

Recent Press Reports (by Richard Butterwick)

Tod News 24/09/09 Good Shepherd

Todmorden Harriers were on familiar ground on Saturday as Calder Valley Fell Runners' Good Shepherd Fell Race featured in the club's Fell Championship. The 14 mile race, which had a slight route change this year, featured over 2000 feet of ascent and descent made all the tougher by the warm sunny weather.

Starting at Dauber Bridge in Cragg Vale, the runners immediately climbed up through Spring Wood and made the first of two visits of the day to Stoodley Pike. A quick descent to Withens Clough led to the next moorland climb up to the Cloven Stone checkpoint. There was then a choice of routes taken to reach the next checkpoint at London Road, with the leading group of Horwich's James Logue, Todmorden's Andrew Wrench and Calder Valley's Gavin Mulholland opting to retrace their steps back to Withens Clough and climb back up through Withens Gate, whilst much of the field took the flatter but longer option around Warland Drain. After a short section along London Road, a tough climb back up to Stoodley Pike – which allowed Logue to establish a small lead - was followed by a long descent through Sunderland Pasture and Spa Wood to Cragg Vale. The final climb of the day took the runners to Robin Hood Rocks before they returned to the finish at the Good Shepherd in Mytholmroyd.

James Logue retained his narrow lead to the Rocks before a wrong turn by the following pair allowed him to open up a 5 minute gap at the finish. Andrew Wrench finished in second place ahead of Gavin Mulholland.

Dave Collins was the next Harrier to complete the course in 7th. Andy McFie and Paul Brannigan battled to the line with McFie just edging out his teammate into 12th which helped Todmorden win the team prize just one point ahead of Calder Valley.

The situation was reversed as Calder Valley Ladies took the women's team prize by one point ahead of Todmorden. Anne Johnson was first lady to finish with Todmorden's Claire Duffield in 2nd. Lucy Hobbs finished 6th lady after a strong finish, with Mel Blackhurst 8th lady.

Tod News 1/10/09 Thieveley Pike | Macclesfield Half



Holme Chapel in Cliviger was the venue on Saturday, as the latest round of Todmorden Harriers' Fell Championship took in the Thieveley Pike Fell Race. The 4.25 mile route features several sharp climbs, totalling over 1300 feet, and is run in part over private land with the kind permission of landowners.

A brief dash across the start field was followed by a short section along the Pennine Bridleway, leading to the first, and steepest, of the day's climbs, with the runners scrambling up the rough bank to Stone House Edge. After a short grassy downhill section and a stream crossing, the next moorland climb led to a traverse along the ridge to the Pike. A steep descent to Dean Scout punctuated by a small climb preceded the final rise of the day, which crossed the earlier route and then dropped the runners back down to the Bridleway for the fast run in to the finish.

Calder Valley's Ben Mounsey was victorious for the 2nd successive year, in a time of 32:26, ahead of Horwich's James Logue. Andrew Wrench was the first of the 26 Harriers to finish in 3rd place, followed by Sean Carey in 12th. Paul Brannigan narrowly edged out Nick Barber for 18th place.

Todmorden Ladies dominated the female finishers, holding five out of the top nine places, lead by an excellent victory for Lauren Jeska. Claire Duffield was 2nd lady and Kath Brierley 4th to easily take the team prize. Lucy Hobbs and Louise Abdy finished 6th and 9th ladies respectively.

With so many racing on Saturday, Sarah Glyde was the sole representative of the club at Sunday's Macclesfield Half Marathon, despite the race featuring in the club's Road Championship. Sarah took full advantage, finishing in a time of 1:44:22 to close the gap on ladies championship leader Mel Blackhurst to less than a point.

Tod News 8/10/09 Autumn Leaves | Burnley Fire Station 7

Autumn weather arrived with a vengeance for the two Todmorden Harriers who entered the Autumn Leaves Fell Race at Diggle on Saturday. The 8.5 mile course wound its way between several reservoirs on Marsden Moor taking in 1700 feet of ascent. With gale force winds and rain behind the runners for much of the first half of the race they knew they were in for a tough return. Sadly it was too tough for one competitor who retired with a broken ankle after a nasty fall.

