

# ATHLETICS NEWS



**DARWEN WINNERS:** From left, Jackie Shaw, Linda Clarkson and Sue Corsini

## Jackie cutting a dash

**JACKIE** Shaw was crowned Darwen Dasher of the Year at their Christmas party at Hollins Grove Liberal Club.

Jackie has recently become the Dashers' lady captain and has led by example, winning the club fell championship and finishing third on the roads.

She has also begun a coaching course which should lead to the formation of a junior Dashers section in the near future.

Jackie's husband Brian completed a family double by becoming the men's fell champion ahead of Derek Ashcroft and Nigel Barnes, while Cath Fox was the women's runner-up.

The Road Race Championship organised by Tony Martin and Brian Tull was the club's smash hit of the year. Andy Smith and Linda Clarkson were the eventual victors with Eric Wilson and Brian Shaw second and third for the men as Sue Corsini took the runners-up spot for the women.

The age-adjusted winners were Eric Wilson and Linda Clarkson and the same pair won the Summer Race Series to ensure that Linda went home with three awards.

The Maureen Roberts Trophy for the busiest athlete on the circuit was won by Jim Taylor.

## Stoop to conquer for record breakers

**FAITH** Biddle and Ben Lindsay set junior course records at the Stoop Fell Races at Haworth on Sunday, while a third Pendle athlete, Emma Thompson, equalled the record in her event.

Race organisers Dave and Eileen Woodhead went to extraordinary lengths to ensure that the races could go ahead, camping by the course in their motorhome after being alerted to the bad weather by the cancellation of the cross country at Burnley.

They were rewarded when 325 athletes showed up on Sunday morning.

The Biddles are one of the most enthusiastic fell racing families, and under eight Faith is the latest to make her mark.

Her record of 2:56 was set in the half mile race for the youngest entrants, slicing 24 seconds off the previous best with Ella Roberts of Todmorden second in 3:36. One of her prizes was to start the senior race.

All the junior races were run simultaneously and it was Emma Thompson who blazed the trail for the under 12 girls, clocking 8:10 for a mile with Rosendale Harrier Katie Ireland taking second.

It was a similar story in the under 16s, where over the same circuit Chloe Elison and Chloe Chew gave Pendle a 1-2 finish in 9:21 and 9:29 with Annie Roberts of Todmorden third.

Ben Lindsay underlined his recent form in the under 16 boys race over a two-mile circuit. Ben is the Pendle schools cross country champion in his age group and he reduced the course record here from 11:55 to 11:41.

Team mate Shaun McVitie was third in 13:24 while another Pendle runner, Anthony Langley, was third in the under 12s.

Rosendale took their second runners-up spot of the day courtesy of Grant Cunniffe in the under 14 contest.

Record times were well out of reach for the seniors with the event being run in gale force conditions but Pudsey's Rob Hope, who lives near Chorley, crossed the line in 28:57 to win the men's title for the third time.

Two East Lancashire clubs were represented in the top 10 as Todmorden's George Ehrhardt was third in 29:52 and Shane Fitzpatrick from Clayton took eighth. Blackburn Harrier Matt Nuttall was 12th, a place behind Mark Brown who took the over 40 prize for Clayton.

The same club took second and third in the over 50s thanks to Andrew Robinson and Jeff Pickup while Tod Harriers' club champion Richard Blakeley won the over 60 honours.

● David Brett's photographs of this event can be viewed on [www.photos-dsb.co.uk](http://www.photos-dsb.co.uk).



**BEN THERE DONE THAT:** Lindsay at the Stoop