Again we need more athletes in this category to keep him company!

#### Results

1 Lee Carey Nuneaton	27:19
2 Alastair Brownlee Bingley	27:49
3 David Forrester St Helens	28:06

130 David Smith	33:06
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#### Team

1AF&D 86 pts

### Senior Women

We have struggled to turn teams out in the last few years, but we did double the number of runners this year - Gill was joined by Jenny in the start pen. Jenny continued her cross country improving form with a very impressive 27th place here.

#### Results

1 Liz Yelling Bedford	23:44
2	
3	
27 Jenny Blizard	25:53
313 Gill Taylor	34:17

### Senior Men

We struggled to get a full team on the day, but thankfully 5 stalwarts turned out, and were joined by your correspondent to make up the team. I had watched the runners in the long, gradually uphill finishing straight earlier, and had wondered why they all looked so tired. I suspect none of them looked as rough as I did on my last lap of 3. The club supporters were distributed around the course, so I couldn't really jog until I reached the very vocal group on the hill, and therefore found the whole thing rather trying. Others had more success, Phil & Paul had good runs. Paul has really improved this winter and looks set to improve even more. Dan enjoyed the day, Howard & John, I think, drew pretty much the same conclusions I did.

Gill joined the identity parade to confuse the steward who was trying to identify the un-entered runner.

#### Results

1 Tom Humphries Cannock & Stafford	
107 Phil Hoole	36.05
251 Paul Humphries	38.21
555 Dan Jones	42.46
603 Howard Darwin	43.30
762 Steve Gaines	45.39
775 John Spencer	45.48

**CAU Inter Counties**

Wollaton Park; 15th March 2008.

The club was privileged to have 10 female runners selected to run for their county teams. I think it is the first time ever that we have had representatives in all age groups.

This tremendous club achievement is due in the main to the coaching and recruiting skills of Dennis Russell. All of the athletes may not be in his squad now, but they all have been at one time.

There were some absences on the day- Natalie due to a stomach virus and Abbie due to a leg injury, but the others were there in 3 different county vests.

The other club interest was in the U17 men's race, where Abdi Ahmed ( a member of Sheffield Running Club, who is a first claim RH&AC member for track running) ran extremely well to win the race. Yorkshire Athletics had a good day, with 1st team in the Senior Womens and U17 men's events, 2nd team in the Junior Men's and U15 girls events, and 3rd team in the U15 boys event.

**Race Summary**

**Under 13 girls**

Codie Marsh had a very good run to finish 35th, and ended her first cross country season with another excellent result.

**Results**

- 1 Jessica Judd Essex 13:19
- 2 Loren Bleakin Wilts 13:23
- 3 Rebecca Kingston Hants 13:24
- 35 Codie Marsh Notts 14:08

**Team**

- 1 Hampshire 52
- 2 Surrey 85

3 Leicestershire 119

**Under 15 girls**

Recent new member Emily Fisher finished 71st and second scorer in her county team.

**Results**

- 1 Emilia Gorecka Surrey 14:22
- 2 Ruth Haynes Surrey 14:45
- 3 Emily Walbank Beds 14:48

**Team**

- 1 Surrey 50
- 2 Yorkshire 59
- 3 Scotland East 83

**Under 17 Women**

4 club athletes had made the county teams but only 2 finished. Abbie had been advised not to run by her physio. After a very positive start (In the lead bunch at the top of the first hill) Stef never looked comfortable afterwards, drifting back from the first county scoring position to the fourth before dropping out with severe stomach pains. Robyn had a good run leading the county team home, with Laura as the second scorer.

**U17 results**

- 1 Jess Burns Devon 18:06
- 2 Anita Jarman Lancs 18:09
- 3 Isobel Brinsden Surrey 18:15
- 69 Robyn Lanceley 20 :17
- 86 Laura Spence 20:35

**Teams**

- 1 Lancs 42

**Junior Women**

Natalie had been hoping that she would produce one of her better performances here. It was not to be - she was clearly in some pain during train-

ing on the Weds and could not run. Jess however led home the county team home with a good run.

**Results**

- 1 Laura Park Cumbria 22:31
- 2 Anita Johnson Lancs 22:35
- 42 Jess Fawcett Yorks 25:32

**Team**

- 1 Hampshire 34
- 9 Yorkshire 217

**Senior Women**

In her first race in a CAU senior event, Rosie had another good run, finishing 2nd county scorer in the winning team. Klachen struggled & did not run as well as she has done already this year, suffering with Asthma problems - which had been troubling her prior to the race.

