

APRIL 06



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What's On and where

## Caption Competition

Anyone with any captions to go with the above photo send your contribu-  
tions to Mandy or Andrew Bibby

## Subs

Are overdue if you have not paid then send them to  
Dave Wilson ASAP .

Any queries contact him on 01706 814367

# GRAND PRIX RACES

After a hectic start to the Grand Prix season, there's something of a breather this month.

**Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup>** sees our first Lakeland fell race of the year, the Anniversary Waltz. This race is held each year to commemorate the marriage of two fell-runners Wynn and Steve Cliff in Newlands church in April 1996 – so this year is the tenth anniversary race. It's also a counter for both the British and the English fell championships, so there'll be a very large field heading up from Stair village hall to tackle the Newlands horseshoe. The race is just under 12 miles, with 3600 feet of climbing.

A complete list of entries is available on the website, [Http://members.aol.com/scliff4915/private/homepage.htm](http://members.aol.com/scliff4915/private/homepage.htm). At time of writing, 26 Toddies were signed up. The race organisers have asked us to share transport as much as possible, so if you're running please try to arrange to travel up with other people in the club.

**Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup>** brings us closer to home for the Bluebell trail race. This comes warmly recommended by people who've run it previously – full details in the last Torrier, so we're not repeating them again.

The next two GP races, the **Lordstone (May 21<sup>st</sup>)** and the **Ennerdale fell race (June 10<sup>th</sup>)** also were extensively covered in the past Torrier – so get that issue out if you want to know more.

Finally, on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June** there's another half-marathon to tackle, this time **Hendon Brook** near Burnley. We're currently struggling to find info about this race, but will try to include it (and a booking form in the next Torrier).

## Forthcoming road races

*Friday 14th April*

**Salford 10k**-10am flat and fast course. Good for a P.B!

*Sunday 16th April*

**Guiseley Gallop 10k**.Wise to pre-enter.

*Wed 19<sup>th</sup> April*

**Colin Robinson 4.2 Multi-terrain** 7pm from Cock and Magpie,Crown Park,Whitworth.

*Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April*

**Bolton 10k** 10am -enough said about this last time!

**Garstang gallop** 10k -11am

*Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April*

**Rothwell 10k** 10am

**Radcliffe 10k** 10.30am

*Sunday 7th May*

Blueball trail in Grand Prix

Leeds 1/2 marathon-10am.Must pre-enter.

*Sunday 14th-*

**Gin Pit 5** 10am

**Ripon 10mile road race** at 11am

More details/entry forms for most of these races on John Schofield's site [www.ukresults.net](http://www.ukresults.net)

- Mel Blackhurst

## Forthcoming Fell Races

*Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May*

**Cragg Vale Fete Fell Race**. BS. 4m/720'

12 noon from near Cragg Vale Church

£3 on day only.

New course this year, plus junior races after senior event.

*Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May*

**Jack Bloor Races**. BS. 5.2m/1150'

7.15pm from Millennium Gardens, Ilkley

£3 on night only.

Senior and junior races on Ilkley Moor. Navigational skills required for senior race which has 6 checkpoints and is entirely unmarked.

*Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May*

**Mytholmroyd Fell Race**. BM. 7m/1350'

11.30 am from Mytholmroyd Community Centre

£3 on day only.

Yet another race from Mytholmroyd!!!

## MINUTES OF MEETING

### April 3<sup>RD</sup> 2006

There were 8 members present

#### Treasurer's Report

Balance: £1328.38 in current account

#### Race equipment

The self-storage facility in Walsden would cost £11 per week for a 5' X 5' space, but Jane and Richard have offered space at home to store everything. This offer was gratefully accepted.

#### Junior section

Eileen is hoping to provide some taster sessions at local schools and is trying to arrange this with the local sports coordinator.

Calderdale development group will be providing equipment for the Monday training sessions, while the club is paying for hire of Todmorden High School facilities.

The sessions will be open for children from the age of 6 upward, with children under 10 needing to be accompanied by adults. The first session will be on April 24<sup>th</sup>. At a later date, when the junior section is up and running, Eileen may be able to offer circuit training to adult club members.

#### Halifax: new track and facilities

Halifax Harriers wrote to us some time ago asking us to consider making a donation towards the cost of the new track. Their target is to raise £100 000 of the £1 000 000 cost. It was decided to offer the profits from the Stoodley Pike race, since the facilities will be open to all clubs.

#### Flowerscar race

Jon Wright has asked for marshals this Saturday (8<sup>th</sup> April).

#### New member

Geoff Read

#### Speedwork

Graeme Wrench is continuing sessions at Todmorden High School on Tuesdays at 7pm, concentrating on leg strength and distance work.

#### Noonstone

Andrew Horsfall will be contacting organisers of the Fiendsdale and Half Tour races in an attempt to avoid a clash of dates next year.

