

# Recent Press Reports (by Richard Butterwick)

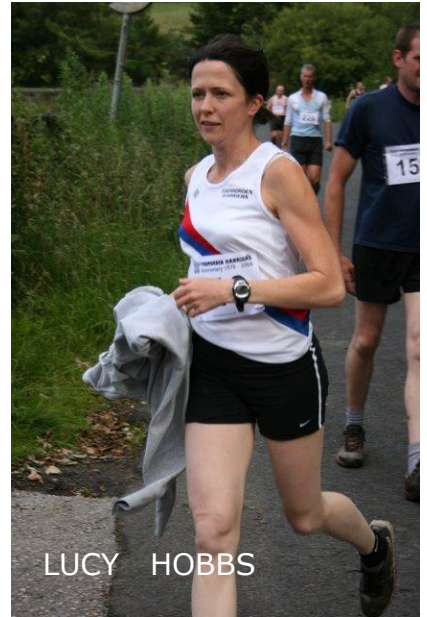
## **Tod News 25/06/09 Midsummer Madness | Jane Tomlinson Leeds 10k**

Ben Crowther finished a very creditable third in the Midsummer Madness three day series organised by Calder Valley Fell Runners. The series is made up of three races held on consecutive days. The action started on Friday evening with the Wicken Hill Whizz a tough 1000feet climb up from Mytholmroyd to the Sheepstone trig point and back down, all within the space of just 3 miles. After reaching the summit in 12<sup>th</sup> place, Ben managed to gain two places on the decent to finish in 10<sup>th</sup>. David Baldaro also had a fine descent finishing in 14<sup>th</sup> and with Phil Cook and Clive Greatorex in 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, Todmorden finished 2<sup>nd</sup> team on the night.

The start venue moved to Chiserley, above Hebden Bridge, as Saturday dawned with the prospect of the navigational challenge of the 7 mile Reservoir Bogs where the checkpoints to visit were only revealed on the day and runners had to find their own way between them. Ben was again the first Harrier to finish in 8<sup>th</sup> place.

The final challenge on Sunday was the Tom Tittiman, a short 4 mile dash up and down the hill of the same name, which was won by the in-form James Logue, of Horwich RMI, in a new course record. Ben Crowther rounded off the weekend with 11<sup>th</sup> place, which placed him 3<sup>rd</sup> of those runners that had completed all three events.

Phil Cook finished next Todmorden runner in the Tom Tittiman, followed by Lucy Hobbs 3<sup>rd</sup> lady overall and Laura Sutcliffe.



Todmorden Harriers had five runners amongst the 10,000 at the Jane Tomlinson 10k in Leeds on Sunday. First Harrier to finish was Rachel Henthorne in a time of 55:12, just over a minute ahead of husband David. Laurence Bristow complete the distance in 1:04:34 followed by Katy Moore, 1:05:19 and Ian Stansfield in 1:06:01.

## **Tod News 2/07/09 Trawden 7 | Ironman France |**

Andrew Wrench was victorious at the Trawden 7 mile multi terrain race on Sunday. The race, which was the latest counter towards Todmorden Harriers Road Championship, attracted a good turnout of 14 Harriers in the hot humid cloudy conditions.

Starting from Trawden recreation ground the route took runners down to Laneshawbridge before a long climb up the old herders' road in the direction of Haworth. After 4 miles on the road, they turned off onto a stony farm track descending into Wycoller. A brief riverside section then led to final climb on the road, before the dash across the recreation ground field to the finish.

Andrew Wrench had a well controlled run from the front and crossed the line comfortably ahead of the next runner. Second Harrier to finish was Phil Cook, with Andrew Bibby hot on his heels.

Keighley & Craven's Amy Green was first female, with Sarah Glyde first Todmorden lady to finish as 5<sup>th</sup> female overall. Mel Blackhurst and Elise Milnes were next to finish as Todmorden tussled with Clayton le Moors for first ladies team.

In similarly hot conditions, three Harriers were in Nice for the Ironman France Triathlon on Sunday. A 3800m sea swim was followed by a 180km cycle, and finished off with a full marathon on a 4 lap promenade course.

Phil Hodgson exited the swim first of the closely matched trio in a time of 1:24:54, over 3 minutes ahead of Emma Osenton, with John Preston a further 90 seconds back. Emma demonstrated the value of a perfect transition as she overhauled Phil and started the cycle ride a few seconds ahead of him.