**Senior results**

- 1 Laura Kenney Warwicks 27:56
- 2 Jo Wilkinson Essex 28:09
- 3 Rachel Townend Hants 28:10
- 7 Victoria Wilkinson Yorks 28:30
- 18 Rosie Edwards 29:09
- 88 Klachen Cheshire 31:54

**Team**

- 1 Yorks 155
- 2 Essex 168
- 3 Leics 277

**U17 Mens race**

Abdi Ahmed ran a very good tactical race to win.

**Results**

- 1 Abdi Ahmed Yorks 20:04
- 2 Chris O'Hare Scot E 20:07

**Team**

- 1 Yorks 80
- 2 Cheshire 86



**Oh my goodness, not another Sid Scoop Report**

Wollaton Hall, Nottingham, an enthralling example of Elizabethan architecture completed in 1588 for Sir Francis Willoughby, was the venue again for the 2008 UK Inter Counties Cross Country Championships & World Trials. With Sky Sports televising the whole event live, our 11 athletes competing in 6 events, representing 4 Counties, were sure to get more exposure than Jim Brogans wallet.

**Rosie Rosie Rosie**

In the Senior Women's 8k race, we had Rosie Edwards representing Yorkshire & Klachen Cheshire Humberside, which is not a double barrelled name. The start of these races is always a frantic dash up the steep incline to the Hall, but Rosie & Klachen managed to get themselves in good positions as the race progressed. As the race hit flatter terrain. As the race progressed, Rosie just got better & better. On Lap 1, the Sky TV Commentator noted "no 3166 is ".....err.....err.....err..... Rosie Edwards from Yorkshire." On the next lap he said "no 3166 is Rosie Edwards from Yorkshire" & finally he commented "no 3166 is Rosie Edwards from Rotherham Harriers, 4<sup>th</sup> in the recent Yorkshire Championships & her favourite name for a horse is Colin."

The final result showed Rosie in a fabulous 18<sup>th</sup> place in a time of 29.09, just 1m 13s behind the winner. If that wasn't good enough, she was also 2<sup>nd</sup> counter in the winning Yorkshire Team. Humberside Champion Klachen finished in a creditable 88<sup>th</sup> place in 31.54.

**Ruby Ruby Ruby**

In the Under 17 Women's 5k race, our all conquering Yorkshire Championship Team of Stef Burns, Robyn Lanceley & Laura Barnes lined up. Stef led the charge up the opening hill before settling behind the leaders while Robyn & Laura were also nicely placed. Stef didn't make it to the finish but Robyn & Laura both performed magnificently finishing 69<sup>th</sup> & 86<sup>th</sup> respectively. Robyn clocked 20.17, Laura 20.35 & the winning time was 18.06. Abbie Vernon was selected for Derbyshire, but unfortunately she is not fully recovered from her recent injury.

Jess Fawcett had a superb run in the Under 20's race finishing in 42<sup>nd</sup> place in a time of 25.32 for the 6k & was 1<sup>st</sup> counter in the Yorkshire Team. The winning time was 22.31. Sadly Natalie Grant was a non starter due to illness. Codie Marsh was first counter for the Nottinghamshire Team in the Under 13 Girls race over 3k. Her time of 14.08 gave her a brilliant 35<sup>th</sup> place, 49s behind the winner. Emily Fisher, representing Derbyshire, finished a marvellous 71<sup>st</sup> in the Under 15 Girls 4k race in a time of 16.28. The winning time was 14.22.

**Back To Black**

All the girls featured in the Sky TV coverage in their Blue & White, Gold, Emerald Green & White with Maroon /Green Diagonals Vests. Congratulations to all our athletes, you represented your counties & club with distinction. We are very proud of you all. Now it is time to wear those black vests with pride & attack attack attack!

**Opponents on the Day!!** ..... from top.. Robyn Lanceley (Yorks), and Codie Marsh (Notts) were the first scorers for their county teams in the Inter Counties; new member Emily Fisher ran for the Derbyshire team.