#### Pack run venues

Due to closure of the Sourhall the venues are now:

May	Hare & Hounds, Old Town
June	Kebs
July	Moorcock, Littleborough
August	New Delight

#### Ian Hodgson Relay

We intend to enter 3 teams this year as it was very popular with those who took part in 2005.

Committee meetings are open to ALL members and are currently held at The Hollins Inn, Wasliden, on the first Monday of each month at 7pm. Next month's meeting is on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May (since the first Monday is a Bank Holiday).

Derek

## OTHER GRAND PRIX FIXTURES

Sun 18 Jun	RL HENDON BROOK
Tues 20 Jun	FM COINERS
Weds 5 Jul	RS HELEN WINDSOR 10K
Sun 16 Jul	FL HOLME MOSS
Sun 6 Aug	RS RADCLIFFE 6.5
14 or 15 Aug	TS ANDY O'SULLIVAN
Sun 20 Aug	FL SEDBURGH Eng Champ
Sun 3 Sept	RM STAINLAND 7
Thurs 7 Sep	FS HADES HILL
Sat 23 Sept	FS THIEVELEY PIKE Eng Champ
Sun 8 Oct	RM BURNLEY FS7
Sun 29 Oct	RS ACCRINGTON 10K
Sat 18 Nov	FL TOUR PENDLE One long road TBA

## THANKS

For all those who helped with the Flower Scar Fell race.

Full results and Photos on the web site  
[www.todharriers.co.uk](http://www.todharriers.co.uk).

Report in next months newsletter

**E-groups – Anyone wanting to join the E-group please contact Ray “Ranter” Poulter on**  
[ray@gardeningsolutions.co.uk](mailto:ray@gardeningsolutions.co.uk)

## 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 40<sup>th</sup> birthday has failed to rob the former champion of his 'old black magic'.

First Tod runner home was another veteran 40, Andrew Wrench in 8<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

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#### 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 Whittem 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

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

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

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

## CHAMPIONSHIP TABLES

2006 FELL TABLE				Ilkley Moor	Liver Hill	Half Pendle		
1	Mark Goldie	M		85.7	95.4	87.6	3	<b>268.7</b>
2	Andrew Horsfall	V40		86.9	91.7	86.7	3	<b>265.3</b>
3	Simon Galloway	V40		78.3	87.3	80.7	3	<b>246.3</b>
4	Richard O'Sullivan	V40		62.7	70.9	64.9	3	<b>198.5</b>
5	Sharon Godsman	L		64.4	73.1	60.6	3	<b>198.1</b>
6	Andrew Wrench	V40			100.4	94.8	2	<b>195.2</b>
7	Shaun Godsman	M			99.8	92.0	2	<b>191.8</b>
8	David O'Neill	V45		55.5	66.4	59.6	3	<b>181.5</b>
9	Nick Wigmore	M		79.2	89.4		2	<b>168.6</b>
10	James Riley	M			85.4	75.9	2	<b>161.3</b>
11	Keith Parkinson	V50			78.1	74.4	2	<b>152.5</b>
12	Derek Donohue	V45		69.8		76.1	2	<b>145.9</b>
13	Richard Leonard	V45		67.0	77.0		2	<b>144.0</b>
14	Claire Duffield	L			78.2	63.3	2	<b>141.5</b>
15	Jane Smith	LV45		65.3	75.0		2	<b>140.3</b>
16	Alice Heath	L			74.8	63.3	2	<b>138.1</b>
17	Stuart Boulton	V45		58.9	66.3		2	<b>125.2</b>
18	Mel Siddall	LV40			67.4	56.4	2	<b>123.8</b>
19	Alex Whitem	M			99.9		1	<b>99.9</b>
20	Christopher Smale	V40		91.9			1	<b>91.9</b>
21	Martin Roberts	V45			88.6		1	<b>88.6</b>
22	Phil Hodgson	V45			82.7		1	<b>82.7</b>
23	Dave Collins	V50		79.1			1	<b>79.1</b>
24	Ben Crowther	M				77.8	1	<b>77.8</b>
25	Richard Blakeley	V60			73.1		1	<b>73.1</b>
26	Deon Bamford	V40		72.7			1	<b>72.7</b>
27	Peter Bowles	M		69.9			1	<b>69.9</b>
28	Wayne Morrison	V40				68.3	1	<b>68.3</b>
29	Melanie Blackhurst	LV40				67.1	1	<b>67.1</b>
30	Mandy Goth	LV45			64.2		1	<b>64.2</b>
31	David Wilson	V50		62.9			1	<b>62.9</b>
32	John Page	V50		59.8			1	<b>59.8</b>
33	Janine Wigmore	L		58.2			1	<b>58.2</b>
34	Tina Smith	L		54.0			1	<b>54.0</b>
35	Helen Hodgkinson	L		51.5			1	<b>51.5</b>
36	Derek Clutterbuck	V70			51.4		1	<b>51.4</b>