Emma used her strength in the middle event to open up the gap and another fast transition saw her start the marathon run 31 minutes ahead of Phil, with John Preston trailing 7 minutes behind.

At the end of the first lap of the run John had started to close the gap on those ahead, and managed to overtake Phil by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> lap. The tough 3<sup>rd</sup> lap saw John and Emma slowing as Phil revived slightly.

Going into the last lap of the run Emma's lead over John had been cut to just 11 minutes, with Phil 5 minutes behind John. Despite a tremendous effort from John, Emma managed to find the strength to pick her pace back up and crossed the line in a total time of 13:13:08 followed by John in

13:14:50. Phil continued to speed up right to the end, and recorded his fastest run lap to cross the line in 13:16:22.

Whilst the three will be looking forward to a well earned rest, particularly Emma for whom it was her 2<sup>nd</sup> Ironman event within the past month, several Harriers are now looking ahead to next Sunday's, thankfully shorter, Todmorden Triathlon organised by Calderdale Tri Club.



**Tod News 9/07/09 Todmorden Triathlon | Howgills 10 | Cragg Vale**

In addition to the usual running, Todmorden Harriers donned their swimming goggles and hopped on their bikes for the Todmorden Triathlon organised by Calderdale Tri Club on Sunday. A 400m pool swim at Todmorden Sports Centre led onto a 20k cycle ride up the valley towards Burnley, turning up Mount Lane for a steep climb and returning back to Todmorden, for a 2 lap 5k run around Centre Vale Park.

In the relay event Simon Anderton led off on the swim handing over to Andrew Horsfall for the cycle and Andrew Wrench then set the fastest run time of the day to win the relay category. In the individual standings, Jon Wright set a similar time to the relay team. Mark Anderton and Simon Galloway both fared well, setting respectable times. Karen Gray was the Harriers sole female entrant and paced herself well, with a strong run to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> Female40. Dan Taylor completed his first triathlon ahead of his predicted time and Ian Stansfield rounded off the Todmorden entries in the main event. Lizzie Wrench, Emily, Edward and Jack Galloway, Rachel and Sarah Brierley had earlier taken part in the junior events.

Also on Sunday, six Harriers joined a 100 strong field for the inaugural Howgills 10 mile Road Race in the Yorkshire Dales. Starting from Sedbergh the route followed a hilly rural route through the Lune Valley and the Howgill hills, with picturesque views of the Lake District.

Mel Blackhurst was first Todmorden lady and John Metcalfe first Todmorden male. Rachel Henthorne set an excellent time as she returned to fitness after injury, followed by Myra Wells, Barry Chapman and David Henthorne.

Last Wednesday, several Harriers took part in the popular Cragg Vale Fell Race, a 4 mile circular route with 800feet of ascent. First Harrier to finish was Sean Carey in 10<sup>th</sup>, with Paul Hobbs 12<sup>th</sup> and Peter Bowles 14<sup>th</sup>, just losing out to Halifax Harriers for the team prize.

Bingley's Sue Beconsall won the ladies race with Todmorden's Lucy Hobbs finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> lady, just 3 seconds behind Calder Valley's Claire Hanson after a close battle. Sarah Warburton followed just behind to finish 4<sup>th</sup> lady. Louise Abdy finished 8<sup>th</sup> lady to help take the ladies team prize for Todmorden.

In the preceding junior races, Jack Crummet finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the under 10's and Isaac Rhodes-Dawson recorded a 4<sup>th</sup> place in the under8's, with his brother Noah in 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Tod News 16/07/09 Stoodley Pike**

The shortest of Todmorden Harriers' Fell Races took place last Tuesday and Calder Valley's Alex Whittem celebrated his first win over the speedy 3.5 mile course. Starting adjacent to Lumbutts Mill the runners quickly climbed the causeway stones and continued past Withens Gate and along the Pennine Way to Stoodley Pike. A nerve testing steep descent to London Road followed, before a fast flat return to the finish at the Top Brink Inn. For the first time in many years the race experienced rain instead of its usual legendary blue skies and finishers quickly retired to inside the Inn for refreshments and the presentation afterwards.

Whittem took an early lead and held it to the end despite the quality pursuit from James Logue and Chris Smale. The men's team prize went to Calder Valley Fell Runners.

