

# Recent Press reports

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*'In the Tod News there are always four sides to a story: your side, their side, the truth and what really happened'-Rousseau (almost)*

**Widdop/Turnslack/Wasdale/ Lingmell (Press date 26/07/07)**

## Alex Finds Top Form to Finish Second

Todmorden Harrier Alex Whitem confirmed his return to form last Wednesday as he finished 2nd in a class field at the annual Widdop Fell Race, ran from the Pack Horse Inn.

Whitem's time of 52.09 left him just a minute and a half adrift of race winner, Calder Valley's Karl Grey, whose impressive time of 49.26 is only a little over a minute slower than the course record, held by Todmorden's George Ehrhardt.

Further Todmorden interest was provided by Dave Collins, of who finished in time of 59.52 and who took the prize for V50.

Amongst the ladies, winning is becoming a habit for it was Jo Waites of Calder Valley, the English international finishing in 59.05, three minutes ahead of team mate Jo Buckley. Jane Smith who finished 9th lady in 1.12.11 was best placed Todmorden lady, and was joined by Louise Abdy and Rachel Lockley to make up Harriers' ladies' team who finished in a collective second place behind Calder Valley. Calder Valley men made it a double success for the host club, edging Wharfedale into second spot in the men's rankings.

Following their exertions at Widdop, local fell runners were also out in force last Saturday for one of the toughest fell races in the area, the Turnslack race, which was celebrating its' 30th anniversary.

The race, a counter in this year's Tod Harriers' Grand Prix, starts at Bellholme playing fields before embarking on a 9 mile tour of the moors in the border country between Littleborough and Todmorden, which takes in a leg sapping 2000 feet of climbing, much of it through difficult boggy ground.

After an unsettled week, the weather took an unexpected turn for the better and helped the event draw a healthy turn out of 140 runners.

Amongst there were a strong team of 20 Todmorden Harriers.

The race was won by international runner, Danny Hope of Pudsey and Bramley after a long struggle with his pursuers, led by his club mate Nick Leigh and Todmorden's Shaun Godsman.

In the ladies race it was Anna Lupton of Radcliffe who dominated, wining in a time of 77.32. Kath Brierley of Todmorden was first local lady in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and a time of 84.20.

Further successes for Tod included 5th placed Andy Wrench taking the prize for first veteran, and Dave Collins continuing his run of form to scoop the veteran 50 prize in a time of 73.21.

Amongst the Calder Valley runners in attendance, it was Jason Stevens who crossed the line first in 71.45, giving him 12<sup>th</sup> placed, he was followed home by one of Calder's more recent signings, Gary Oldfield, who finished in 13th spot with a time of 71.57.

Away from the local fell scene, a number of Harriers have also been making their mark in Lakeland fell races.

The Wasdale Fell Race is infamous for its' gruelling intensity as it traverse some of the areas highest mountains over its' 21 mile route. Two Harriers completed this year's race. Phil Hodgson running well to finish 38th in a time of 5.16.08, also registering as 2nd over fifty, whilst team mate Richard Leonard followed him home in 87th place, some 55 minutes later.

Whilst these two were competing at Wasdale, another Harrier Ben Crowther was registering a good run At the Lingmell Dash, shorter 4.5 mile race over equally tough fell terrain. Crowther finished 8<sup>th</sup> in a time of 64.34 in a race won by Rob Jebb of Bingley in a time of 45.02.

**Oldfield Fell race (Press Date 01/07/07)**

## Flying Veteran Peter First Home at Keighley

Todmorden Harrier's Peter Ehrhardt had reason to celebrate recently as he took the veteran 60 prize at the Oldfield Fell Race, near Keighley.

The race is a 5.5-mile jaunt around the countryside of the area and takes in 550 feet of ascent. Conditions this year were very wet underfoot although the rain cleared in time for the race.

Peter finished in a time of 45.54, comfortably ahead of his nearest challenger.

**Borrowdale (Press Date 09/08/07)**

## High Winds Can't Blow Jon Off Course in Fell Race Challenge

A travelling band of Todmorden Harriers turned their attention to the Lake District last Saturday to experience one of the classic events of British fell running. The Borrowdale Fell Race is a tough tour of the high Cumbrian fells and attracts the connoisseurs of traditional hard fell running. This year high winds caused the race to be run over a slightly shortened course, missing out the highest fells. Even with this curtailment, the remaining 15 mile route still had packed enough punch to test even the most hardy of fell racers.

10 Todmorden Harriers were in the starting field of 420.

The nature of the Borrowdale race seems to suit local runners and this year was no exception. The race was dominated by Lakeland runners and was won by Borrowdale Fell Runners' Ben Bardsley in a time of 2 hours and 18 minutes, First Calderdale runner home was Todmorden's star man Jon Wright, again flying the flag for the Harriers and finishing in 14th position in a time of 2.42.

The ladies' honours went to another Cumbrian resident, Sharon Taylor, who runs in the colours of Bingley Harriers who finished in 3 hours and 3 minutes. Behind Taylor, Todmorden's Alison Richards showed her expertise in this type of racing by taking several notable scalps and finishing fifth lady in a time of 3 hours and 32 minutes.

First Calder Valley Runner home was Jonathan Moore in 121<sup>st</sup> position with a time of 3.17, just two minutes in front of next Todmorden runner, Phil Hodgson in 130<sup>th</sup> place.

