

Race Reports

Races reported recently in the local press by Claire Duffield



Half Tour of Pendle, Haworth Hobble & Windmill Whizz

Todmorden Harriers' 2006 Club Championship continued last Saturday with a flying visit over the Lancashire border for the Half Tour of Pendle fell race. The race, held over 9 miles with 2250 feet of ascent, starts at Barley Village, in the shadow of the famous witches' hill, before climbing to the summit and back down to the Nick of Pendle, then it back up the hill via heather moorland before plunging to the finish via Ogden Clough. The race was won from a quality field by Ian Holmes of Bingley Harriers in a time of 1:04:07, again proving that a recent 40th birthday has failed to rob the former champion of his 'old black magic'.

First Tod runner home was another veteran 40, Andrew Wrench in 8th place in a time of 1:09:55.

In the ladies' race, another Bingley runner, Natalie White dominated proceedings, winning in a time of 1:18:00, a full seven minutes clear of her nearest rival. First Todmorden lady to finish was Melanie Blackhurst in a time of 1:38:52.

Whilst the bulk of the Harriers were at Pendle, a team of eight travelled to Haworth for the Haworth Hobble race. This event provided a very different challenge from Pendle, being a 31 mile endurance test which tours Bronte moorland, incorporating visits to Todmorden, Hebden Bridge and Heptonstall.

Notable Todmorden performances came from Phil Hodgson in 21st place overall, showing his recent return to form after unlucky recurrent injuries, and also Mandy Goth and Kath Brierley who won the ladies' pairs section in a fine time of 5:45:54. This is the second recent success for this pair as they recently also won the ladies' team prize in the 40 mile High Peak Marathon with team mates Kay Leigh and Rachel Skinner.

Todmorden Results for the Haworth Hobble were:

21) Phil Hodgson 4:45:49, 44) Jeff Walker 5:06:14 59) Richard Leonard 5:24:42, 67) Rhys Watkins 5:31:44, 77) Neil Hodgkinson 5:36:43, 88) Mandy Goth and Kath Brierley 5:45:54, 100) Colin Duffield 5:58:37.

To complete a weekend of success for the Harriers, Chris Smale won the Windmill Whizz, a six mile multi terrain race which is run from Ogden Reservoir, Halifax. This is the second successive year Smale has won this race. This year he completed in 39:50, forty seconds ahead of Andy Clarke of Calder Valley. He was joined in the race by club mate Nick Wigmore who ran well to get home in fourth place, some 1:21 off the leader's pace.

Liver Hill Race

Todmorden Harriers' elite men enjoyed a successful evening's racing at last Tuesday's Liver Hill fell race, with runners from the local club snapping up the first four places.

The race, described as "an out and back to celebrate 'The First Night on the Fells'" after the clocks change, is run over a five mile distance with 800 feet of ascent.

Selected as part of Todmorden Harriers' 2006 Grand Prix, the Rawtenstall-based race attracted 23 runners from the local club.

Unfortunately, the arrival of spring brought with it high winds and heavy downpours, which resulted in a continuous muddy slog for the 114 competitors who took part, some of

whom were taken unawares by a few of the deeper puddles and bogs, returning to the finish covered head to toe in mud.

Harriers Andrew Wrench, Alex Whitem and Shaun Godsman soon became embroiled in a fierce battle for the lead, which endured throughout the race, with only seconds separating the three when they crossed the finish line.

Meanwhile, Mark Goldie was engaged in his own tussle with Andy Payne of Clayton Le Moors, and claimed fourth place with only two seconds to spare.

Grand Prix Results

½ Tour of Pendle				
	1.04.07	1.07.24	1.07.25	
	Time	Adj time	GP Pts	Fell Pts
Andrew Wrench	1.09.55	1.07.55	97.6	94.8
Shaun Godsman	1.12.03	1.12.03	92.0	92.0
Mark Goldie	1.15.42	1.15.42	87.6	87.6
Andrew Horsfall	1.16.29	1.13.37	90.1	86.7
Simon Galloway	1.22.09	1.18.20	84.6	80.7
Ben Crowther	1.25.11	1.25.11	77.8	77.8
Derek Donohue	1.27.05	1.19.55	83.0	76.1
James Riley	1.27.23	1.27.23	75.9	75.9
Keith Parkinson	1.29.08	1.16.54	86.2	74.4
Wayne Morrison	1.37.06	1.37.06	68.3	68.3
Mel Blackhurst	1.38.52	1.25.09	77.9	67.1
Richard O'Sullivan	1.42.08	1.35.34	69.4	64.9
Alice Heath	1.44.46	1.34.41	70.0	63.3
Claire Duffield	1.44.48	1.34.42	70.0	63.3
Sharon Godsman	1.49.29	1.38.56	67.0	60.6
Dave O'Neill	1.51.13	1.40.03	66.3	59.6
Mel Siddall	1.57.31	1.36.30	68.7	56.4

Liver Hill				
28/03/06	35.55	36.05	36.1	
	Time	Adj time	GP Pts	Fell Pts
Andrew Wrench	35.55	34.54	103.3	100.3
Alex Whitem	36.05	36.05	99.9	99.9
Shaun Godsman	36.07	36.07	99.8	99.8
Mark Goldie	37.47	37.47	95.4	95.4
Andrew Horsfall	39.18	37.50	95.3	91.7
Nick Wigmore	40.19	40.19	89.4	89.4
Martin Roberts	40.41	36.36	98.5	88.6
Simon Galloway	41.19	39.24	91.5	87.2
James Riley	42.14	42.14	85.3	85.3
Phil Hodgson	43.35	38.49	92.9	82.7
Keith Parkinson	46.11	39.51	90.4	78.0
Richard Leonard	46.50	42.33	84.7	77.0
Jane Smith	48.05	38.04	94.7	75.0
Alice Heath	48.11	43.33	82.8	74.8
Sharon Godsman	49.19	44.34	80.9	73.1
Richard Blakeley	49.21	37.24	96.3	73.0
Richard O'Sullivan	50.52	47.36	75.7	70.8
Claire Duffield	51.00	46.05	78.2	70.7
Mel Siddall	53.31	43.57	82.0	67.3
Dave O'Neill	54.16	48.49	73.8	66.4
Stuart Boulton	54.21	49.23	73.0	66.3
Mandy Goth	56.12	45.03	80.0	64.1
Derek Clutterbuck	70.07	45.04	80.0	51.4

Oldham ½ Marathon				
2/04/06	1.13.37	1.15.27	1.17.24	
	Time	Adj time	GP Pts	Road Pts
Keith Parkinson	1.32.16	1.21.49	92.3	81.8
Mel Blackhurst	1.42.35	1.28.21	85.4	73.6
Jeff Anderson	1.47.24	1.41.37	74.3	70.1