

## **BUNNY RUN THREE Keighley, W Yorks**

IAN HOLMES showed impressive leg speed as he chipped four seconds off Greg Hull's year-old course record of 16:47 in a furious solo sprint for the line, *Gareth Webb reports*.

With the gruelling 24-mile Three Peaks Race just days away - and the 15-mile British championship opener at Stuc A'Chroin a week later - the 31-year-old Bingley Harrier emphasised just how difficult it will be for anyone to stop him taking the major honours this season as he stormed to victory taking the 'Egg Stage' prize en-route (for a record 10th time), finishing just four seconds down on his year-old record of 3:24.

Keighley Road Runners' Liam Spencer made an early bid for glory as he blasted clear from the gun with the clear intention of going for the 'Egg Stage' record. Spencer wasn't able to shake off Holmes, however, and had to settle for a tie for second (with the eventual runner-up Gary Devine) four seconds back. Spencer's challenge faded dramatically as he slipped back to 79th place in 21:41.

Holmes, however, was in irreplaceable mood and, with the support of a huge crowd near the finish and race organiser Dave Woodhead counting him down in the final 100m, the Bingley man made sure of the record with a dip at the line to regain the mark he last set in 1995, which at the time was 17:03.

Devine, the 1990 British champion, finished just over half a minute adrift in an identical time to the previous week's race - 17:15, which he won in Holmes' absence - to make it a first, second and a third place in the three races. Holmes, with two victories (best three to count), remains favourite to secure the overall title with one race remaining.

Anne Buckley, 13th in last year's World Trophy, claimed victory as she held off Carol Greenwood to place 41st overall - a further indication of the quality of the field.

Buckley, who won the fourth race in last year's series (in 22:00), ran considerably faster this time round, however the cool, blustery conditions ensured Lucy Wright's year-old mark of 19:16 remained out of reach.

With April having five Tuesdays this year, the race organisers have decided to break with tradition and stage a relay race on the final Tuesday of the month (April 29). The event will be known as the 'Bunny Run Relay' for teams of three over the long 'bunny' lap of the moor. For further details, contact Dave Woodhead (Tel: 01535-669100).