The Sid Scoop Report

# NATIONAL CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

23 FEBRUARY 2008, ALTON TOWERS

On "Oscar week-end" we were nominated in several categories notably Best Under 17 Women's Team, Best Junior Women's Team, Dennis Russell for Best Team Director, Steve Gaines for Best Team Tent & finally the Under 15 Girls Team for Best Team Make-up.

On the start line of the combined race for Under 17 & Junior Women, there were some questions to be answered. Could our Under 17 Team take the title for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in succession? Could our former Under 17 Team Champions do the business at Junior level? And finally, is it fair to park the Team Tent next to a burger van & the runners to have chips on their legs when I'm on a diet?

Unfortunately the answer to the first question was known before the start as Abbie Vernon's injury sustained in the Northern Championships last month had not cleared which meant that we only had 3 starters in this category. Even a team as great as our Northern & Yorkshire Champions can't win a National title with 3 when it is 4 to count. Our best hope of a medal success was with our Junior Women, the reigning Northern Champions, but they were up against the formidable Aldershot Farnham & District Team.

## Great Expectations

As the race got underway, black vests were prominent as over 300 pairs of legs were fighting for supremacy at the head of affairs. Our medal prospects were looking good in the early stages but then disaster struck as Klachen Cheshire was sent sprawling to the ground. Rosie Edwards led the Team home finishing in a superb 6<sup>th</sup> place, this time getting the better of Mary Ferrier from Gateshead who edged her into 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the recent Northern Championships. Natalie Grant, who took bronze in the Northern's & led our Under 17 Team's to victory in 2006 & 2007, this time managed a marvellous 28<sup>th</sup> place.

Klachen showed the kind of determination which saw her recently selected to attend a Kelly Holmes Training Camp to finish 39<sup>th</sup> & she was closely followed by Jade Allen who came home in a fantastic 41<sup>st</sup> place to complete a tremendous Team performance. There was also some excellent back up from Jess Fawcett, whose 55<sup>th</sup> place would have been good enough for the medal winning team. Well done also to Kim Bateman & Annabelle Grady who were closely matched in 105<sup>th</sup> & 106<sup>th</sup> place respectively.

The scores on the doors revealed that our total of 114pts was good enough for a well deserved bronze medal. Fortunately Klachen's incident didn't affect the outcome as we were 30 points behind the silver medal position. In an exclusive interview Klachen explained that her leg was caught from behind & then she was kneed in the back which resulted in the girl behind falling on top of her. After recently attending "On Camp with Kelly" she has now enrolled to attend "On Camp with Janel" where the Ladies Captain will demonstrate the art of self defence, strategic use of elbows & the threatening look which reduces the Scoopster into a quivering wreck.

With so much talent in our young Ladies Squads, this was an interesting opportunity to compare their respective performances. Yorkshire Under 17 Champion Steph Burns



**Under 15 Girls Team at the National**

Madeline Wragg, Olivia Neal, Melissa Hellewell, Rachel Hall, Emily Fisher

showed she has great potential by finishing in an amazing 13<sup>th</sup> place, which would have been good enough to be 2<sup>nd</sup> counter in the Junior Team. Once again there were some outstanding performances from Robyn Lanceley & Laura Spence who finished 40<sup>th</sup> & 57<sup>th</sup> respectively. A Team silver medal was given away because we just needed to have another finisher in the top 100, but despite having 9 runners entered it was not to be.

## A Tale Of Two Cities

In the Senior Ladies race Jenny Blizard was involved in the early action & was asking some serious questions to the leaders. As she drew alongside former Champion Andrea Whitcombe she said "If a fly sets off from New York at 1200hrs & flies towards London at 500mph & a flea sets off from London at exactly the same time & flies towards New York at exactly the same speed, what time is it when they pass each other? Andrea looked at Jenny & said "fly past flea" but when eventual silver medallist Gemma Miles asked Jenny at the bottom of the hill to name 2 cities in Botswana, she knew her medal chances were doomed. Nevertheless, Jenny battled on to finish in a resurgent 27<sup>th</sup> place which augurs well for the forthcoming relay season. Gill Taylor was our other representative in this category finishing in a splendid 313<sup>th</sup> place. Afterwards she said "my coach said I could finish in the top 300 if I quit eating chocolate, but I told him I'm not a quitter."

