

Santa's on the run!



Above: Steve Bottomley as Santa pictured taking part in the Haworth Festive Stoop five mile race



Competitors taking part in the five mile Festive Stoop event

SANTA managed to find a break in his hectic Christmas schedule to take part in the annual Haworth Festive Stoop race at the weekend.

But without Rudolph and friends to help him along, he was unable to stop 26-year-old Robert Hope from recording a hat-trick of victories in the competition.

His time of 28 minutes 57 seconds in the five mile event was enough to secure first place ahead of the rest of the 240 senior competitors taking part in the race.

Winner Hope did say the race was not the same this year without ten times winner Ian Holmes who was unable to compete due to a Christmas shopping trip at Harrods.

Meanwhile, Yorkshire Fells champion Natalie White was the first lady home in the female section.

She only took part in the event following the abandonment of a cross country event in Burnley on the Saturday.

Paralympic Games medalist Mark Brown, won the veterans' title finishing in eleventh place overall on the day.

He was followed closely by local athletes Robin Bradbury in 15th place as well as Andy Wood in 17th spot and Colin Moses a close 18th.

Mark Chryssanthou finished 20th overall.

In the juniors event, which attracted 85 U16 competitors, James Hall outsprinted Joshua Ferguson by one second in the U8s race.

Oxenhope's Ella Roberts was second junior female home while Sam Webster and Alice Fulton both set new quarry run records in the junior event.