

Todmorden Harriers gain 3rd spot in top relay event

1200 runners from many of the top fell running clubs in the country took part in the Calderdale Way Relay on Sunday. One hundred teams of twelve run in pairs on each of the 6 legs of this competitive 50-mile event. Todmorden Harriers entered four teams and gained the highest position the club has ever achieved in this prestigious race when the A Team powered their way round in 6 hours 18 minutes to come home in third position overall. It was a tremendous team effort and testament to the hard training undertaken in the weeks up to the event. Only Pudsey & Bramley (6 hours 5 minutes) and Clayton Le Moors (6 hours 10 minutes), both renowned fell running clubs, finished ahead.

The Todmorden Veterans, All Stars, and Ladies Teams all ran well to achieve very creditable placings, with the All Stars and Ladies battling head to head for much of the race. The Ladies were just pipped this year but have vowed to return even faster for the next relay event.

Todmorden placings:

A	3 rd	6:18:07
Vets	46 th	7:38:16
All Stars	71 st	8:15:23
Todmorden Ladies	75 th	8:21:23

Organised by Halifax Harriers this is a great event, one of the highlights of the year as it brings out the best in team spirit. Team Captains have much fun sorting the complex logistics and timings of the six legs, to say nothing of coaxing the very best out of their dozen finely tuned athletes. Whilst many of the Vets or All Stars might not quite describe themselves in that fashion there is no doubt they all give it their very best shot, as evidenced by the many pained faces as they (often quite literally) reach the end of their legs.

The great A Team performance started with Andrew Wrench and Chris Smales leading the team off from Copley and finishing at Cragg Vale. They made an excellent start and came home in 5th position in close proximity to the leaders. Andrew Horsfall and Sean Godsman took the baton and ran a stormer to Centre Vale Park, Todmorden in the second fastest time of the day to move the team up to 3rd. Another good run from Jeff Walker and Martin Roberts on the short, mainly uphill leg from Centre Vale to Blackshaw Head kept the team in 3rd place. Sean Willis and Alex Whitem ran the tough leg to Wainstalls and moved the Harriers into 2nd place with a fine run. Waiting at Wainstalls were Simon Anderton and Mark Goldie. They ran the 5th leg to hand over in 4th place, a plucky run from Simon who had been ill all week. He gave everything to keep the team in a high position. Nick Wigmore and Paul Brannigan ran the last leg from Shelf to Copley. What a roller coaster of a leg it proved. They moved into third position in Brighouse but Horwich and Bingley were rapidly catching up. The team dug in on the long hill to Southowram. Then Paul took a tumble but, ignoring his cuts and bruises, he bounced back up. As Horwich closed them down the Tod team got great applause as they put on a grandstand sprint finish to keep ahead of their rivals and finish in 3rd place.

3 TOD A	A Wrench C Smales 1:09:47(5) 1:09:47(5)	A Horsfall S Godsman 0:59:36(2) 2:09:23(3)	J Walker M Roberts 0:40:0 (9) 2:49:23(3)	S Willis A Whitem 1:09:37(6) 3:59:00(2)	S Anderton M Goldie 1:00:30(16) 4:59:30(4)	P Brannigan N Wigmore 1:18:3 (11) 6:18:07(3)
46 VETS	D Donohue S Galloway 1:27:37(57) 1:27:37(57)	D Collins M Anderton 1:10:18(31) 2:37:5 (40)	E Emerson R Blakeley 0:44:47(27) 3:22:42(34)	L McCluskey D Bamford 1:31:55(77) 4:54:37(45)	J Crumett R Poulter 1:11:43(54) 6:06:20(45)	R Leonard A Bibby 1:31:56(46) 7:38:1 (46)
71 ALL STARS	J Lee E Wrathall 1:39:12(84) 1:39:12(84)	N Hodgkinson M Harris 1:17:52(53) 2:57:04(74)	D O'Neill J Sutcliffe 0:52:17(64) 3:49:21(74)	J Duffy C Duffield 1:39:00(88) 5:28:21(78)	R O'Sullivan P Ehrhardt 1:13:21(62) 6:41:42(76)	D Ritchie R Watkins 1:33:41(52) 8:15:23(71)
75 LADIES	M Blackhurst R Skinner 1:37:16(80) 1:37:16(80)	M Goth M Parfitt 1:26:51(74) 3:04:07(79)	S Godsman L Wright 0:52:15(63) 3:56:22(77)	K Brierley K Leigh 1:29:24(70) 5:25:46(76)	S Glyde M Siddal 1:17:33(75) 6:43:19(77)	J Smith A Richards 1:38:25(69) 8:21:44(75)

I have a full set of results if anyone wants one or they can be found on the Halifax Harriers website halifaxharriers.co.uk Mandy