In the men's race we managed to turn out a Team of 6 which was led home by Phil Hoole in 107<sup>th</sup> place. Tony Carroll finished in 762<sup>nd</sup> place & also took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Steve Gaines lookalike competition. Asked if he was getting past his sell by date for this level of competition he replied "Birthdays are good for you. Statistics show that people who have more of them live longer." Our final team position of 54<sup>th</sup> place would have been 20 places higher if Jonny Thewlis was still around, but I'm sure despite his Team silver medal winning run with his new club Notts AC, he must still ponder what if .....

At the end of the day, there is one question to be answered. Do the statistics below officially confirm that we are becoming a seriously girly outfit?

Category	Girls	Boys
Under 13	7	5
Under 15	5	1
Under 17	3	1
Junior	7	1
Senior	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>14</b>

Well done to all the youngsters who did an excellent job representing the club & a special mention for David Smith, Liam Thompson & Sam Howis who are the official founders of "Team One Man Army."

## Sid Scoop



## Top Cross Country Supporters

Pictures are Emily Hutchinson & Jordan Small . Jordan & Emily have completed their first ever Cross Country season - running all 4 SY races as Under 11s, and then running in the County, Northern & National events as U13's. This is an excellent example of club support by two athletes who were probably amongst the youngest (if not the youngest) competitors in the championship events. Their presence ensured we had scoring teams at all the events - Thank you!! Emily is pictured in the National Cross Country at Alton Towers, Jordan at the Northern Cross Country at Roundhay Park.

## Recent Road Results

## Wombwell 5

## Lord Mayor's 10k

The Wilkinson Ackworth Half Marathon  
at Ackworth on Sunday 16th March 2008

1	Dominic Bannister	Shaftsbury	1:06:24
2	Chris	Leeds City	1:07:25
3	Dave Norman	Altrincham	1:08:07
72	David Storey	RHAC	1:24:30
89	Mathew Asbridge	RHAC	1:26:08
163	Keith Pailing	V55 RHAC	1:32:10
174	John Spencer	V45 RHAC	1:32:58
216	Phillip Haigh	V50 RHAC	1:36:45
336	David Burke	V45 RHAC	1:44:34
441	Jenny Horan	L60 RHAC	1:52:23
442	Adele Morris	L40 RHAC	1:52:26

## Norton 9

02/03/2008

1	46:55:00	Fisher, I	Otley AC	M
2	48:15:00	Birchall, C	Leeds City	M
3	48:31:00	Harris, R	RHAC	M
9	51:24:00	Humphries, P	RHAC	M
25	54:39:00	Brooks, N	RHAC	M40
28	55:16:00	Nuttall, D	RHAC	M45
36	56:13:00	Storey, D	RHAC	M
37	56:16:00	Eastwood, T	RHAC	M50
40	56:34:00	Neal, P	RHAC	M
74	60:58:00	Spencer, J	RHAC	M45
111	63:41:00	Tune, M	RHAC	M40
151	66:34:00	Widdowson, P	RHAC	M40
159	67:24:00	Thomas, E	RHAC	F
163	67:36:00	Taylor, G	RHAC	F50
167	68:09:00	Humphries, P	RHAC	M65
172	68:36:00	Hindley, J	RHAC	F40
237	72:55:00	Burke, D	RHAC	M45
353	82:12:00	Rhodes, M	RHAC	M55
357	82:34:00	Neal, G	RHAC	F45

1	Alex Smith	Hallamshire	26.00
2	Christopher Price	Wakefield	26.13
3	Shaun Dimelow	Penistone	26.19
15	V40 Nigel Brookes	RHAC	28.39
21	V50 Peter Neal	RHAC	29.41
27	David Storey	RHAC	30.03
44	V60 Terry Hawley	RHAC	31.22
69	Neil Shaw	RHAC	32.55
71	Matthew Asbridge	RHAC	33.11
72	V50 Jerry Spencer	RHAC	33.17
95	LV45 Paula Fisher	RHAC	34.52
97	V50 Kevin Thomas	RHAC	34.58
102	V40 Rick Bellamy	RHAC	35.15
104	V60 Peter Humphries	RHAC	35.20
110	SL Eleanor Thomas	RHAC	35.54
113	V50 Philip Haigh	RHAC	36.09
197	LV45 Gillian Neal	RHAC	42.30
198	V50 Malcolm Rhodes	RHAC	42.36