2006 ROAD /TRAIL TABLE			Lytham St Annes 10	Liversedge 1/2 M	Oldham 1/2 M		
1	Melanie Blackhurst	LV40	72.9	74.1	73.6	3	<b>220.6</b>
2	Richard O'Sullivan	V40	71.0	70.3		2	<b>141.3</b>
3	Mel Siddal	LV40	70.0	65.5		2	<b>135.5</b>
4	Nigel Hanson	V45	67.6	67.0		2	<b>134.6</b>
5	Melanie Nicholls	L	67.2	63.2		2	<b>130.4</b>
6	Alex Whitem	M		89.3		1	<b>89.3</b>
7	Mark Goldie	M		85.8		1	<b>85.8</b>
8	Keith Parkinson	M50			81.8	1	<b>81.8</b>
9	Deon Bamford	V40	77.2			1	<b>77.2</b>
10	Stuart Boulton	M45		70.3		1	<b>70.3</b>
11	Jeff Anderson	V45			70.1	1	<b>70.1</b>
12	Francis Richardson	V60	64.8			1	<b>64.8</b>
13	Claire Duffield	L	63.5			1	<b>63.5</b>

2006 GRAND PRIX TABLE				Ilkley Moor	Liver Hill	Half Pendle	Lytham St Annes 10	Liversedge 1/2M	Oldham 1/2M	OPTIMUM POINTS
1	Richard O'Sullivan	5	67	75.8	69.4	75.2	74.5	0	0	361.9
2	Mark Goldie	4	85.7	95.4	87.6	0	85.8	0	0	354.5
3	Melanie Blackhurst	4	0	0	77.9	84.6	86.1	85.4	0	334
4	Mel Siddal	4	0	82	68.7	84.4	78.9	0	0	314
5	Andrew Horsfall	3	90.3	95.3	90.1	0	0	0	0	275.7
6	Keith Parkinson	3	0	90.5	86.2	0	0	92.3	0	269
7	Simon Galloway	3	81.3	91.5	84.6	0	0	0	0	257.4
8	Sharon Godsman	3	71.3	80.9	67	0	0	0	0	219.2
9	Claire Duffield	3	0	78.2	70	70.3	0	0	0	218.5
10	Stuart Boulton	3	64.9	73	0	0	74.5	0	0	212.4
11	David O'Neill	3	61.7	73.9	66.3	0	0	0	0	201.9
12	Andrew Wrench	2	0	103.3	97.6	0	0	0	0	200.9
13	Shaun Godsman	2	0	99.8	92	0	0	0	0	191.8
14	Alex Whitem	2	0	99.9	0	0	89.3	0	0	189.2
15	Jane Smith	2	82.5	94.7	0	0	0	0	0	177.2
16	Nick Wigmore	2	79.2	89.4	0	0	0	0	0	168.6
17	James Riley	2	0	85.4	75.9	0	0	0	0	161.3
18	Derek Donohue	2	76	0	83	0	0	0	0	159
19	Richard Leonard	2	73.8	84.7	0	0	0	0	0	158.5
20	Deon Bamford	2	76.3	0	0	80.6	0	0	0	156.9
21	Alice Heath	2	0	82.8	70	0	0	0	0	152.8
22	Nigel Hanson	2	0	0	0	74.4	73.7	0	0	148.1
23	Melanie Nicholls	2	0	0	0	74.3	70	0	0	144.3
24	Martin Roberts	1	0	98.5	0	0	0	0	0	98.5
25	Richard Blakeley	1	0	96.4	0	0	0	0	0	96.4
26	Christopher Smale	1	96.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	96.3
27	Phil Hodgson	1	0	92.9	0	0	0	0	0	92.9
28	Dave Collins	1	89.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	89.7
29	Derek Clutterbuck	1	0	80	0	0	0	0	0	80
30	Mandy Goth	1	0	80	0	0	0	0	0	80
31	Ben Crowther	1	0	0	77.8	0	0	0	0	77.8
32	Francis Richardson	1	0	0	0	77.6	0	0	0	77.6
33	Jeff Anderson	1	0	0	0	0	0	74.3	0	74.3
34	David Wilson	1	71.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	71.4
35	John Page	1	70.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	70.8
36	Wayne Morrison	1	0	0	70.3	0	0	0	0	70.3
37	Peter Bowles	1	69.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	69.9
38	Janine Wigmore	1	64.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	64.4
39	Tina Smith	1	59.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	59.8
40	Helen Hodgkinson	1	56.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	56.9

# Mandy's Page

## **Pack Runs Wednesday's**

**ON THE FELS**  
7pm

**May –Hare & hounds, Old Town**

**June –Kebs, Long Causeway**  
*Please note change*

**July – Moorcock, Littleborough**

**Aug – New Delight, Colden**

**Sept – Hollins**



## **TUESDAY NIGHT TRAINING SESSIONS**

Calling all fell runners, road racers, trail hounds, joggers, mountain marathoners, tri-athletes etc. Where've you all been for the Tuesday night training sessions? The few of us who've been turning up through the cold and wet winter nights should soon be showing you a clean pair of heels!! But, now its Spring, the lighter nights are here, it may even sunshine occasionally. So, what more incentive do you need?

