

Stoop fell race is a record breaker



RECORDS tumbled in the Stoop fell race at the weekend as a host of champions challenged each other in one of the most competitive fields the race has ever seen.

Twenty seven-year-old Andy Jones, a member of the Salford Harriers club, beat joint English champions Simon Bailey and Robert Hope - and denied Hope his fifth consecutive win in the event.

Jones also set a new record of 28mins 52 seconds for the race - 18 seconds ahead of Bailey.

Despite bitterly cold conditions a record 298 runners set off from Penistone Hill country park.

Ian Holmes, who has previously won the race ten times, celebrated his 40th birthday in December and chose the race to make his debut as a 'veteran'.

He started his 'Vet' career in style by finishing third overall, ahead of Hope, and set a new V40 record of 29mins 16secs.

Last year's winner, Hope, was fourth in 30mins 12secs and fellow Pudsey and Bramley member Nick Leigh was fifth in 30mins 30secs.

Bingley Harrier Alistair Brownlee showed he is one to

watch for the future when he finished seventh overall and took the Under-18 title in a record time of 31:39.

Steve Jackson from the Horwich club won the V50 race and also set a new record of 34:51.

Thirty five-year-old Chesterfield policewoman, Wendy Barnes, from Barnsley Harriers, finally won the women's race after many second and third places. She is fighting back from injury and hoping to gain a Yorkshire fell running vest. She set a new Over-35 women's record of 38:46.

Keighley & Craven runner, Christine Preston, is improving with every race and was second woman to finish in 40:09, setting a women's Over-40 record for the race.

Graham Breeze of Skyrac set a new V60 record of 39mins 44secs and Jack Escritt showed age is no barrier, setting a record time of 50:58 in the Over-70 category.

Jan Atkins of Chorley Harriers kept up the record-breaking spirit with a new Over-60 women's time of 49:32.

There was also a superb turn out for the junior Quarry Run races with more records being



WINNER Adie Jones (centre) with Simon Bailey (left) and Ian Holmes and (above) the record field races out of Penistone Hill country park.

set.

Young athletes who have yet to join athletics clubs dominated the Under-8s race which was won by Finn Avison in a time of 2mins 46, 2 Lily McGuinness (2:57), 3 James Turland (3:02).

The Under-10s race was a battle between Keighley & Craven runners Philip done (7:32) and Harry Sessford (7:51) with Tom McGuinness in third place (8:05).

Lucy Alderman won the girls Under-10 event in 8:33.

Rory Addison set a new record time of 6mins 15secs in the Under-12s race ahead of Tom Doyle (6:24) and Luke Fleetwood (7:01). Rosie

Hellawell also set a record in the Under-12s girls event, finishing in 7:24.

In the Under-14s event Niall Gould was on record-breaking form, setting a time of 6:05 ahead of Matthew Fretwell (6:12) and Jos Addison (6:14).

The Under-16s two-lap race was won by Kyle Biddle in 13:29.

The next event in the series is the Auld Lang Syne fell race n New Year's Eve. The six-mile race starts from Penistone Hill, Haworth at 11.30am.

The following races are the Soren Stanbury splash on January 22 and the Ilkley Moor fell race on February 26.