Organised by Saddleworth runners, the home club provided the winner in Colin Bishop after a race long battle with teammate – and former Harrier – Sean Willis.

Pal Hobbs was the first Todmorden representative, finishing in 18th place just 10 minutes behind, with Mick Craven revelling in the conditions to finish 55th a further 10 minutes back.

A calmer side of autumn was experienced on Sunday with cool sunny conditions winning out after early showers for the Burnley Fire Station 7 mile road race. The event raises funds for the Firefighters Charity and Pendleside Hospice and was comfortably won by Steve Littler of Wesham in a time of 37:19.

Three Harriers took part, with Richard Butterwick finishing in 19th place, Peter Ehrhardt in 85th and Ian Stansfield – completing his 59th race of this year - in 112th.

Tod News 15/10/09 Langdale

Kath Brierley was the toast of Todmorden after the final English Championship Fell Race at Langdale on Saturday, as she secured a bronze medal in the LV45 category.



Starting the day laying in equal third position with Clayton le Moors legendary runner Wendy Dodds, and with Clayton's Anna Kelly just 1 point behind, the 14 mile course was a fittingly tough decider with poor visibility adding to the challenge.

After 3 hours of racing over some of the Lake District's highest peaks, just 8 minutes separated the trio. Wendy Dodds was ahead of Kath on the line, but the championship is decided upon the best four scores out of the six races, and after some mind bending mental arithmetic it became clear that Kath had clinched the medal, with the Clayton pair finishing joint 4th just 2 points adrift.

Lauren Jeska had another fine run finishing 7th lady on the day, to move her up the ladies overall table to 19th.

Kath's performance also took her up to 25th and Sarah May finished the year in 31st. With all three having suffered injuries this year, there will be much to look forward to in next year's championship.

The first Todmorden man to finish was Andrew Wrench in 35th, with Alistair Rhodes-Dawson having an inspired run

to finish just 2 minutes back in 42nd. Ben Crowther and Dave Collins also made it into the top 100.

Tod News 22/10/09 British Fell Relay | Bronte Way

Todmorden Harriers put out three relay teams at the British Fell Relay Championships on Sunday, held in the Lake District's Ennerdale Hills. The relays are run in teams of six with a single runner leading off in the first leg, followed by two pairs for legs 2 & 3 and a final individual runner completing the team. Conditions could not have been much more testing, as mist quickly closed in after the first leg reducing visibility down to 20 metres for times.

On a day that favoured those with keen navigational skills, it was an achievement just to finish and several of the top contenders were disqualified for missing checkpoints in the clag, including current Triathlon World Champion Alistair Brownlee running for Bingley.

Todmorden's men's team put in a solid performance to finish 27th overall, with the men's veteran team finishing 26th in their category. The ladies team capped a good season with a 9th place, narrowly missing out on 8th.

Closer to home, Harriers' John & Christine Preston were organising the Bronte Way Fell Race at Haworth. The race follows a rare point to point route from Wycoller to the finish at the door of the Fleece Inn on Haworth's Main Street. 168 runners took to the course to be rewarded with a hot soup and a bottle of beer at the finish. Martin Roberts was the first Harrier to finish in 24th, followed by Richard Gilbert in 39th. Mick Craven was 69th and John Medcalf 102nd. First Todmorden lady was Sue Roberts, followed by Kirsten Arlie and Hannah Januszczyk.

Tod News 29/10/09 Accrington 10k | OMM | Snowdon Marathon | Race to the Summit | Withins' Skyline

A wind of change blew Todmorden's ladies road championship wide open at the weekend with a 40 second advantage at the finish of the Accrington 10k allowing Sarah Glyde to edge past closest rival Mel Blackhurst in the overall standings.

Over 300 runners took to the hilly course fighting their way through windy conditions, with Wesham's Steve Littler taking the win in 33:53. First Harrier to finish was a resurgent Paul Brannigan in 20th strengthening his claim for 2nd place in the men's championship, followed by Richard Butterwick in 43rd and Andrew Bibby in 85th.

Sarah led in the ladies ahead of Mel. Elise Milnes was next to finish, taking the prize for 1st vet45, and Moyra Parfitt had a strong run to win the vet60 prize. Rachel Henthorne held off a late challenge from husband David, as he overtook Helen Hodgkinson in the run in to the line, with Graham Milnes rounding off the Todmorden entry.