16/3/2008

1	Will Clarke	Loughb	30.11
2	Jason Ward	Allrm AC	30.46
3	Kevin Farrow	Notts AC	31.47
29	Keith Williams	M55 RH	37.06
36	John Elvidge	M40 RH	37.40
39	John Atkinson	M50 RH	38.00
58	Nigel Cook	M45 RH	39.50
112	Paula Fisher	F50 RH	43.41
292	Malcolm Rhodes	M55 RH	54.38

## Cheadle Spring 5

24/2/08

1	Chris Davies Telford AC	25:19
2	Philip Hoole Rotherham	25:42

## Grindleford Gallop 2008

Sun 09/03/2008 08:53

1	Adam, Perry	Unatt	M 17 - 39	2.36:12
2	Gregory, Deacon	Springfd	M 17 - 39	2.37:42
3	Mark, Skelton	Derby Tri	M 40 - 49	2.38:47
68	Phillip, Haigh	RHAC	M 50 - 59	3.19:30
107	Lee, Carratt	RHAC	M 17 - 39	3.35:39
163	Adele, Morris	RHAC	W 40 - 49	3.59:28
188	John, Kirk	RHAC	M 50 - 59	4.07:51
190	Jenny, Horan	RHAC	W 50 - 59	4.07:58
216	Christine, Kirk	R V S	W 40 - 49	4.28:32

## Liverpool Half Marathon

02/03/2008

11	Jenny Blizard	RHAC	1st Lady	1.15..53
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## Trafford 10k

Partington 9/3/08

1	Neil Speaight	Belgrave Harriers	29:45
14	Philip Hoole	Rotherham Harriers	31:29

## Hartcliffe Hill Charity Race

Penistone 2/3/08

1	S. ROEBUCK	PENISTONE	18.10
2	S. RIPON V/40	PENISTONE.	18.35
3	H. DARWIN V/40	RHAC	18.48

## Members' Event Log

## Howard Stays in Front

I owe an apology to all for miscalculating the event log performances last month. Everyone is listed once whether they have raced or not and I inadvertently included that as a race, hence everyone was stated as 'one too many'. Corrected this month, the list shows Howard Darwin still ahead, with some hugely impressive clubmates following closely. Amongst other things, it shows 49 members have already qualified for lower membership costs. More importantly, it shows what a huge depth of support there is for the club. At various levels and disciplines, it has to be said. And why not?

Fifty-five events have been logged. Let me have your news and updates, and of course your error reports when I go wrong. Check your record on the website, or ask me for a listing. [username= rhmember pass-word= creamer]. I do my best but am acutely aware I miss many results. Especially I think in areas such as indoor track & field- though by no means only that. Reminder: athletic competition (or organisation) entered as RHAC and against other athletes of other clubs. Whatever, wherever. Nationals, Fun Runs, open events, league matches. Standard irrelevant in this context. You wear black, with the star. That will do nicely.

The events included so far are shown (right).

## Since October 2007:

- 16 Howard Darwin
- 14 John Spencer, Kevin Thomas
- 13 Jennifer Horan, Adele Morris
- 12 David Booth
- 10 Megan Bailey, Philip Hoole, Peter Neal, David Nuttall
- 9 Kerry Booth, Hayley Flintham, Georgina Spencer, Eleanor Thomas, Paul Humphries
- 8 Rachel Hall, Emily Hutchinson, Codie Marsh, Nicholas Myers, Neil Shaw, Jordan Small, Robert Tintinger
- 7 Matthew Asbridge, Susan Bellamy, Stephanie Burns, Terry Eastwood, Rosie Edwards, Jessica Fawcett, Phillip Haigh, Peter Humphries, Jessica Mangham, David Smith, Diane Spencer, David Storey, Gillian Taylor
- 6 Jenny Blizard, Nigel Brookes, Sharon Burton, Klachen Cheshire, Paula Fisher, Natalie Grant, Richard Harris, Natasha Hattwell, Melissa Hellewell, Sophie Kirby, Robyn Lanceley, Christopher Page, Cian Scothern, Quinlan Simms