Whether you want to improve your speed, build your leg strength, increase your stamina, beat your arch rivals in races, achieve PB's, or just develop your style this is the session to go for, particularly as we now have our very own knowledgable, enthusiastic, and sadistic Level 3 coach in **Graeme Wrench**. He'll make you work hard, very hard, but then there's no gain without pain – and you can then treat the Wednesday packrun as a gentler recovery run!

Graeme will be running training sessions at **Todmorden High School** at **19.00hrs** every **Tuesday night** through the summer putting us through our paces with a variety of different programs tailored to different abilities. And it's not just for elite athletes like myself??? Everyone from beginners to the fast boys and girls will get something from these sessions. So drag yourselves out on a Tuesday – you'll be back home just after eight – you know it makes sense.

**All Toddlies are welcome – you'll enjoy it – honest!**

## **New Member**

**Welcome to new member**  
**Geoff Read**

## **ATTENTION JUNIORS**

### **Todmorden Harriers Junior Training Sessions**

**Monday evenings from 24th  
April at Todmorden High School**

**5-6 pm 6+ yrs old (must be  
accompanied by an adult)**

**6-7 pm 10+ yrs old**

**£1.50 per session (members £1)**

**Contact: Eileen Miles**  
**07738634625**

## **High Peak Marathon (HPM)**

One evening after a pack run from the White Swan in Hebden Bridge, I was asked by Kath if I would like to be in the Ladies Team for the HPM, along with herself, Mandy and Jane. I was told it was around 30ish miles. Always up for a challenge (and after 2 glasses of red wine) I agreed. It wasn't until a few weeks later whilst chatting to Rhys, Sharon and Shaun that I learnt it was more like 40 miles – and that is if you chose a good route as it is all navigation. Oh yes, I nearly forgot – it set off at 11pm which meant running through the night!!!! I started to feel very anxious, what if I couldn't do it? What if I was separated from the team?

A few days before the event, Jane's foot injury meant she had to reluctantly pull out and Kay joined in to keep the team.

On the actual day – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – it started to snow heavily! My mum was on the phone, begging me not to do it. I actually thought it would be cancelled due to the conditions – ha! Not a chance. Mandy picked Kay and me up from Hebden around 8pm. As we arrived in the Peak District, Mandy had to drive very carefully to avoid skidding off the road in the treacherous snow and icy conditions. We breathed a sigh of relief and applauded her as we safely arrived in Edale.

The community centre acting as head quarters was full of other teams taking part. Our blokes' team which consisted of John Crummet, Rhys Watkins, Richard Blakely and Richard Leonard were located next to the carb loaded table stuffing as much food as humanely possible.

The kit check we had to endure was the most thorough I have ever witnessed – it went on forever! I think the checker was gob smacked at the amount of food Kath had managed to get into her rucksack! Everything was checked, I even thought that we had to erect the tent we had to carry round to prove all was there!

The walking teams set off first from 10pm in minute intervals, the running teams the same, but from 11pm. Our team, Tod Totty (don't ask) set off at 11.10pm, the blokes team, Tod Bats, set off at 11.20pm. As we ran into the darkness, I could see the earlier teams' head torch beams outlining the peaks all around us. It was a magical sight but daunting as it showed how high, then low, then high then low etc we had to go. There were 21 checkpoints that Mandy and Kath had to get our team to.

One section of the route was very steep, icy and rocky with a stream directly to the right of us at the bottom of a steep, bramble covered slope. We must have slipped and fallen a couple of dozen times and I'm sure I still have the bruises and cuts to show for it! There were 2 refreshment stops, one  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the way in, the other  $\frac{3}{4}$  way in. Hot ribena was served and bananas handed out. We met up with the blokes' team on the first one. Richard Blakely looked like Chris Bonnington on top of Everest - his beard was all frozen with dangling icicles chinking together! In between 3am and 5.30am it was so cold that our bananas had turned black and our drinks frozen solid – time to put our refreshments inside our clothes! At around 6ish we saw the sun come up and what a sight it was. A big bright red ball which turned all the snow around us pink – beautiful! Artic hares hopped around us, it was fantastic. At this point we were in the middle of what I can only describe at 10ft high snow dunes. The snow was very deep here and difficult to walk over as every other step you took you went down up to your thigh, at one point Kath and Richard Leonard disappeared up to their waist! This section was only around 4 miles long but it took the longest to get over. Over the next few hours the views down into the valleys were stunning. The sun was bright, the snow whiter than white and the clouds hung in the valleys creating scenes worthy of a guidebook.

