

Kit clash chaos looms

Todmorden Harriers, the venerable running club, was rocked to its foundations at its last committee meeting as modernisers and die-hards clashed head-on in a bitter dispute (writes our fashion correspondent).

At stake was the future of the Harriers' distinctive red, white and blue running vest.

Reform-minded members of the club (founded 1764, vest designed 1768) complained of the Gallic sniggers which materialised when four plucky Harriers displayed their vests recently in a French race. "The French vests were much better designed. We felt like poor cousins of Europe," said one. "The vests were almost as embarrassing as having to dance later that evening to the Birdie Song," said another, a committed member of 'The Vest is History' reform group.

Their pleas however were roundly rebuffed by traditionalists, grouped together in the so-called Gothic tendency. "Anyone who thinks the vests aren't the bees knees needs their eyes testing," said one luminary. "Talking of which, maybe I can help."

The undignified wrangling over the future of the vest, which continued for many seconds, was ultimately resolved when members agreed to include an article in the Torrier. "That way nothing will ever happen," said one hardened cynic under his breath.

Worth discussing?

1. New styling?
2. New material?
3. Design. Keep colours but use in different way?

Probably not a good idea...

1. Asking Vivienne Westwood to design a new vest
2. Getting corporate sponsorship. "Todmorden Harriers. Proudly sponsored by the Bacup Road maggot farm"
3. Changing our name. "New Labour. New Britain. New Todmorden Harriers"
4. Making the vests in PVC (This is the second time a certain club member has suggested this... is there something we should know?)
5. Sewn-in sheepskin nipple guards (This was another suggestion at the committee meeting, but your author can't unfortunately remember whose bright idea this was).
6. Keeping the same colours but adding the words 'Great Britain Olympic squad 2004'