

Soreen Malt Loaf run, Stanbury, seven miles, 1200ft climbing.

Steven Hawkins emulated big brother Mick, a two-time winner in the mid-Eighties, to head a gigantic 400-plus field. But victory was only by a couple of strides.

The 24 year old Dales drystone waller from the Bingley club was shadowed throughout the return leg by Glossopdale's Andy Trigg, who was never more than a pace behind. Hawkins had only a second to spare at the finish and for his troubles picked up an oils painting of Ponden Kirk by artist Margaret Pemberton.

Most of the leading runners – but strangely neither of the first two – opted to wear road shoes on a course too frozen for a stud to dig in. Early on no-one wanted to take up the challenge with the leading pack an unwieldy 20-30 strong. Hawkins, Trigg, recent Boulsworth race winner Sean Livesey and Will Ramsbotham hit the front at Ponden Beck with Hawkins and Trigg gradually building up a useful lead.

Trigg might not have been present but for the frost. He's a schoolteacher by profession and normally has football refereeing duties on Saturdays.

Livesey took a surprise fall on the grassy run-off from the trig point. So fast is the mainly track return from here that Keswick's Colin Valentine picked up from 10th to finish fourth, just behind Horwich's Wilf Brindle.

A new name on the scene took organisers initially by surprise. Wally Demdike, from Bingley harriers, in sixth place. Wally was no other than Ian Ferguson who as first local picked up a prize of dinner for two at the Three Sisters – venue for the presentation afterwards.

Other good runs from locally-based athletes came from Cowling's Matt Woods in 20th – obviously Friday's mapping of the route paid dividends – Haworth's Tim Lofthouse in 28th and coming back from injury, and leading Keighley Road Runner Jonnie Butler in 32nd.

Pudsey and Bramley again claimed the team trophy from Clayton and Horwich with CleM the women's winners.

Calder Valley's Carol Greenwood won the women's title for the fourth time and in the process annihilated the record by more than a minute and a half, coming 101st overall. First vet

Heading for a record top woman runner Carol Greenwood.



Move over Big brother .. it's Hawkins by inches

in 13th was Rossendale's Bob Ashworth with Dark Peak's Bob Twogood living up to his name as first O50.

Prior to the main event, races for U14s and U16s were held, with free entry and all runners getting prizes. At the lower age range, Leeds' Adam Burnett set a new course record with fourth-placed Victoria Wilkinson (Hebden) showing the boys at thing or two. Barlick's Barry Rawlinson won the U16s, well clear of Glusburn's Russell Ashdown.

Results

TOP 25 plus locals in top 200: 1 Steven Hawkins (Bingley) 45.16, 2 Andy Trigg (Glossopdale) 45.17, 3 Will Brindle (Horwich) 45.52, 4 Colin Valentine (Keswick) 45.57, 5 Martin Bell (Horwich) 45.59, 6 Ian Ferguson (Bingley) 46.12, 7 Sean Livesey (Rossendale) 46.21, 8 Andy Schofield (Rossendale) 46.26, 9 Tony Byrne (Bristol AC) 46.27, 10 Will Ramsbotham (Pudsey and Bramley) 46.30, 11 Martin Roscoe (Leeds C) 46.36, 12 Gary Devine (P&B) 46.58, 13 Bob Ashworth (Rossendale, V40) 47.00, 14 Martin Lee (Bolton) 47.12, 15 Garry Wilkinson (CleM) 47.20, 16 Paul Stevenson (P&B) 47.23, 17 Micah Wilson

(DPFR) 47.29, 18 Mick Buckland (CleM) 47.41, 19 Paul Sheard (P&B) 47.51, 20 Matt Woods (CleM) 47.55, 21 John Brown (MU Salford AC) 48.00, 22 Andrew Wrench (Todmorden) 48.01, 23 Ben Evar (Ambleside) 48.09, 24 Andrew Maloney (Rochdale) 48.20, 25 Shane Green (P&B) 48.56.

28 Tim Lofthouse (Bingley) 49.06, 32 Jonnie Butler (KRR) 49.31, 35 Sean Addison (CleM) 49.57, 38 Mick Addison (CleM) 50.20, 54 Craig Bottomley (KHF) 51.14, 55 Adrian Rushworth (Bingley) 51.17, 58 Mar Walbank (Bingley) 51.34, 72 Mick Greenwood (KHF) 52.17, 73 Bill Hargreaves (Bingley) 52.21, 80 Robert Scott (Bingley) 52.51, 81 Colin Moses (Bingley) 52.58, 83 Robert Grillo (KRR) 52.59, 95 Lionel Sanson (KHF) 53.47, 97 Richard Nelson (KRR) 53.54, 99 Mark Barrett (KHR) 54.02, 100 Bruce Elsworth (KHR, U18) 54.05, 101 Carol Greenwood (Calder, V) 54.08, 104 Vince Whitehead (KHR) 54.20, 105 John Cummins (KRR) 54.22, 108 Ian Hill (Bingley) 54.33, 115 Chris Wilkinson (Bingley) 54.57, 139 Andrew Holbrey (Bingley) 56.11, 149 Neil Feather (KRR) 56.47, 153 Paul Morris (KHR) 56.51, 159 John Gordon (KHR) 57.12, 173 David Moore (Bingley) 57.56, 1 Peter Clarke (Bingley) 58.00, 181 Chris Wilson (Bingley) 58.14, 182 Peter Jagan (Bingley) 58.16.

JUNIORS: U16s, 1 Barry Rawlinson 10.34, 2 Russell Ashdown (KHR) 10.54, 4 Matthew Hird (KHR) 11.31, U14s, 1 Adam Burnett (Leeds C) 5.20, Victoria Wilkinson (Bingley) 5.31, 5 Ian Weller (KHR) 5.35, 6 Jamie Shepherd (KHR) 6.08, 7 Stef Briggs (KHR) 6.15, 12 Mark Bingley (KHR) 6.21, Gareth Hird (KHR) 6.31, 18 Adam Smith (KHR) 6.42, 22 Samantha Cartwright (Bingley) 7.48, 23 Amy Foster (Bingley) 7.50, 26 Sarah Wellock (KHR) 8.47.

Hawkins (front) heads off Trigg at the pass.



No loafing allowed behind scenes

Mass-participation events like the Splash – soon to become more readily identified as the Soreen Malt Loaf run – can cause problems on the manpower front. But now approaching its 10th birthday, 'a lot of things come naturally,' for race organisers Dave Woodhead.

Venue is important and the large open spaces of Penistone hill above Haworth is ideal. It's long since the race was run from the confines of Stanbury village when Jack Maitland won the first race in under 10 minutes.

The Splash is viewed as a grand day out on the fell-running calendar.

There's a lot of work goes into it by the Woodheads and others. Catering for 400 plus runners isn't easy.

'We'd probably get 500 if we ran it on the Sunday,' says Woodhead. 'That's why we have it the Saturday because some people can't get the day off and besides there's a lot more tourists to contend with on the Sunday.'