20-Oct-2007 National Road relay 6/4  
 21-Oct-2007 National YA Relays  
 21-Oct-2007 SY Crosscountry Norfolk Pk  
 28-Oct-2007 Snowdonia Marathon  
 28-Oct-2007 Worksop Half  
 28-Oct-2007 Great South Run  
 4-Nov-2007 SY Crosscountry Penistone  
 3-Nov-2007 National XC Relays  
 4-Nov-2007 New York Marathon  
 10-Nov-2007 UK Cross Challenge Galeshead  
 11-Nov-2007 Scunthorpe Open XC  
 18-Nov-2007 Barnsley 10k  
 25-Nov-2007 SY Crosscountry Winterhill  
 25-Nov-2007 UK Cross Challenge Liverpool  
 25-Nov-2007 Leeds Abbey Dash 10k  
 2-Dec-2007 Percy Pud 10k  
 25-Nov-2007 Clowne Half Marathon  
 8-Dec-2007 Round Rotherham-assist  
 8-Dec-2007 Round Rotherham-run  
 8-Dec-2007 Round Rotherham-relay  
 9-Dec-2007 SY Crosscountry Hayfield  
 1-Nov-2007 Round Lathkill Dale  
 1-Dec-2007 Silkstone Shuffle  
 16-Dec-2007 Santa's Special  
 26-Dec-2007 Braithwell 5  
 29-Dec-2007 Sheffield Open XC  
 30-Dec-2007 Worksop College 6  
 1-Jan-2008 Cleethorpes 10k  
 5-Jan-2008 Yorkshire Cross-country

6-Jan-2008 Pennine 10k  
 12-Jan-2008 English Indoor Open  
 13-Jan-2008 Yorkshire Vets XC  
 16-Dec-2007 Bolsover 10k  
 28-Oct-2007 Race You To The Summit, Littleborough  
 2-Dec-2007 Gravy Pud 5, Tintwhistle  
 3-Feb-2008 Mickleden Straddle, Langsett  
 17-Feb-2008 Chatsworth Chase  
 6-Jan-2008 Pennine 10k  
 20-Jan-2008 York Half Marathon  
 27-Jan-2008 Meltham 10k  
 10-Feb-2008 Liversedge Half Marathon  
 27-Jan-2008 Ferriby 10  
 26-Jan-2008 Northern Cross-country  
 17-Feb-2008 Wombwell 5  
 24-Feb-2008 Snake Lane 10  
 2-Mar-2008 Norton 9  
 8-Mar-2008 Grindleford Gallop  
 9-Mar-2008 Bassingthorpe Spring  
 9-Mar-2008 Bassingthorpe Spring-assist  
 23-Feb-2008 National Cross-country  
 16-Mar-2008 Ackworth Half  
 2-Mar-2008 Liverpool Half  
 9-Mar-2008 Trafford 10k  
 24-Feb-2008 Cheadle Spring 5  
 16-Mar-2008 Lord Mayor's 10k  
 2-Mar-2008 Hartcliffe Hill Penistone

If you haven't paid your 2008 subs yet, next Monday is the last day for the £5 concession.

March 31st: Deadline Date !

LAST MONTH The challenge was race action shots , RHAC challenges at the front of races. (Thanks to Nigel Brookes for his pictures)

I know the picture quizzes give rise to more interest than is evident. How could it be otherwise, when the response to the last month's posers brought a totally deafening silence. In truth I received a number of interested efforts at sorting out the events, but they were all from the bar-flies at the Prince of Wales. (No offence gentlemen, fellow bar-flies I should say). It might be better to give up, but I don't pack in that easily. Thirty years teaching in secondary schools has made raising the dead second nature to me. So here goes.

Top : Rotherham Marathon 1985. Nigel Brookes is legging it good style (fourth left) but is headed by a Rotherham Harrier - not many did that at the time but this one is Paul Ruddleston who was also generally at the front of the field (and indeed won the South Yorkshire League that year when the infamous Dexter Lysic was rightly chucked out of the lists). The venue is the top of Wharncliffe Street on Doncaster Gate though I'm not sure if this is lap one or lap two of the two-lap event. The close packing suggests lap one (and maybe they're doing the half).



