

Relentless Greenwood shatters field

CAROL GREENWOOD of Bingley Harriers stormed to victory at the Soren Fell Race from Penistone Hill Country Park near Haworth yesterday, smashing the course record and helping her club to victory in the team competition.

The 31-year-old international carried on her New Year winning streak, notching her seventh consecutive victory of the year, finishing in 19th position overall out of a field of over 300 runners. Her time of 50mins 11 seconds wiped well over a minute and a half from the existing mark which was set by former British marathon record holder Sarah Rowell in 1996.

The former world fell running champion from Huddersfield, came home over eight minutes in front of the next woman, Elizabeth Batt from the Derbyshire Buxton club.

In the men's race, Keighley-based Bingley Harrier Ian Holmes took his third consecutive victory in the race, finishing just 16 seconds outside his own course record, set 12 months ago, with a time of 44:38.

The joint British fell running champion had the measure of Lakeland shepherd Gavin Bland of Borrowdale by just six seconds after a splendid tussle over seven miles while Pudsey and Bramley's Paul Sheard took third place.

World junior fell running champion Victoria Wilkinson of Bingley Harriers finished as first under-23 runner in the Coca Cola cross country challenge at Barnett Demesne in Belfast on Saturday.

Running in a world class field the 19-year-old international from Hebden, near Grassington, finished in a fine 10th place overall, one place behind Leeds-based Lucy Wright who was running for the England senior team.

The race was won by Romanian Marianna Chirila, who seized victory by the thickness of a vest, clocking the same time as Kenya's Susan Chepkemei as both athletes stopped the clock on 17 minutes 59 seconds, one second ahead of Bedford's Paula Radcliffe.

Holmfirth Harrier Dave Watson had to settle for second place at the Marsh House 10k road race at Huddersfield yesterday after leading the race in the early stages.

The county 15-mile champion was overhauled in the final stages after opening up a 50m gap by Stockport's Graham Hill - son of former European and Commonwealth marathon champion Ron - the Hyde-based athlete, clocking 32:18, with Watson 11 seconds adrift, and Wakefield's Andy Johnson taking third spot in 32:41.

The women's race produced a splendid head to head as Pauline Munro of the promoting Holme Valley side beat Spenborough's prolific veteran racer Kath Drake by a mere second in 39:25.

Julie Holdsworth of Baildon Runners took third place, leading her club to an easy victory in the team race with support from clubmates Louise Rosendale and Janie Greenwood.

Soren Fell Race at Haworth

Men: 1, I Holmes (Bingley Harriers) 44:38; 2, G Bland (Borrowdale) 44:44; 3, Paul Sheard (Pudsey and Bramley) 45:59; 4, S Winstanley (unattached) 46:05; 5, R Jebb (Bingley Harriers) 46:13; 6, Phil Sheard (Pudsey and Bramley) 46:47; 7, A Schofield (Borrowdale) 47:15; 8, S Oldfield (Bradford Airedale) 47:43 (V40); 9, G Devine (Pudsey and Bramley) 48:19; 10, G Schofield (Horwich) 48:45 (V40).

Women: 1, C Greenwood (Bingley Harriers) 50:11 (Rec); 2, E Batt (Buxton) 58:27; 3, L Quigley (Wigan Phoenix) 58:47.

Marsh House 10k road race at Huddersfield

Men: 1, G Hill (Stockport) 32:18; 2, D Watson (Holmfirth Harriers) 32:29; 3, A Johnson (Wakefield) 32:41.

Women: 1, P Munro (Holme Valley AC) 39:25; 2, K Drake (Spenborough) 39:26; 3, J Holdsworth (Baildon Runners) 39:38.

■ Olympic 10,000m champion Haile Gebrselassie broke his own 3,000m world indoor record in Germany yesterday.

The 24-year-old Ethiopian, who is also the 3,000m world indoor champion, set a new mark of seven minutes 26.14 seconds at a meeting in Karlsruhe.