Elsewhere in the field Tod's Mark Harris show a welcome return to racing finishing in 184<sup>th</sup> place with a time of 3.32, twenty minutes ahead of club mate Richard Leonard in 275<sup>th</sup> place.

With Chris Preston (290<sup>th</sup>), Jane Smith (291<sup>st</sup>), Mandy Goth (396<sup>th</sup>) and Sue Roberts (395<sup>th</sup>) also completing the course, half the Todmorden contingent was made up by female runners, showing the men that they have competition in even the most gruelling of races.

#### **Cliviger Six/ Whittle Pike (Press Date 16/08/07)**

### **Alex King of the Road**

Todmorden Harriers' Alex Whitem transferred his fell running talents to the roads recently when he finished fifth in the Cliviger Six Road Race. Whitem's time of 35.13 was just a minute and a half behind winner Andrew Stubbs of Clayton Le Moors Harriers.

Elsewhere in the quality field of 130 athletes, other Todmorden runners were also in attendance, with two relative newcomers showing promise. The first of these was Pete Robinson who crossed the line in 47.05, he was followed by club mate Kevin Coughlan, just 45 seconds and six places behind.

The following Wednesday the action moved back to the fells for the Whittle Pike Race, hosted by Rossendale Harriers.

The four and a half mile race attracted a sizeable field of 140, a significant minority of these coming from the host club. Despite this large local showing, it was Calder Valley Fell Runners Karl Grey who took the race honours after a late charge down the final descent to get the better of Darren Kay of Horwich RMI and Todmorden's Shaun Godsman, less than 15 seconds splitting these three front runners. After this leading group there was clear daylight before the bulk of the field started to finish some four minutes later, Rossendale packing much of the remainder of the top ten to take the mens' team prize.

In the womens' race Jo Waites made it a double for Calder Valley in a time of 47.34, first placed Todmorden woman being Sharon Godsman in a time of 56.35.

Elsewhere in the field Todmorden's veterans showed their mettle with V45 Martin Roberts finishing 41<sup>st</sup> overall in a time of 50.40. In the V60 category Peter Ehrhardt ran well to finish in 1.02.48, and V75 Derek Clutterbuck crossed the line in 1.11.44, leaving many younger runners trailing in his wake.

#### **Weasdale Horseshoe (Press Date 23/08/07)**

After a season in which their assault on the national fell running championships have been dogged by injuries, Todmorden Harriers' fielded strong elite mens' and ladies' teams last weekend for the latest race selected as a counter, the Weasdale Horseshoe.

The race is an eight-mile circuit of the Howgill Fells, characterised by grassy runnable terrain on big hills. In the weeks preceding the race some concerns were raised about its' running in light of the Foot and Mouth scare, but these concerns never came to fruition and from early in the morning on race day the roads that led to this quiet corner of Cumbria were a nose to tail convoy of the best of English fell running. As befits a national counter, the turnout was sizeable, with over 300 runners who lining up in the starting field under very grey skies.

As the race got underway, all the season's front-runners looked to dominate the mens' race, with Rob Jebb of Bingley and Simon Bailey of Staff Moorlands neck and neck at the first summit. However in the tightly packed chasing group, Calderdale clubs were strongly to the fore with Karl Gray of Calder Valley alongside Todmorden's star men, Shaun Godsman, Jon Wright, and Andrew Wrench.

In the ladies' race, relative newcomer Sarah Tunstall of York Acorn gained an early stranglehold on the race which she never let slip, despite the best efforts of a quality chasing pack that included Calder Valley's Jo Waites and Todmorden's Ali Richards.

As the field traversed the route the clouds closed in and the rain descended, battering competitors and spectators alike and turning a large section of the run-in into something of a quagmire.

As the runners started to filter into the finishing field it was Staffs Moorlands' Simon Bailey who took the men's honours. First Todmorden runner was Shaun Godsman in 20<sup>th</sup> position in a time of 58.47, just eight seconds behind Calder's best placed man, Karl Gray. Godsman was backed up in the team standings by Jon Wright in 28<sup>th</sup> place, Andrew Wrench in 36<sup>th</sup>, Mark Goldie in 82<sup>nd</sup>, and Martin Roberts in 102<sup>nd</sup>, giving Todmorden a collective 5<sup>th</sup> place, with Calder Valley finishing 14<sup>th</sup>.

In the ladies race Sarah Tunstall secured a resounding victory in 1.03.27, with Ali Richards first Todmorden lady in 22<sup>nd</sup> place.

Todmorden's other ladies' team counters were Kath Brierley in 31<sup>st</sup> place and Sharon Godsman a further eight places behind. These three took a commendable 7<sup>th</sup> place, just three positions behind Calder Valley.

Elsewhere in the field Todmorden veterans ran well and placed highly in their age categories. Dave Collins finished 12<sup>th</sup> V50 man, whilst Peter Ehrhardt matched this position in the V60 men, Tod's V60 lady Moyra Parfitt also performed well, crossing the line in 4<sup>th</sup> place in her age rankings and now looking set for an end of season medal, although the colour of the medal will be decided at the next counter in the championships, the Great Whenside in September.

***La médaille d'or: c'est l'Angleterre!***

***Congratulations to Kath Brierley who came in first lady in a race in the French Alps in August. Sorry, we're a bit hazy about the details, and Kath is too modest to have sent anything in.***