

BUNNY RUN FOUR Keighley, W Yorks

ROBIN LAWRENCE declared himself a surprised winner of the final race in the series, *Gareth Webb reports.*

With Ian Holmes, winner of two races thus far (and mindful of Sunday's Three Peaks Race), Andy Peace and Gary Devine, the winner of race two, all opting to watch from the sidelines, Lawrence labelled Clayton's Mark Horrocks as pre-race favourite.

But after finding himself in second behind Horrocks in the early stages, he moved to the front on the slight climb before the 'Egg-Stage' marker to take the en-route award by four seconds from Rochdale's Dale Wilkinson.

"After that I consciously slowed down, especially on the descents," said Lawrence. "I wanted the others to catch up because I prefer to race in a group rather than be out on a limb.

"Anne (Buckley, Lawrence's girlfriend) shouted to me 'You're going to have to work now if you want to win!' which is what I did and with 150m to go, I knew it was mine".

Andrew Preedy, also a triathlete, of Rossendale finished second two seconds clear of Pudsey Pacers' Mark Moore whose improvement over the four races has seen him finish 16th, 23rd, 9th and now third! Devine secured the overall title from Bradford postman Gary Oldfield who, had he run and won, would have tied for first prize.

Peter Carr, who sealed the M50 title with victories in all four races, produced a stunning performance over such a short distance, especially as he is in heavy training for an attempt on the Bob Graham Round this summer.

Carol Greenwood produced her second win of the series and with two second place finishes (behind Victoria Wilkinson and Anne Buckley) comfortably secured the overall title from Spensborough's Kath Drake, second on the night.

The 31-year-old two-times English champion was 47th among 194 finishers which, although the smallest field of the series, is still the fifth largest turnout in its seven-year history.