

Piece of cake

Andy Peace left rivals for dead in retaining his Stanbury Splash title.

He bravely hit the front a mile into Saturday's race from Penistone hill - and into a biting wind - and the following pack didn't see him again.

The Keighley 21 year old had more than two minutes to spare on '88 winner Graham Kirkbright (Pudsey and Bramley) with December's Boulsworth winner Chris Lyon (Horwich) third.

A record 346 runners ventured out on what's officially-billed as six and half miles but is nearer seven. The race, dubbed the Malt Loaf run because of the abundance among the prizes, attracted runners from the Midlands, Scotland, Wales and the Isle of Man.

It was unknown quantity, Graham Patten from South Wales club MDC, that worried Peace. He posed no problem - as did no-one else in the field for the Bingley international who led his club to another team triumph. They've yet to part with the Keighley News trophy. Patten's wife Karen incidentally was second lady home behind Spen's Kath Drake.

The real race was on for the minor placings with Kirkbright, fifth at the trig turn, overhauling Patten, Hobble winner Colin

Valentine (Keswick) and Lyon on the way in. He caught the Horwich man on the track before hitting the last moorland bit and road.

Besides organising it (with wife Eileen), flagging it etc. Dave Woodhead found time to finish ninth, two places down on first local, Bingley's Tim Lofthouse. KHR's Kevin Wright came 10th with younger brother Steve picking up a prize as first U18 in 63rd place.

THANKS go from the organisers to sponsors: Nordale Country Foods, Midgeley's pies, Warburtons, Colin Nelson photography, Fell Lane's sausage shop, Highland crisps, Grandma Wilds, the Three Sisters pub (where the presentation took place) and the Keighley News.

STEVE BROOKES bounded to second spot 25 seconds behind Staff's Spencer Duval in the six-mile junior inter-counties XC at Corby. The Bingley runner had the satisfaction of leading Yorkshire to team gold.

KRR's Dave Throup lost the tussle for third place in the Knavesmire half. His 68.40 was four seconds slower than third man R.Butterfield (Valley Striders) while race winner, Jack Brown (Ilkley) clocked 68.01 and second placed G.Debnam (Knavesmire) 68.12.



● Top Loaf-er ANDY PEACE