Todmorden's Sarah May won the ladies race, with teammate Claire Duffield in 3<sup>rd</sup> place just behind Clayton's Tracy Mitchell. Calder Valley also looked on course to take the ladies team prize, with 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> places. However, Laura Sutcliffe just edged out Janette Dowling to be the ladies 3<sup>rd</sup> counter for the team prize, propelling Todmorden to the prize.

The race once again attracted some of the North's top young fell runners with 4 of the top 16 runners aged under16 years old. Todmorden's Sean Carey took the category win, and finished an excellent 4<sup>th</sup> overall, ahead of 8<sup>th</sup> placed Joseph Crossfield and 12<sup>th</sup> placed Bradley Traviss, both of

Halifax Harriers. Rossendale's Elliot Wylie finished in 16<sup>th</sup> overall with club mate Sam Walsh finishing first U18.

**Tod News 23/07/09 Widdop | Cuerden Valley Badger 10k**

On Wednesday several Todmorden Harriers entered the Calder Valley Fell Runners organised fell race at Widdop. The 7 mile moorland route features over 1200 feet of climbing as it winds its way around Gorple and Widdop reservoirs.

Dave Collins was first Todmorden man home in 19th place overall, the same position that he finished the year before, but this time knocking over 2 minutes off his previous time to cross the line in 57:57 and finish 2nd Vet50. Paul Burnett was next Todmorden finisher in 25th place at 59:43, with Jeff Walker completing the course in 1:03:55. Emma Osenton was the first Todmorden lady to finish in 1:16:10.

The following evening saw the next round of the Harrier's Road Championship, with the Cuerden Valley Badger 10k multi terrain race at Bamber Bridge. Organised by local runner Clare Kenny for Lancashire Wildlife Trust, this was the third of four races that are held monthly over the summer and it attracted over 150 runners. In addition to road and tracks, runners also had to contend with fields, hills, stiles and the odd patch of mud. Andy Buttery of Rossendale won the race in a time of 35:40. First Todmorden runner to finish was Andrew Wrench who was just edged out on the line by Richard Howarth of Horwich as they battled for second place. Paul Brannigan continued his return to form to finish in 21<sup>st</sup> place. The next Harrier to finish was Phil Cook, who was the only one to brave both the Widdop race and this one on consecutive nights. This took the men's team into 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Sarah Glyde led the way for the Todmorden ladies, followed by Mel Siddall and Bev Wright to also take 3<sup>rd</sup> placed team.



**Tod News 30/07/09 Turnslack**

Todmorden's Andrew Wrench triumphed at the Turnslack fell race on Saturday after a race long battle with Calder Valley's Shaun Godsman. The tough 8 mile course features over 2000 feet of ascent and is considered one of the most testing of the local fell races with several streams, stiles and moorland bogs to negotiate. With the race featuring in Todmorden's Fell Championship this year, there was a strong turnout of 23 Harriers amongst the 100 strong field.

Starting from Calderbrook Church the runners soon turned off the Pennine Bridleway and climbed over Turn Slack Hill before making a long gradual climb up to Trough Edge End. They then turned for home with a steep descent via Ramsden Wood Reservoir before a tough climb over Ramsden Hill. An air of déjà vu followed as another sharp descent was followed by yet another demanding climb up Noon Hill. It was then all downhill across the moor and through head high bracken back to the church yard.

After tracking Godsman on the final climb, Wrench comfortably pulled away on the descent to take the win by 25 seconds in 1:09:40. Dave Collins was next Harrier to finish in 8th place overall and first Vet50. Paul Hobbs and Ben Crowther then assisted the club into 2nd placed team behind Clayton le Moors.

Calder Valley's Jo Buckley was in a class of her own, as she won the ladies race, finishing well ahead of Middleton's Ginny Willey and Calder teammate Sharon Godsman. Sarah Glyde was first Todmorden lady in 4th, followed by Louise Abdy in 5th and first Vet45. Emma Osenton was the next Harrier to cross the line to hand the ladies team prize to Todmorden.

The result has moved Andrew Wrench up to the top of the club's Fell Championship, to add to his lead in the Road and Grand Prix tables as he looks towards a potential clean sweep of club trophies this year.

**Tod News 13/08/09 Crow Hill Reverse | Whittle Pike**

Many Todmorden Harriers turned out to assist race organiser Clive Greatorex for the Crow Hill fell race at Mytholmroyd last Tuesday. The 5 mile race, featuring 1000 feet of ascent was run in a reverse route this year.

