

# Cool Colin makes a splash

Tourists to Haworth took second spot for once as the fell runners took over. Just five short of 400 for the Stanbury Splash from Penistone hill makes Saturday's race probably the best-supported of its kind in the country.

Indeed the 44-strong ladies field is a record for an English fell race – an exact repeat of the number last year and the only "slight disappointment" of an exhilarating day for organiser David Woodhead (he of the barking sergeant major tone).

Everything's on a grand scale for the seven miles Splash up Ponden Kirk – extensive prize-list, good day out, massive entry and an elite corps that is like the Who's Who of fell-running. Three British champions lined up – Jack Maitland, three-times champ Colin Donnelly from North Wales and current champ Gary Devine (Pudsey and Bramley).

It really is a case of 'From little acorns...' for the race which in times past has run out of Stanbury as part of the village gala. Once it attracted a senior field of six! Now it has blossomed with the persuasion – and contacts – of Keighley-based Horwich harrier Woodhead, his wife Eileen and helpers.

"I could always see its potential," says Woodhead who despite several route changes has always kept the pan-handle shape of course. "If we get over 400 next year then we might think about a limit. But the course can take it, if the landowners are happy."

Firm conditions were just ideal for a fast time and even if hot-shot Donnelly hadn't run, the record would have gone. Woodhead reckons. In fact the first five home all broke Andy Peace's best of 46.19, including Peace himself, and meaning that the Bingley international has lost his pair of best times – for the Splash and its companion, the Heathcliff and Cathy canter – to Scottish star Donnelly.

Peace could yet see his Burnsall mark disappear for Llanberis-based Donnelly is reputedly gunning for wins later this year in the two classics at Rivington Pike and at Burnsall in August.

Nigh on 400 runners ready for the off in the quarry at Penistone was an awesome sight. They had a momentary wait as latecomer Richard Pallister (Pudsey and Bramley) had the most public debagging ever. What other race would wait while one athlete doffs off at the rear of the field?

## Stanbury Splash By KEVIN HOPKINSON

bottom. Maitland, making his first appearance since once winning at Stanbury in nine minutes, Donnelly, Peace and Devine were always in the vanguard and the race was going to be won and lost on the second descent and climb up the Kirk.

Maitland led by seconds but Donnelly made his move on the climb and turned at the trig point 10 seconds up on the international triathlete and orienteer. The Eryri clubman knew no-one would catch him on the unbelievably fast run-in and Donnelly himself hadn't believed what he'd been told – that it is five minute mileing from the trig point home.

That's the sort of pace being punched out in a road race!

Donnelly again blitzed Peace's record by well over three minutes, finishing almost a minute up on Maitland (winning times below). Peace in third had half-a-minute on Devine and first local Ian Ferguson, back in over-drive now after a knee op, was fifth.

Other peak performances came from first lady Kath Drake in a repeat of last year's win. She came 144th overall, eclipsing her record mark by nearly a minute. First vet John Hope (Achille Ratti) came 18th, just clear of second and third in the category, Clayton's Leon Hutchinson (19th) and Dark Peak's Bob Toogood (20th).

Horwich's Norman Matthews, first O50, took one of two new trophies given by Warburton-Soreen, the main sponsors, (hence the race's dubbing as the Malt Loaf run). Bingley let go of the Keighley News team trophy for the first time, the prize going to deadly rivals Pudsey.



● Winner Colin Donnelly makes it look so easy.



● It's a long way up, but these runners are just about there.

appeal being that honest Joe Runner comes away with something as well as the big boys at the end.

Warburton's national field sales manager, Moris Scott, said at the start: 'I couldn't believe it. I expected just a few bods.'

TOP TEN: 1 Colin Donnelly (Eryri) 43.09, 2 Jack Maitland (P&B) 44.05, 3 Andy Peace (Bingley) 45.29, 4 Gary Devine (P&B) 45.59, 5 Ian Ferguson (Bingley) 46.12, 6 Alan Whalley (P&B) 46.29, 7 Martin Crewe (Bingley) 46.33, 8 Greg Hull (Leeds C) 46.38, 9 Colin Valentine (Kewick) 46.41, 10 Andy Schofield (Rochdale) 46.44.

LADIES: 1 Kath Drake (Spenboro) 55.50, 2 Ruth Pickvance (Kendal) 56.27, 3 Julie Harold (Horwich) 57.42, 4 Carol Greenwood (Clayton) 58.24.

48.25. Over 50s: 1 Norman Matthews (Horwich) 52.46.

LOCALS (key, B Bingley, KH Keighley hill, KR Keighley road): 21 Paul Mitchell (B) 48.28, 23 Tim Lofthouse (B) 48.35, 32 Adrian Rushworth (B) 49.09, 36 Paul Crewe (B) 49.26, 37 Craig Bottomley (KH) 49.31, 46 Dennis Quinlan (B) 50.00, 49 Dave Horsfall (B) 50.10, 52 Mick Addison (CleM) 50.22, 58 Sean Addison (CleM) 50.58, 60 Pete Jebb (B) 51.07, 68 Paul Crabtree (B) 51.28, 80 Harry Atkinson (B) 52.05, 83 Dave Abbey (B) 52.16, 90 Robin Lawrence (B) 52.37, 91 Peter Cuarice (B) 52.42, 97 Bill Hargreaves (B) 53.04, 104 Lionel Sands (KH) 53.35, 107 Norman Bush (KH) 53.33, 111 Chris Wilkinson (B) 54.01, 113 Bruce Elsworth (KH) 54.10, 134 Kevin Hopkinson (KH) 55.27, 145 Steve Benson (B) 55.51, 158 Barry Scholes (KH) 56.30, 159 Vince Whitehead (KH) 56.40, 162

Barrett (B) 58.20, 194 Stephen Plunkett (B) 58.33, 195 Steve Blaythorn (B) 58.35, 205 Jill Teague (B) 59.16, 209 Dave Moore (B) 59.39, 222 Damien Whitehead (B) 60.35, 227 Martin Hopkinson (KH) 60.40, 229 Chris Tomes (B) 60.45, 238 Pete Smith (B) 61.35, 240 David Hird (KH) 61.38, 241 Dave Stevenson (B) 61.39, 246 Barbara Carney (B) 61.50, 261 Mick Coffey (B) 62.31, 264 Ian Smith (KR) 62.46, 269 Chris Todd (KR) 63.07, 270 Alex Ratcliffe (KR) 63.11, 281 Sean Harrison (KH) 64.02, 317 Tamara Hird (KH) 66.05, 323 Mick Wood (KR) 66.42, 326 Maggie Dunn (B) 67.02, 336 Graham Moore (U/A) 68.06, 337 Andrew Moore (U/A) 68.27, 349 Mick Bowen (B) 70.40, 351 Dave Cattanach (KH) 71.06, 355 Val Ducker (B) 72.32, 360 Ronald Appleby (B) 73.31, 378 Michael Todd (KR) 84.19.

TEAMS: 1 Pudsey and Bramley (2,4,6 and 13 Graham Kirkbright to count), 2 Bingley (2,4,7,8,13,25, Mitchell) 3