PICTURE QUIZ

Persons of a certain age would recognise the Clifton Hall (in the background behind the lorry), no longer there of course, destroyed in the name of progress along with just about everything else of interest or value in old Rotherham. And scene of many a Saturday evening's entertainment etc etc. This event was an effort to rejuvenate the ailing out-of-town Rotherham Marathon and was in fact a huge success. Despite that, it is often referred to scathingly by members, though I cannot for the life of me see why. It was very well organised. I know, because I was road secretary at the time- though I hasten to add that Dave Houghton and Gary Roche lead all the organising work. It was well sponsored, by the council, British Home Stores and Alliance Building Society. There were fewer than 100 marathon finishers, certainly, but over 300 half marathon runners, and the event made a tidy profit. It was a two-lap course largely using the newly opened roads (Centenary Way and so on). Gary was lost in a car accident a few years later, which was a great loss not only to RHAC but to organised athletics in general. I still see Dave at times; knee injuries prohibited any more running but skiing is his thing these days. Though there were certainly others, Peter Neal and Chris Ledwidge stand out in my recollection as committee colleagues in those days. According to the minutes, Peter, Gary and myself devised the course but I cannot remember it.



I actually ran the event; it is a matter of some pride (OK, vanity). I took the entries on the day, and set the race off with the starting pistol. I then ran with the last runner as back marker for ten miles, after that breaking away to complete the full marathon in 3 hrs 5 minutes- the only time I went outside three hours for a marathon (though I admit that on three other occasions, with the writing on the wall, I copped out!).

Don't let me forget, whilst rambling on with my modest achievement, to tell you that the event was won by Paul Venables. A modest man himself, but his achievements not at all modest. I don't have a results list for the marathon; I have notes and committee minutes, but no list. If anyone has one, it would be of interest.

Picture two (above right) was spotted quickly by the said bar-flies to be in Barnsley recognising Earnshaw's shop and the South Yorkshire Council building in the background. It's the Barnsley Six. I'm not sure if Brian Mullarkey and Mick Hague are in the lead, but it wouldn't be a surprise. They were top runners at RH when I joined in 1978 (and before and after for some time); in fact Brian gave me my first training schedules, which I never altered much. Mick spent a number of years subsequently coaching; Brian is still a keen cyclist (knee trouble) but Chris M is on the way back after injury intervention.



Right: The Hallcross 10k (no, it's not the Hallcross) was a happy hunting ground for RH teams until it's demise in the late nineties. Run from Hallcross Comprehensive School in Doncaster, it was a decently fast 10k. When Janet Hindley heard an unattached runner talking to his father about joining a club we moved quickly and he signed up with us. Which brought to RHAC one of the most reliable and supportive road relay runners we have ever had. And before long, one of the quickest into the bargain. The man in question was Luke Field, and Luke not only was one of the fastest, he still is, as occasional race results show, though he often prefers to stay in bed these days to everyone's great loss. The man on the bike is his father, Mike Field, who was also a great RH supporter. Mick still can be seen at local races; I spoke with him at Wombwell recently. The event pictured is in fact Percy Pud, coming off the lake circuit, but while Mike is giving the cameraman a wave, he's not supporting Luke on this occasion. The RH runner just behind him, lead runner at that point and at the tape, was Paul Bennett, who had a scorcher and was nigh unbeatable on his day and with the right head on. Paul emigrated to USA and as far as I know is still in Kansas.



Picture four: at the Price of Wales Greasbrough. Start I think, but maybe the finish. Dave Haywood is doing the work, with Anne Langley, Patricia Wells and Jenny Horan looking on. We see the reverse sides of a number of runners-- Dave Draycott on the left with, I think, Dennis Beavers behind Anne (also a glimpse of Paul Varah?). No less than Mr. S himself, Roy Butterworth on the right. Popular 10k events, the Prince of Wales 10k ran from the village in Greasbrough to Barnsley Road through Nether Haugh, Cortworth Lane and Wentworth and back through the park to finish outside the Prince. Dodgy these days, but we have the 5k instead.

Just when I thought intelligent life was extinct on the planet, an email flooded in from Ron Spensley offering identification of former personnel pictured in the January newsletter.....  
...."Looking at the group with Alan, I think that the nearest to him on his left (no. 112) is Ian Allinson. Ian won the Christmas handicap in 1958. He joined the army sometime after that and left the area. My guess is that the photo was taken in 1957 or earlier. I joined in late 1958 but don't recognise the other three.  
.....I look forward to seeing more of the collection...



Thanks Ron, I will try to get some in April.

Rotherham Harriers & AC Newsletter

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We are always interested in the views and news of runners, especially members (old, new, ex- or prospective).

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