

Todmorden News Award for Services to Sport 2008.

I know she doesn't like blowing her own trumpet, and I'm obviously biased, but I'm sure all Todmorden Harriers will join me in congratulating **Mandy** on winning the **Todmorden News Award for Services to Sport 2008**.



The award, made early in the new year for the previous year, was presented to Mandy by Todmorden News editor, Sheila Tordoff, at Todmorden Cricket Club on Monday 16th February 2009. Mrs Tordoff explained that the award had been set up in memory of the newspaper's sports writer Ron Wild, who died 20 years ago. Ron had always been interested in the development of sports clubs in the town and acutely understood the importance of the sportsmen and women who worked behind the scenes to ensure clubs ran smoothly, many of them also having success in their chosen sport as well. When Ron passed on it was decided that a Todmorden News trophy in his memory should recognise the work done by such dedicated people. Each year the winner is chosen by former winners of the award, who have decades of experience between them, and the newspaper's staff. Mandy is the 19th local sportsperson to receive this prestigious award. Previous Todmorden Harriers winners include Chas Woodall and ex Club President the late Eric Stuttard.

Mandy was honoured to accept the award in her 21st year as Chairman of Todmorden Harriers and it was particularly appropriate that the award coincided with the club's 30th Anniversary.

While Mandy has had many successes competing in some of the toughest fell running and mountain marathon challenges, one of her biggest successes is surely being the driving force behind the thriving and successful "more than just a running club" that has been a large part of her life for over 20 years. In Mandy's words; "It's easy being Chairman of such a wonderful team of people and such a great club".

Phil

Torrier Blog of a Prospective Fell Champion

"So My goal this year is to do the fell GP and win it, and the lakes classic 6... My 2 Goals are to do the GP, Win it and the Lakes Classic and to stay fit..., My 3 Goals... and not be injured.

So I list all the races in quadruplicate... Diary at work (electric reminder type that tells me when to brush my teeth and where I'm meant to be), the wall calendar at home – 'if its not on it, it does not happen' (familial saying), and input by droning monologue into My dear wife's mind so she knows I'm to attempt all 22 of these races and in the FRA guide for the year – for posterity... She ignores me...

But... first hurdle, one race I can't do (Fiendsdale) darn it as I'm on a course! Then 2 races conflict with the Lakes/GP idea (Stretton and... another...). Bummer, but on the positive only 19 races to get past the Wife Veto. So I do my first, Stanbury, 3 miles along the route ascending well at about 50th place attempting to catch Dave Collins and Martin Roberts and I think I'm doing well... eagerly pursued by Mr Anderton, who I note is running well!, yikes! So when I see a familiar profile of an individual skip along the skyline, 100 yards from the half way mark to a extend a lead in front of the rest of us, wonderful but galling!, however - well done Mr Holmes, one day ... he may be 70 at the time and me 63... but I'll get him! 5 miles along the boggy soggy lovely route, crookle right ankle, land heavily on left to a bone crunching 'snap' sound – the two runners immediately in front and behind both say 'Ouch, you all right' in comedy unison. – I cry for the beauty of it – just that, not he pain... no not at all! But, in stalwarty Toddie style I keep on till the end, ending up behind the fella behind who said ouch, and we over took 4 on the last decents. They both congratulate me for not wimping out and sopping. One strapped up left ankle and an early dart home while-changing-gear-by-using-my-heel-and-leg-muscles-only later... Riley Cyote... where we're you??

So many prospects broken, - lets hope I can get fit and do well at the next GP!

Part 2, Darn it didn't get to Ilkley, training going ok and have reccied Coniston over half term, and did two other lakes training runs. The bugbear of a front room redevelopment has sucked time like a cheap mate drinks you drinking money (no names, except Ray, of course). Ankle healing a bit but still in some pain after long runs – must book my session in with Gareth. Nowt else to report.

Prospective Fell Champion (Any guesses who this is)