When we finished back at Edale community centre, we were greeted by a girl saying "You're the first ladies team back, you are just in time for the presentation!" We all looked at each other, assessing the situation. We had just run 40 miles, through the night, have worn hats all the way round, have hair stuck to our face and head and bits of food stuck to our clothes. What a sight we must have looked! Oh well. I felt chuffed to pieces to receive our prizes in front of the other teams and with the other winners – Sir Ranolph Feinnes being one of them! Not too sure about the pink rubber gloves we won...!

Mandy drove Kay and I back, fuelled on Red Bull and the surrealism of missing a night sleep and burning up a gazillion calories whilst doing it! That evening I was all up for going to my brothers leaving party, but as I sat on the couch, all dolled up, my eyes rolled to the back of my head and by 8pm I was sleeping like a baby.

Would I do it again? Definitely. We have a title to keep!

Rachel Skinner  
Team member number 4  
Tod Totty.



# Don Quixote and the Haworth Hobble (a partly true account)

To start at the very beginning, is a very good place to start.

So, it's December 2005 and I'm having one of my all too frequent physio sessions. I'm talking to my physio about his recurrent ligament trouble in my ankle, he tells me to keep a diary so we can isolate what exasperates the problem, I already know and have done for some time, it's running over very uneven ground, like tussocks.

'Well don't do it then' he says with the sort of clarity of thinking that I've never been good at. And it's that simple, that's me out of bumpy fell races for the foreseeable future.

I moped about for a couple of days, then started to think about what kind of races I could still run without injuring myself. I weighed up the options and realised I could still spend my time doing runnable trail type fell races with plenty of up and down and no nasty Turks heads. This suited me down to the ground, and I set about jumping in at the deep end and finding the longest of that kind of race locally. Maybe I was proving I could still run, or just tilting at windmills, but what else is someone who's just hit forty and can't afford a big motor bike supposed to do? I wondered if Don Quixote was having a midlife crisis too (literary Toddlies will know about Quixote, I saw the cartoon version). Basically it's a 17<sup>th</sup> century Spanish tale about a peasant who starts to believe he's a knight and goes off to fight monsters. At one stage he believes that, windmills are giants, so he attacks them with a lance. It's all about imaginary bogeymen and the fight being against yourself. He also is a bit dim. In many respects, I am Quixote.

So that's the background and the explanation of why instead of lining up with 17 Toddlies at the Half Tour, I'm slouching about in Oxenhope with a small select band of Toddlies waiting to start the Haworth Hobble, 31 miles and 4400ft of ascent. Say it quickly it doesn't sound so bad. Lets see, Phil 'Nutter' Hodgson, Rhys 'Nutter' Watkins, Richard 'Nutter' Leonard, Mandy and Kath aka 'BG Bonkers Club', Neil 'Used to be a nutter but I'm ok now' Hodgkinson, and Jeff 'Aspirant nutter' Walker. Did I really want to be in this club? What was I thinking of lining up on the start line with this lot whilst the sun struggled to rise over Penistone Hill?

Too soon we were off. The longest I had raced previously was probably about three hours, I had no idea how my body would react to being asked to run for over five hours without a resus team on standby. I looked around for a friendly face, not finding one I followed Neil Hodgkinson up the first, log, muddy climb. Neil's a veteran of this sort of thing and tucked in behind him and congratulated myself on my choice of pacemaker. Quixote had his Sancho Panza, I had Neil. Quixote is tall and skinny, whilst Panza is his smaller, overweight, often confused mate. I decided I'd taken that analogy as far as I wanted to. Whist I was thinking about this, Neil disappeared into the distance whilst I fell off a stile.

I can't claim to have enjoyed the first climb up to Bronte Bridge and Top Withens (Wuthering Heights) and I blame Kate Bush. Do you know when you get a song in your head whilst running and can't get rid of it? Guess what song I had? Anyone? (.Plod..Plod..Heathcliff, it's me Cathy, come home tonight... Plod.. Plod). If I ever bump into Ms Bush in the Stubbing Wharf, I'll spit beer down her top.

There then followed a long stretch from Widdop to Kebs along the Pennine Bridleway, past the limestone hushings and dog walkers at Hurstwood Reservoir. Towards the end of this stage my legs were beginning to complain on the downhill bits and I started to worry. I'd only done about 13 miles, and it was difficult not to be conscious of the fact that we'd barely started. Luckily I remembered the only really sensible advice I'd been given before setting off, 'if in doubt, eat something'. I would have liked scampi and chips, perhaps washed down with a pint of Landlord. Unfortunately a lack of decent pubs on this godforsaken, post industrial bit of moor meant that I only had a fun size mars bar, although any notion of fun seemed a foreign concept at the time. But it did make me feel a bit better.

Crossing the road by the windmills at Cliviger I vaguely tilted at them, Quixote style, but then noticed an ambulance speeding up the road from Burnley. Fearing that a well meaning member of the public had seen me crossing the moor and thought the worst, I grinned inanely, straightened my back and strode across the road as if I did this kind of thing every weekend. My whole being gave off an aura of not needing an ambulance, just intensive counselling and maybe a spot of haloperidol.

