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Holmes resumes normal service

ATHLETICS

BINGLEY Harriers' 43-year-old fell runner Ian Holmes, from Keighley, won his 26th Bunny Run on Tuesday.

He beat three-time winner Will Smith of Keighley and Craven Athletics Club in the second event of the season around Penistone Hill.

The race saw 249 runners compete along the three-mile course.

Pendle's John Thompson won the Egg Stage prize for the fastest first sector in 3mins 23sec but Holmes and Smith were already locked together shoulder-to-shoulder even then.

It was only in the final up and down section that Holmes opened the winning margin to leave his training team-mate behind.

"I couldn't have had Will beat me on a fell course," said Holmes, after Smith had recently beaten him in the Bradford 10K run.

Howarth's international runner Andy Peace finished third, with brother Martin in seventh.

Other runners from the Bingley Harriers also excelled as they picked up the team prize award.

Blue Haywood won the ladies' race for the fifth time from Helen Glover, who finished second yet again, with Kathy Walshaw third and under-16 runner Mel Hyder fourth. Haywood's sister Bo won the under-14s.

Keighley and Craven ladies scooped the team prize for the second week, with Holly Williams ninth, and under-14 runner Rosie Hellowell twelfth along with runner-up Glover.

"These races are a great chance for juniors to pit themselves against senior athletes and it's great to see so many families taking part where sons and daughters can beat mums and dads," said event organiser Dave Woodhead.

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Thomas sets new Bunny standard

ATHLETICS

JORGE Thomas set a new record in the first Bunny Run of the season around Penistone Hill – and the event also attracted record numbers.

A total of 286 competitors tackled the three-mile off-road trail running course and Thomas was first back in 14 minutes 41 seconds.

The 26-year-old Welshman, now living in Haworth, beat a field packed with international experience.

The two-time Welsh cross-country winner and reigning Yorkshire champion in the same discipline pipped Salford's Andi Jones, who was fractions behind him in 14.48.

Olympic triathlete Alistair Brownlee, of Bingley Harriers, was third in 15.10, with clubmate Ian Holmes – who has won the event an amazing 25 times – fourth in 15.12. Keighley's Holmes was first over-40 back.

Leeds City's Adam Osborne was fifth in 15.29 ahead of recent Bradford and Keighley 10K star Will Smith (15.41) in sixth.

First lady back was Blue Haywood (Lincoln Wellington) in 18.03 ahead of Keighley and Craven Athletics Club's Helen Glover in 18.36.

Third was Katy Walshaw (Holmfirth) in 18.44, with Helm Hill's Melanie Hyder fourth in 18.53. Hyder's position put her top in the under-16 bracket.

James Hall, of Bingley Harriers, finished second in the under-14s.

● Keighley & Craven's Pippa Barratt was first under-14 girl in the Pendle Hill Race at the weekend in a time of 25 minutes 23 seconds.

Club mate Erika Carter was second in the under-16s in 27:37.

Tom Addison of Helm Hill won the four-and-a-half mile senior main event in 33:06.

Other results: 2 Gary Devine (Gargrave) 33:34, 3 Tom Adams (Ilkley Harriers) 33:53, 7 Jonathan Bradshaw (Wharfedale Harriers) 35:28, 11 Lee Morley (Ilkley H) 33:52, 12 Jack Smith (Wharfedale H) 36:07, 15 James Senior (Bingley H) 36:37, 19 Paul Crabtree (K & C); Under-14s: 1 Ben Johnson (Wharfedale H) 22:11; 2 James Hall (Bingley Harriers) 22:17; U-12 3 Holly Carter (K&C) 18:51.

Another series goes to the Bunny maestro

KEIGHLEY'S Ian Holmes eased to his 27th Bunny Run victory on Tuesday, clinching the series for the fifth time.

But the 'Bunny Governor' didn't have it all his own way as Cumbrian international Tom Addison – recent winner of the Pendle Hill Race – held his nerve to take the egg stage prize.

Holmes said: "The egg stage win would have been a bonus but Tom was so determined and kicked just at the right time.

"If I'd have kicked with him, I'd be in oxygen deficit for the rest of the race and may not have won."

Addison eventually finished fifth in the three-mile race around Penistone Hill, a minute down on Holmes' time of 15min 10secs.

Second was Tom Adams of Ilkley in 15:27 and third was Graham Pearce in 15:42 in front of Matthew Lockyer.

Bingley Harriers won the team prizes again as Holmes linked up with Tim Midgley (sixth) and 47-year-old John Convery (eighth).

Among other local prominent

ATHLETICS

finishers were Jonathan Bradshaw (tenth), Martin Peace (13th), Jack Smith (14th), Bruce Elsworth (18th), Jamie Robinson (21st), Tom Sessford (22nd).

Seventeen-year-old Blue Heywood won for the sixth time and the series for the third, improving by 18 seconds on last week's time to win in 17:31.

Second was Leeds City's 23-year-old Emily Klee in 17:59, while local Helen Glover slipped to third.

Bunny regular Mel Hyder improved her own female under-16 record by 16 seconds to finish fourth in 18:19, while in fifth place was Sally Morley of Ilkley improved her own FV (female veteran) 35 record by 21 seconds.

Close on her heels was FU-14 winner 12-year-old Bo Heywood, who was also her category winner.

Bunny Run Four starts at 7.30pm on Tuesday. Visit www.woodentops.org.uk for more results and pictures.

DAVE WOODHEAD



RUN FOR IT: Keighley and Craven's Annie Roberts and Robert Thompson during Tuesday's Bunny Run Picture: Paul Wood