Chris Smale won the race in a time of 31:15, ahead of Calder Valley Fell Runners' Gavin Mulholland and Steve Smithies.

First Harrier to finish was Paul Hobbs in 14<sup>th</sup> place, followed by Paul Burnett and Derek Donohue. Sarah Warburton finished 3<sup>rd</sup> lady and 53<sup>rd</sup> overall with Emma Osenton in 71<sup>st</sup>.

The following evening saw Sarah May win the ladies category in the 4½ mile Whittle Pike Fell Race at Cowpe as the club made a strong showing. Calder Valley's Alex Whitem won the race overall in a time of 41:10.

Andrew Wrench was the first Harrier to finish in 4<sup>th</sup> place and 1<sup>st</sup> Vet40. Sean Carey won the under18 category, as he knocked 2½ minutes off his time from the year before, and finished 6<sup>th</sup> overall. Andrew Horsfall narrowly missed out on a win in the vet45 by just 7 seconds with Dave Collins 2<sup>nd</sup> vet50.

#### **Tod News 20/08/09 Pilgrim's Cross | Saddleworth 6 | Worsthorne Moor**

A handful of Harriers took part in the Pilgrim's Cross Fell Race at Holcombe last Wednesday. The 6 mile race which includes 1100 feet of climb was won in 37:36 by Calder Valley's Karl Grey, 3 seconds ahead of Bury's Mark Shakeshaft in a 200 strong field.

Sean Carey completed the course as first under 16, and 9<sup>th</sup> overall in a time of 40:16. He was followed in by Jon Wright in 18<sup>th</sup>, Andrew Horsfall and Paul Burnett. James Riley rounded off the Todmorden entries in 94<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> v35.

At the same time, three other Todmorden runners were also racing 6 miles, but with fewer hills to contend with, on the roads of Greenfield for the increasingly popular Saddleworth 6 which attracted 272 runners this year. Sale's Gareth Raven won in 29:07 a few seconds ahead of previous winner Andi Jones of Salford.

First Harrier to finish was Richard Butterwick in 41:02, followed by Bohuslav Barlow in 47:15 and the evergreen Ian Stansfield in 1:03:09, knocking 5 minutes off his time from two years earlier.

On Sunday, several Harriers made the short trip for the Worsthorne Moor fell race. The fast 7 mile race takes in 900 feet of climb as it circles the moor, skirting Cant Clough and Hurstwood reservoirs. Clayton le Moors' Gary Shaw won the race in 41:48 in another close finish, just 4 seconds ahead of Blackburn's John Sutton.

First Harrier to finish was Dan Taylor who continued his progress in his first year with the club, stopping the clock in 50:40. Mick Craven was next to finish just ahead of Sarah Warburton, who took the 3<sup>rd</sup> place ladies prize. Jeremy Godden and Peter Ehrhardt were Todmorden's other finishers.

#### **Tod News 03/09/09 Dentdale EC | Piethorne**

The penultimate race in the English Fell Championships took place in Dent at the weekend and Todmorden Ladies held onto their 4<sup>th</sup> place in the overall standings despite growing pressure from Clayton le Moors. With almost 1400 feet of ascent and descent crammed into the short steep 3 mile course, the race is one of the steepest in the fell racing calendar.

The ladies race was first off and was won by J Reedy of Ambleside in a time of 32:11, ten seconds ahead of Scunthorpe's Emma Clayton and Jo Waites of Calder Valley.

Lauren Jeska led in the Todmorden challenge in 18<sup>th</sup>, followed by Claire Duffield in 25<sup>th</sup>, Mel Blackhurst in 45<sup>th</sup> and Sue Roberts in 64<sup>th</sup>.

In the subsequent men's race, won by Simon Bailey of Mercia in 25:28, Andrew Wrench was first Todmorden man followed by Alistair Rhodes-Dawson and Dave Collins.

The previous Wednesday had seen Alistair Rhodes-Dawson put in a storming performance to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> at the inaugural Piethorne Fell Race near Newhey. This new race, organised by Rochdale Harriers in memory of Mike Sadula, was a 4.5 mile circular course featuring 900 feet of ascent. Ben Mounsey of Calder Valley won in a time of 33:50 ahead of team mate Gavin Mulholland. Alistair crossed the line in 38:48, with Scott Lapish making a return to racing in 13<sup>th</sup>. Three Harriers then crossed the line in quick succession with Dan Taylor, Derek Donohue and James Riley finishing in 18<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> respectively.