Now the route took us down through the muddy lanes of Shore, Whirlaw, and Cross Stone, where seemingly all the cows in Calderdale come to crap. My only distraction in this time was passing the golf club and watching nice men in sensible trousers hit golf balls and walk slowly after them. I resolved that my fiftieth birthday I would have another mid life crisis and develop an interest in talking about 'five irons' and 'niblicks'.

Then we were marshalled down past the Cross Stone church and back up the other side of the valley by the stupidest imaginable route to Mankinholes. Jam doughnuts were the attraction as I hobbled into the village, courtesy of the local scouts. I ate four then felt sick. Curse those pesky kids.

Then onwards and quite literally upwards to Stoodley Pike with its' legion of bemused tourists, all with matching tartan flasks. Then down through the woods to Hebden via a tortuous bit of tarmac that finished off my knees completely. The only comfort was that I seemed to be surrounded by people suffering more than me. Going back up Heptonstall Road many of the runners had stopped sat down, lay down, went home. It was about his time that it started snowing, in the flurries the scattered, stalled runners seemed to be contriving to arrange themselves in a convincing tableau of Napoleon's retreat from Moscow.

Heptonstall was deserted, like a wild west town when the baddie arrives. After sniffing the fumes coming out of the Cross, the route drops down to the Blue Pig. It was there that something happened. We'll call it the 'Miracle of the Blue Pig' if you like. There was a Mr Blakeley look-a-like in a Horwich shirt standing at the drinks station, as I shuffled past I heard him say the magic words,

'I reckon I'm on under 6 hours if I get going'.

My legs obviously heard this and liked what they heard, sub 6 hours was my target when I first entered the race. I felt like Popeye after a tin of spinach. My legs suddenly remembered how to run and I was away.

The climb up Crimsworth was a joy as I felt good and the sun snuck out from behind the big black cloud it had been hiding behind for most of the day, and actually I began to gain places.

I was feeling so positive that I didn't really mind that the track over Stairs had been transformed into a Charlie Dimmock style water feature by last night's heavy rain, augmented by melting snow. I paddled down the hill. Soon I was in Oxenhope and about to tackle the last quarter of a mile climb up some tarmac to the finish. Here's a new rule, no races, under any circumstances, should finish on a climb like this. The US constitution bans 'Cruel and Unusual' punishments. This should also apply to fell running. Let's lobby the FRA. Still, despite this last torture, I made it to the finish; I'd done 5:58:37. That'd do.

Seconds later I was sat down in race control at a Formica table the type of which they usually sell to secure units in mental institutions, cramming calories into my mouth by the shed load, cake, pies, passing Yorkshire terriers, anything really.

Don Quixote dies at the end of the book, after coming to his senses and realising his windmills were just boggarts in his head. Maybe I'll do the same in about fifty years, but not yet.

*Colin Duffield*

# APRIL FOOLS

Initially it was an attempt to get a full team out to the 2006 British Championship race Slieve Bearnagh in Northern Ireland but with only 3 takers, Andrew Wrench, Andrew Horsfall and myself this fell apart at the first hurdle. Shame, because it was a brilliant race and weekend.

Hoss and myself had previously ventured to the Mourne 's to complete a 2 day marathon with former Tod Harrier Rob Glover (now P&B) and Graham TIFF (Pudsey Striders) in 2004, it was a very enjoyable weekend, with great scenery.

With this experience we knew what to expect with regards to terrain and logistics of getting there and back.

Approximate costs for the swarvey to Ireland including air fare, car hire, fuel, bus fares and digs was a measly £70. Obviously this didn't include the post race refreshments and the purchase of beer goggles.

James Logue (Horwich R.M.I.) now resident in Todmorden and good friend of the Barmy Bear family contacted me in the week leading up to the race. He wanted to cadge a lift from Belfast International to the start. Flying from Liverpool and due to land 10 mins before us from Manchester. We arranged to meet in the arrivals lounge at about 8 am

Bev transported the three of us to Manchester at 5 am and we boarded the BMI Baby aircraft at around 7.30am along with Wendy Dodds (CLEM), whom we met in the departure lounge.

Quite surreal, board plane at 7.30 am in Manchester and landing in N.Ireland 30 minutes later, why did they bother with the drinks trolley? come to think of it, why bother buying a drink. By the time you had bought it, the seatbelt light was back on and we were descending !

James met us, as arranged at the Budget Car hire desk. We presented him with a prepared disclaimer written on quality paper ; a BMI Baby sick bag. This stated that if he was to be carried in our vehicle he must vow to join Tod Harriers ranks by signing the note. He laughed, muttered something about contacting the athletics association and stuffed the sick bag in his luggage, OR he had travelled in a car before with Hoss as driver.

We set off for the venue at about 8.30am via Belfast City centre, with our local guide James pointing out places and structures of interest including the mammoth dock side cranes Samson and Goliath and areas of well documented atrocities took place.