At the OMM two day event in mid-Wales, Harriers achieved considerable success with Mandy Goth and Sue Roberts winning the ladies pairs in the long score event. Helen and David Wilson finished 2nd in the veteran mixed pairs and Jon Wright and Andrew Horsfall were 13th in the men's pairs, also in the long score which attracted nearly 200 entries.

Ben Crowther and Nick Barber finished 2nd in the medium score event, after a sensational 2nd day performance that saw them move up from 25th place.

A little further north, two Harriers took on the Snowdonia Marathon. The 26 mile course is reputed to be the most scenic marathon course in the UK. However, the wild windy wet weather meant there was little chance of sight-seeing for the 1800 runners as the route circumnavigated the Snowdon peak. Emma Osenton finished in a time of 4:24 and Julie Wyant in 4:38.

Closer to home on Saturday, a quartet of Harriers braved the stormy conditions for the Race to the Summit Fell Race. The short 4 mile course is a steep dash up from the Summit pub to the Whitehouse pub and back. Former Harriers Sean Willis led Chris Smale at the turnaround, with the positions reversed at the finish as Smale took the win by 4 seconds in a time of 29:14.

Todmorden's Sean Carey was in close attendance throughout and gained a place on the descent to finish 3rd only a few seconds behind. Lauren Jeska won the ladies race in 35:17 with Dan Taylor finishing 29th and Phil Cook 43rd.

On Sunday, several Harriers made their way to Haworth for the Withins' Skyline Fell Race. The 7 mile route is a loop from Penistone Country Park out into the moors past Top Withins. Andrew Wrench was first Todmorden man to finish, just behind winner Tom Addison.

Tod News 4/11/09 Through the Villages

The penultimate round of Todmorden Harriers' Road Championship on Sunday saw Sarah Glyde hold off a strong challenge from Lucy Hobbs to consolidate her lead in the ladies championship. However, the destination of the title will go to the wire at next weekend's Lancaster half marathon, with Mel Blackhurst also still in the mix.

The 8.45mile Through the Villages Race from Wheelton followed an undulating loop through several Lancashire villages, and despite the stormy and blustery conditions the rain held off for much of the race.

Paul Brannigan was the first Todmorden runner to finish in 20th place, and 3rd vet45. Barring any mishaps at next week's race he should comfortably claim 2nd place behind Andrew Wrench in the men's championship. Richard Butterwick was next over the line to finish in 45th boosting his chances of capturing 3rd place in the championship, with Andrew Bibby in 71st, and 3rd vet55.

Sarah Glyde finished just 9 seconds ahead of Lucy Hobbs after a race long tussle that may prove vital in the final standings. Mel Siddall was next Todmorden lady to finish, taking 3rd vet45. Bev Wright resisted Peter Ehrhardt's efforts pipping him on the line by 5 seconds and Barry Chapman completed the Todmorden contingent in 239th.

The Harriers turn race organisers next weekend with the popular Shepherd's Skyline Fell Race taking place on Saturday 7th November from the Shepherd's Rest Inn on Lumbutts Road. The main race starts at 1pm and follows a 6mile loop past Stoodley Pike. Junior races take place on the hillside above the inn and begin at 12noon. Full details can be found on the club's website: www.todmordenharriers.co.uk

Tod News 11/11/09 Lancaster Half | Shepherd's Skyline

The final race in Todmorden Harriers' Road Championship on Sunday saw Lucy Hobbs crowned ladies champion after an excellent run at the Lancaster Half Marathon.

Paul Brannigan was the first Todmorden runner to finish in 29th out of 666 runners, securing 2nd place in the men's championship behind winner Andrew Wrench.

Dan Taylor dipped under the 90 minute mark at Lancaster to end the year in 4th place in the final club standings behind Richard Butterwick, and ahead of Phil Cook.

Despite the pressure Lucy ran a well judged race to pip Sarah Glyde and Mel Blackhurst to the title in one of the closest championship finishes in years.

The Shepherd's Skyline Fell Race took place on Saturday once again attracting a large field of over 260 in the main race and a record 83 for the junior races on the hills above the Shepherd's Rest Inn in wet and muddy conditions.