CLAIRE DUFFIELD

**Tod News 10/09/09 Stainland 7 | Ben Nevis | Blackshaw Head | Hades Hill**

Andrew Wrench moved into a near unassailable position at the top of Todmorden Harriers' Road Championship after the latest qualifying round at the Stainland 7. The challenging, and well organised, race features several steep climbs in the latter stages after a long downhill start. Whilst it leaves many runners saying "never again" at the finish, it is a favourite of many who return year after year, particularly after post race reflection in race HQ, The Red Lion. Ben Mounsey of organising club Stainland Lions set a new course record as he won in a time of 40:52, in ideal warm and cloudy conditions.

Todmorden put in a strong showing and won both the men's' and women's team prizes. Andy Wrench led the way in 4<sup>th</sup> place, followed by Nick Barber and Dave Collins. The ladies team, Mel Blackhurst, Lucy Hobbs and Sarah Glyde, took 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> places to repeat the club's achievement of the previous year. Once again the Harriers also took many of the individual prizes with Andy Wrench 1<sup>st</sup> vet40, Mel Blackhurst 1<sup>st</sup> FV40, Lucy Hobbs 1<sup>st</sup> FV35 and Elise Milnes 1<sup>st</sup> FV45. Adding to this, were respectable positions for Sarah Glyde 2<sup>nd</sup> FV35, Rachel Henthorne 2<sup>nd</sup> FV40 and Moyra Parfitt 2<sup>nd</sup> FV60.

Conditions were far from ideal on Saturday for the 9 Harriers who took on the challenge of the Ben Nevis Fell Race. Despite the sub zero temperatures on the summit and freezing rain and poor visibility, there was a record 464 finishers. With the 10 mile race featuring in the Skyrunning World Series a high quality international field assembled to tackle the 4400 feet climb up to the highest point in Britain and straight back down to Fort William.

Bingley's Rob Jebb and Spanish runner Augusti Roc were together at the summit, before a fall by the Spaniard allowed Jebb to pull away and complete the course in a time of 1:32:33, three minutes ahead of Pudsey and Bramley's Danny Hope.

Not far behind was the first Todmorden runner, Jon Wright, who finished in an excellent 18<sup>th</sup> place winning the Wallace Plaque in the process, in a time of 1:44:28. Andrew Horsfall was next home, in 118<sup>th</sup>, just past the 2 hour mark.

Lauren Jeska celebrated her birthday in style with 12<sup>th</sup> lady in a time of 2:14:12, and along with Sue Roberts and Mandy Goth, helped the Todmorden Ladies team into an excellent 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Closer to home on Saturday several Harriers took part in the Blackshaw Head Fell Race, organised by Harrier Patsey Reilly. The 5.5 mile course featured 900 feet of ascent and was comfortably won by James Logue of Horwich RMI Harriers in a time of 37:28, exactly 3 minutes clear of Steve Oldfield in 2<sup>nd</sup>. First Harrier to finish was Paul Hobbs in 10<sup>th</sup>, followed by Scott Lapish in 20<sup>th</sup> and Dan Taylor in 30<sup>th</sup>.

On Thursday evening, it was Derek Clutterbuck in the organising role for the ever popular Hades Hill Fell Race. Despite starting in torrential rain and with high winds and hail to contend with on the 1200 feet climb up and down Hades Hill, 86 runners braved the conditions with Rossendale's Ashley Holt victorious over the 5 mile route in a time of 33:35. Sean Carey was the first Todmorden runner in 4<sup>th</sup> place in a time of 35:01. Paul Burnett edged out Scott Lapish as they finished 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> respectively, with Dan Taylor in 25<sup>th</sup> and Peter Ehrhardt in 79<sup>th</sup>.



PETER MARSHALL

## **PHOTOS WANTED**

NOT ONLY HAVE WE CRASHED OUR CAR BUT THE SEPARATE HARD DRIVE TO OUR COMPUTER HAS CRASHED TAKING WITH IT LOTS OF MY PHOTOS. IF ANYONE HAS PHOTOS I COULD USE FOR THE TORRIER PLEASE E-MAIL THEM TO ME  
**mandy@todharriers.co.uk**