Sunny spells throughout the journey promised a good day of racing ahead

We arrived at the race start at approx. 10.30 am in Happy Valley, sun still shining but with a chilly wind. We warmed up with a run on the first climb Slieve Meelbeg, we realised this was going to be tough, rough ground and extremely wet. Studying the map earlier revealed a long intense climb up Sl. Meelbeg from a forest corner, descend rapidly into the head of Silent Valley, a very steep climb up Sl. Bearnagh turn at the first Tor, return down the same side using the Mourne Wall as a hand rail into the Col and up the final climb of Sl. Meelmore to a tower and fast descent . In total 2400 ft in 4miles, 1000 ft more than Flower Scar in the same distance, so you can imagine the severity of the climbs if you have done the latter race.

Always one for tried and tested methods Wrenchy surprised us by producing brand new, never been worn Walshy's from his kit bag, white socks and his Adam and the Ants outfit..... a plaster for his nose, he added that it was to help his breathing and therefore his performance, I've not seen anything wrong with his running of late ! He stated that once applied his nostrils magically flared, thus allowing more oxygen pass. Not a good idea when Hoss is currently in a rich vein of form in the flatulence department.

We were sent on our way at 12 noon, Wrenchy off with the lead group (maybe we took the piss too soon) Hoss and James following on with myself picking out a local, to follow a slightly alternate route up Sl. Meelbeg. I caught Hoss halfway to the summit and James on the descent to the foot of Sl. Bearnagh, it was very slippery and difficult to stay upright. The 700 ft climb to the Tor on Bearnagh was steep, lots of heather and rocky. I put my head down and after a few false summits I reached the top along with the eventual first lady Natalie White (Bingley). I caught sight of Wrenchy flying down the mountain in the opposite direction next to the Mourne Wall. I turned at the fantastic rock formations and plunged down the rock and scree into the Col, then started the long 600ft steady climb up Sl. Meelmore, again using the wall as a guide. (James had told us earlier that the wall was built around the water catchment area of Silent Valley Reservoir by locals who were unemployed years gone).

An impressive stone tower is passed on the top of Sl. Meelmore before you leave the wall for the last time and descend quickly to the finish on tussock, and rock with an added contour to make it extremely difficult.

Wrenchy finished an impressive 24<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Vet 40 myself finishing next followed by James and Hoss. All agreed that it was a classic route, no flat running, it was either up or down.

Wrenchy believed that his fashion accessory assisted him significantly but because his nostrils were wider, there was a constant flow of mucus from his hooter.....thanks for that Andrew.

Race over with by 1 pm, James departed for the airport, he had met an old school friend of his from Derry and managed to blag a lift back to Belfast.

We changed and travelled to the east coast and Newcastle, set at the foot of the highest peak in the Mourne's Slieve Donard, rising almost 3000 ft from the town. Booked into our digs, quickly changed and a quick chat with other runners from Ambleside and Dark Peak, before we attended the venue for the presentation at O'Hares on the south Promenade, a traditional pub at the front with a restaurant and night club at the rear, it was now 3 pm.

Copious amounts of Guinness was consumed from this point on.

Rob Jebb along with his partner Sharon Taylor joined us in the bar area and immediately quipped that he had been the soul Male Bingley runner today, pissed off about it and asked if Tod Harriers wanted a new member. All 3 of us almost choked "WHATS WRONG WITH THE LAKE DISTRICT CLUBS ?" Jebb replied, "I'M A YORKSHIRE MAN"

Crikey..... James Logue and Rob Jebb possibly recruited to the Tod ranks, we'll get life time membership for this.

At 5.30 pm dinner was served, they described it as Veggie curry but all we got was a bowl of dishwater with rice and veg thrown in for good measure.

Presentation followed soon after, winners being Rob Hope (P&B) and Natalie White. The mayoress gave a small speech but I couldn't understand a word being said, maybe the alcohol had taken control now.

We remained at the pub for the rest of the evening exchanging banter with runners and continuing our onslaught of the dark nectar.

At 11 pm the pub hosted a live band, they were excellent (I don't remember their name though) playing a vast range of popular tunes from the 70's to present day, from Undertones to Arctic Monkeys.

You can imagine the scene, inebriated runners, away from home and bean poling about (Ranter would have been proud of em), on mass in front of the band.

Several doorman had to be recruited to the front of the bar to prevent the maddening crowd falling into the bands equipment, although the band members appeared delighted with the attention. Wrenchy always the sensible one and Hoss bouncing about in amongst the throng.

Have we got enough club funds to get this band to the Tod Harriers doo, book now and the flights are 00.01p !!

2 am and 22 hrs later we were now burning candles at both ends, we crawled into our bunks, which I swear were built for midgets, head and feet hanging over each end.