The 6.25 mile senior race followed a route from the Inn up past Langfield Edge and along the skyline to Stoodley Pike. A hair raising steep descent took the runners down to London Road, for a brief flat section followed by a tough climb back up the hillside to the Stoop and a return back to the Shepherd's Rest.

Graham Pearce of Pudsey and Bramley won the race in a time of 42:07, just over a minute ahead of Calder Valley's Ben Mounsey. Sean Carey was Todmorden's first finisher in 4th place, and first U18, in a time of 44:32. Alistair Rhodes-Dawson finished in 18th, with Ben Crowther just holding off a fast finishing Dave Collins in 32nd and 34th respectively.

Peter Jackson won the Vet60 prize finishing just past the hour mark with Sarah Warburton, the Harriers first female finisher, not far behind.

John Preston nobly sacrificed his race to assist an injured runner off the hills after a fall.

The Harriers next event is the popular 5.8 mile Hot Toddy Road Race, and Fun Run, on Sunday 27th December 2009. www.todharriers.co.uk

Tod News 18/11/09 Dunnerdale



A sizeable contingent of 19 Todmorden Harriers helped swell a record field of 276 for the Dunnerdale Fell Race in the South Western Lakeland Fells. Starting from the small village of Broughton Mills the

5 mile route steadily climbed over The Knott and Raven's Cragg with little respite. Heavy overnight rain that saturated the ground meant that the descent that followed was underwater in many parts and deep mud for the rest.

A stiff climb up to the distinctive peak of Stickle Pike took runners briefly onto slightly rockier ground before a final boggy climb over Great Stickle took the total ascent to 1800 feet and a final muddy descent back to the village.

Tom Addison of local club Helm Hill and Lloyd Taggart of Dark Peak headed the field throughout with only 6 seconds between them at the end with Addison crossing the finish line in 39:36, a creditable time in the conditions.

Martin Roberts led in the Todmorden entry in 59th place with Jeff Walker in 81st. Claire Duffield held off a late challenge from Richard Butterwick as they finished in 103rd and 104th respectively with Phil Hodgson in 110th.

Rachel Skinner was Todmorden's 2nd lady finisher, before Dan Taylor was followed in by Sarah Warburton and Kath Brierley in quick succession.

Tod News 25/11/09 Tour of Pendle | Rivock Edge | Abbey Dash 10k

Todmorden Harriers' club Fell Championship came to a close at the Tour of Pendle on Saturday. The 17mile race, which includes nearly 5000 feet of ascent and descent, is one of the toughest tests in the local area. Heavy rain, gale force winds and clag covered hilltops added to the challenge.

Starting from Barley village, a short road section took the runners straight to their first ascent of the landmark peak. After a steady descent to the Nick o' Pendle the field turned towards Churn Reservoir, where a sharp climb took runners up onto Spence Moor. The spectacular 'Geronimo' descent down to the checkpoint at Ogden Clough brought out a sizeable number of spectators. Another climb up and out of the Clough then took the runners back across towards the ski centre. They then took in an undulating course along the north side of the hill before the final stiff climb back up to Big End. A long final descent back to Ogden Clough led onto the final push back to the welcome finish at Barley.

Alistair Rhodes-Dawson was the first Todmorden runner to finish, consolidating his 2nd place behind Andrew Wrench in the club's Fell Championship. Ben Crowther followed him in, with Chris Preston first Todmorden lady ahead of Elise Milnes.

On Sunday a trio of Harriers experienced slightly better conditions for the Rivock Edge Fell Race at Silsden.

The 6.3 mile course includes over 800 feet of ascent and was won by Lewis Banton in 53:02. First Harrier to finish was Simon Galloway – fresh from his recent Lytham St Annes 5k Monsterdash win – in 1:03:12. Chasing him in were Mick Craven and Peter Ehrhardt.



Andy McFie got his London Marathon training off to a flying start at the Leeds Abbey Dash 10k with a 218th position out of the 6000 runners in a time of 37:56. Melanie Robertson had a fine run to finish in 51:55 and Debbie Fawcett stopped the clock in 1:03:25.

Tod News - Publication date Thursday 10th December 2009

Todmorden Harriers took the opportunity to celebrate 2009's successes at their Annual Awards Presentation Evening, held at Todmorden Cricket Club on Saturday.

