

'Old faithful' Ian wins Splash again

FELL RACING

TWENTY-FIVE years of organising the Soreen Stanbury Splash Fell Race and it's good to see some things don't change, said Haworth's David Woodhead.

Soreen are still supporting the race by giving out a malt loaf to all finishers and that "old faithful" Ian Holmes is still churning out the wins at Penistone Hill.

Incredibly Holmes has won the Splash consecutively now since 1996.

Woodhead said: "Age doesn't seem to be barrier to the four-time British and five-time English champion, as now at 42 he simply ran away from the 281 senior runners."

"The Whirlpool/bathroom fitter who works for local company Kimbledale Ltd loves his malt loaf and regularly have slices before and after racing, maybe that's his secret."

Silsden athlete Graham Pearce, 27, improved on last year's fourth to finish runner-up, running nearly two minutes faster than last year.

Pearce has actually completed in the quarry runs as an U-16, and earlier in the day his daughters, Esme and Nina, competed in the U-8s race.

Holmes' son Louis competed in the U-10s race for the first time, after moving up from the U-8s which he has previously won.

In third place in the senior race was another graduate from the junior races, Calder Valley runner, Alex Whittern.

Keighley & Craven Athletics Club's Rob Shaw finished fourth



25TH STANBURY SPLASH: Keighley & Craven AC runners Erika Carter (No 6) and Rebecca McLean (No 48) compete in the juniors race at the 25th Stanbury Splash on Sunday. McLean won the girls U-16s title.

before Wharfedale Harriers' trio, Ted Mason, Kirk Livesey and Bruce Elsworth, stormed across the line.

Getting special dispensation from his work at Aire Valley Cycles in Keighley, 35-year-old Robin Bradbury, a top class cyclist, won the Locals Trophy for the fifth time, and is now only one shy of Haworth legend Ian Ferguson's record of six wins.

The Locals Trophy is contested by runners who live within 1.5 miles of the course.

Last year's ladies winner, Helen Glover, who runs for Keighley & Craven AC, retained her title with a 34th place finish overall, and even more impressively knocked five minutes off last year's time beating England international Lynne Clough, the new V35 record holder from Chorley Harriers by over one and a half minutes with Sally Malir, the first V40 and third overall.

Glover, 23, who works as a medical receptionist at the Skipton Medical Centre, took several men's scalps in the race including Ian Ferguson's, Dick Vallantine's and Charlie Marshall's, all local runners.

Woodhead said: "In fact Helen and Charlie have a challenge match throughout 2008, with a round of drinks for the victor - looks like Charlie better start saving!"



OLD FAITHFUL: Stanbury Splash winner Ian Holmes gets ready to cross a beck on the seven-mile course.

"The junior Soreen bumper goodie bag had an extra special surprise in the shape of a fold up frisbee, which a few juniors did try out from the top of Penistone Hill, not the best idea since the wind was gale force!"

The weather did not deter an impressive 120 juniors turning out though which included 38 U-8s where Alex Robinson and Nea Weston came home triumphant.

The combined U-10, U-12 and U-14 race was won by Bingley

Harriers 11-year-old James Hall, from Ian Ferguson's son Josh, with girls U-14 winner Rosie Hellawell, of Keighley & Craven, an astonishing third.

Nine-year-old Oliver Spencer won the U-10s and in that age group Lillie McGuinness also dominated having twice won the U-8s race previously.

Keighley and Craven's, Thomas Sessford and Rebecca McLean won the U-16s races.

For more details about the race visit www.woodentops.org.uk.



LADIES WINNER: Keighley & Craven AC's Helen Glover retained the ladies title.