We woke 7.30am quick cold shower followed and left for Belfast, dropping the car off at the city airport, visiting Maggie Mays for Breakfast and the Famous Crown for a pint and yes it was Guinness. (I think we'd had our iron intake for the year by this point) The pub is apparently owned by the National Trust.

At 3.25 pm we returned to a drenched Manchester and collected by Wrench's wife Amanda.

All in all, a memorable 48 hrs with great company, classic race, loads of beer and not too harsh on the bank balance.

Anyone for next year ?

JONNY LEFT

# Toilet Seat 2006

Welcome to the opening of the toilet seat lid! There are lots of stories to flush out and Mandy has been most helpful in keeping the tales flowing. Well, can't say too much here as the space is needed for the reporting of your exploits!

Yours,  
Uncle Barry

**A Vested Interest?** Stuart Boulton forgot his vest on the Calderdale Way Relay and had to borrow a ready warmed one from Shaun Godsmen (yukk) – this is not the traditional way to warm up Stuart! 5 pts

**Vested Interest? Most definitely!** Stuart Boulton remembered to bring his vest to the Pennine Bridleway Race but forgot to wear it on this occasion, having left it in his van at the end of the leg! Another 5 pts Stuart.

**And while we're on Stuart,** I'm awarding 5 pts for each offence: he almost started a pack run with his bluetooth earpiece in, and then finished it by forgetting to pay for his meal at the Rake - Mandy had to pay for it but at least was reimbursed.

**The hidden dangers of car sharing:** Jeff Anderson pays into a scheme and uses a communal car. He tends to hire it on a Wednesday for business and then comes to pack runs in it. One particularly bad night Jeff got changed inside the car. The following morning he received an email from the scheme administrator who was concerned about some underpants found in the car - explain that one away for 5 pts Jeff!

**A Senior moment** may have been experienced by Martin Roberts who could not get into the Achille Ratti hut (it has one of those number punching in things) despite having got in once already. 5pts

**Dozy** Dave Wilson turned up at the MMM – and tried to get a sneaky look at the map to see if any check points were near his house as he had forgotten his compass. He then found that he'd also left his fell shoes & money behind so had to go back anyway. That's 5 pts for sneakiness and 5 for forgetfulness Dave!

**Navigation Course Needed?** Chris Smales and Alex Whitem displayed some poor route choices on the Pennine Bridleway Relay in Walsden, by going up the old route, coming back down again and then managing to overshoot the correct turnoff! 5 pts each boys.

**How many sides does a box have?** One more than Paul Prescott could find! He had dibber problems at the end of leg 4 of the Pennine Bridleway Relay – he tried to put it into all sides of the box bar the correct one – and then to add insult to injury, left the dibber there instead of handing it over to Andrew and Mark! 5 pts on each count Paul.

**Wrong day** – Martin Roberts booked tickets to fly from Heathrow to Manchester on the shuttle for himself and Pedro (his 20 year old son from Brazil (kept that one quiet, didn't you Martin?)). The only flaw to his planning was the fact that he booked for the wrong day and ended up having to drive to London and back. An expensive mistake that earns you 5 pts.

**Question:** .....and does Sue Roberts get any points for giving Pedro a Mohican haircut like his father's?

**Answer:**.....NO.

**There's always one** and in this case it is Jeremy Abdy who locked his keys in the car during the Stoop race. It is rumoured that he then managed to run into the back of someone at the traffic lights – 5 pts for each offence Jeremy.....unless the rumour is dispelled.....may cost you a pint though (ed)

**...and here's another:** Sue Roberts had her keys but tried to fit them into the wrong car after a club run at the Shoulder in Mytholmroyd – 5 pts Sue

**Monkey business** was experienced by Sue & Martin Roberts when their number plate was destroyed by the baboons at Knowsley Safari Park. Split these 5 pts between you.

**New trainers Richard?** Uncle Barry was struggling on a bad training run at Cliviger when he was passed by a late Richard Blakeley who appeared to be sporting a new type of trainer – he was still wearing his town shoes having forgotten his trainers. 5 pts.

**Lost and found:** Kath Brearley's gloves were found 5 times on the High Peaks Mountain Marathon...and then her hat also went missing...but was found on Rachael's head! 5 pts for carelessness Kath.

**Handy hints for race organisers (1):** Know the entry cost for the race before the actual day Jon! Jon had to phone Mandy for help on this one as he couldn't remember what to charge for the Flowerscar – 5 pts.

**Blind as a bat?** Phil Hodgson may be – on the last winter Bat Run Phil led the bats to Flowerscar. Wouldn't have been a problem except that they should have been on Thieveley. 5 pts and a tip – see an optometrist.

## League Table

Stuart Boulton	20
Martin Roberts	12.5
Dave Wilson	10
Jeremy Godden	10
Paul Prescott	10
Sue Roberts	7.5
Chris Smales	5
Alex Whitem	5
Jeff Anderson	5
Richard Blakeley	5
Kath Brearley	5
Phil Hodgson	5
Jon Wright	5