Prior to the awards, Ray Poulter led a moving tribute to long time member Dr George Barrow who had sadly recently passed away.

Andrew Wrench, who had started the year as he meant to go on with a win on New Year's Day, at the Giant's Tooth Fell Race, dominated the evening's awards winning the men's Fell Championship, the overall Grand Prix, the Club Champion and, for the first time, the club's Road Championship.

Lauren Jeska, who had also won on New Year's Day, at the Nine Standards Fell Race, received the ladies Fell Championship trophy in her first full year with the club.

Also receiving prizes in the clubs fell championship were runner up Alistair Rhodes-Dawson, Dave Collins (1st vet50), Peter Marshall (1st vet60), Claire Duffield (1st lady vet35), Chris Preston (1st lady vet40) and Kath Brierley (1st lady vet45).

Kath also received the Eric Stuttard Award for the best performance in the English Fell Championships, where she claimed a hard fought bronze medal in the ladies vet 45 category. After a vote on the night, Kath added the Clubman of the Year trophy to her haul.

In addition to 13 team wins at various road and fell races across the year, the ladies team once again set a new best performance in the English Fell Championships with a 5th placing, narrowly missing out on 4th to Clayton le Moors. The ladies vet40 team matched that with a 5th place in the final tables. Another highlight for the ladies team was a 2nd place in the Pennine Bridleway Relay in January.

The men's team also improved upon last year's English Championship performance to finish in the top 10, with the vet40 team and vet50 teams both finishing in 7th in their respective categories. Ben Crowther received the 'Most Improved Runner' trophy having recorded some excellent performances in the English Championships, and together with Nick Barber, finished 2nd pair in the two day OMM event.

Peter Ehrhardt and Paul Brannigan were the first recipients of commemorative tankards to mark the completion of 10 club Grand Prix qualifications. The 2009 Grand Prix had attracted a record 96 participants, with 19 achieving the qualifying minimum.

Lucy Hobbs was awarded the ladies Road Championship, after season long battle with runner up Sarah Glyde and 3rd placed Mel Blackhurst, who finished 1st lady vet40. Also taking prizes home for the road championship were Ian Stansfield (1st vet65), Peter Ehrhardt (1st vet 60), David Henthorne (1st vet50) and Moyra Parfitt (1st lady vet60).

Hot Toddy, 11am 27th December 2009

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Hot Toddy Road Race
Todmorden Working Men's Club,
Halifax Road (Town side of Lidl), Todmorden
Sunday 27th December 2009

From 9.00 hrs onwards, Race at 11.00 hrs Fun Run at 10.30 hrs

Volunteers to help at this annual Tod Harriers race would be much appreciated by Race Organiser Ben Crowther. Whatever your talents they can be put to good use as: Snozz Gobbler, race marshals; car park directors; registration crew; finish funnellers; results team; race sweepers, etc etc.

Spread the word to as many youngsters and ANY people wanting to give the Fun Run ago to burn that winter fat! (£1.00 entry on the day and with age categories mobile/in a buggy). All junior competitors will receive a Goody Bag.

Please let me know if you can help on the day, or even if your in town, but if you want to run the race that is great!

I'll allocate jobs nearer the date.

I can accommodate those runners who want to take part in the race by allocating jobs on the Junior Race or car parking etc.

Tel: 01706 818988 or email: bearfamily@zen.co.uk

Thanks, Ben Crowther

Todmorden Harriers Training:

From: Tuesday, January 5th 2010. Sessions will continue inside when school open and outside when it not term time.

Juniors 5-6pm Seniors/intermediates mixed in with keen/older juniors, 6-7 also allowing for a half hours skills session before moving outside to Graeme's Coaching Session.

Please have a warm top and a drink of water with you, charges will be just £1 donation for a session to cover facility costs, until funding is in place.

Please Contact Ben Crowther on 07810 501959.

If you want to get in to coaching, for personal benefit (Note most improved runner this year!) and for the fulfilment of seeing the club grow with more youth in it, come chat to me or Gareth Vickers, Lauren Jeska, Eileen Miles or Graeme Wrench, about coaching or contact Graeme Woodward at Calder Valley who organises the Calderdale area training courses.

Ben Crowther