

Red rose cross country 2006

The first race of the 2006 red rose cross country was at Witton Park, Blackburn. Six Todmorden Harriers made the journey for what turned out to be a fast and unusual race for some! Chris Smales had a great race always with the leaders and on the third lap of four looked like the favourite to win the race he slipped back slightly on the last lap but still a very good result for 4th place. I could never quite stay with the leading group on the day and finished in 12th place after being assaulted in the last 100m by a Salford runner who didn't like me overtaking him; this was all caught on film and resulted in him being disqualified. Jon Wright and Shaun Godsman both ran well in 18th & 24th Shaun in his first cross



Andrew Wrench



Mark Goldie

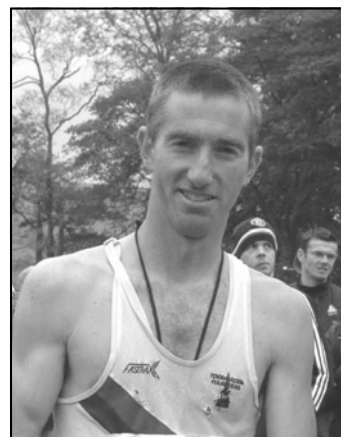
country race being caught out slightly by the fast pace of this race and possibly running too fast too early. Mark Goldie had his usual strong run to finish in 48th mark was also in his first cross country race but I think he enjoyed it more than Shaun and our sixth counter was Mark Anderton in 110th giving his usual 100%. This gave us 5th team overall (a good start) unfortunately due to injuries and other commitments we failed to field a full team at the next three races but the ones who did enjoyed the races and it would be nice to see more people turn out next year.

The second race was at Bury where we had three runners competing on another very flat and fast course and five laps! All three of us commented that the hardest part of this race was trying to remember how many laps had past by, Mark Goldie struggling most with this something about not being good at multitasking (running & counting)

The results were Andrew Wrench -13th, Jon Wright 23rd, Mark Goldie 55th

The third race at Clayton-le-Moors clashed with the Tour of Pendle with the same three runners turning out on a much more interesting course and suiting all three of us better (slightly rougher under foot) Andrew Wrench 9th, Jon Wright 13th, Mark Goldie 34th

The final race of the series was at Marl Pits and the race is more of a fell race than a lot of fell races, unfortunately it fell on the day after the Tod presentation. This seemed to work two ways, some people committed to the race while full of beer others dropped out and committed to



Jon Wright



Chris Smales

the beer. This resulted in as many Tod spectators as runners. Five Tod runners started on what must have been the muddiest course I have ever run on! Nick Wigmore and James Riley making their debut in the series finished in 72nd and 98th Jon Wright (fresh from wrestling drunks in Halifax a few hours earlier) had a good battle with Chris Smales, Chris just getting the upper hand by 6 secs in 16th and Jon in 17th I had my best run of the series in 8th

Overall results best three from four:-
Andrew wrench 6th overall, 1st v40
Jon Wright 12th overall
Mark Goldie 34th

Andrew Wrench