

the kissing gates before the climb, Scott shot into an early lead on this uphill only course to reach the summit of Beacon Hill well clear.

Andy Curtis and Gary Owens enjoyed a much closer tussle for second with Curtis holding off his fast-finishing Northumberland team-mate by just five seconds. Morpeth's Julie Duggan was the first woman finisher in 17th place overall.

Race organiser Ray Hayes advises those in possession of the year 2000 Fell Calendar that the race from Beacon Hill, on June 8, has been brought forward seven days.

Men (3M, 1020ft; uphill only)

1 S Scott (N'land FR) 22:32 (rec); 2 A Curtis (N'land FR, M45) 26:18; 3 G Owens (N'land FR, M40) 26:23; 4 R Hall (N'land FR, M45) 26:50; 5 G Davies (N'land FR, M40) 26:57; 6 B Lowden (N'land FR, M50) 27:00; 7 G McWilliams (N'land FR) 27:55; 8 R Phizackie (Morp) 29:24; 9 G Brosnan (unatt, M50) 29:32; 10 D Duggan (N'land FR, M40) 29:47

Women

1 J Duggan (Morp) 31:20 (rec); 2 P Cooper (N'land FR, W40) 34:12; 3 S Davies (unatt, W40) 34:35; 4 A Mitchell (Morp, W40) 36:17; 5 L Brosnan (unatt, W40) 37:08

HORWICH HARRIERS SILLY HAT DOWNHILL RACE Horwich, Lancs

ALTHOUGH visibility was down to just 50m on the tops, Albert Sunter was able to notch his third consecutive victory in this traditional Horwich RMI Harriers New Year's Day promotion.

Men (3.25M; all Horwich Harriers)

1 A Sunter 21:18; 2 N Wrigley 22:22; 3 A Sweatman (M40) 23:23

Women

1 C Wright 30:56; 2 B Hesketh 39:40

ZENECA GIANT'S TOOTH RACE Ogden Reservoir, W Yorks

PAUL TARGETT and Lucy Whittaker both claimed inaugural course records.

Richard Crossland took an early lead on the initial climb from the bridge over Ogden Clough up to the Giant's Tooth monument with Targett and Pudsey's Steve Bottomley in hot pursuit.

The Bradford veteran was still leading on the steep woodland descent before being overhauled by Targett on the last section around Ogden Reservoir to win by 18 seconds.

Saddleworth's Lucy Whittaker enjoyed an even greater margin of victory over Halifax runner Jennifer Burbidge, pulling clear to win by just under a minute.

Men (3M, 400ft)

1 P Targett (Clay) 18:21 (rec); 2 S Bottomley (P&B) 18:39; 3 R Crossland (Brad A, M40) 18:42; 4 D Hughes (Queensberry RR, M40) 18:48; 5 D Overdend (Holm, M40) 19:14; 6 D Tait (Dark Pk, M50) 19:24; 7 H Sawyer (Sky, M40) 19:43; 8 N Pearce (Ik, M40) 19:59; 9 G Breeze (Sky, M50) 20:08; 10 D Herd (Ik) 20:12

Women

1 L Whittaker (Sadd) 21:14 (rec); 2 J Burbidge (Hal) 22:11; 3 J Graham (unatt) 24:11; 4 L Hayes (Hal, W45) 24:21; 5 S Watson (Vall S, W50) 25:01; 6 R Duncan (unatt) 25:36; 7 S Jollie (Eccles) 26:03; 8 L Green (Brad A, W45) 28:04

AONACH MOR HILL RACE Fort William

Men (2M/1200ft)

1 D Runciman (Laber) 18:07; 2 D Crowe (Shett) 18:37; 3 P Ralstrick (unatt) 19:18; 4 S Bennet (Kross) 20:00; 5 A McLennan (Laber) 20:05; 6 D Paterson (Laber) 20:22
M40: R Boswell (Cpach) 21:57

Women

1 N Forster (Laber) 23:54; 2 E Pearce (Laber) 26:05; 3 L Gorman (Wlands, W35) 27:29
W45: A Friman (Camb) 30:29

December 31

BRISCOE'S BREWERY AULD LANG SYNE RACE Keighley, W Yorks

THE race, billed all year as the 'last fell race

of the millennium', attracted a record 536-strong field - almost double last year's entry of 277, Gareth Webb reports.

And fittingly, considering the significance of the sixth annual running of this event, the race produced arguably it's most competitive tussle to date with top Yorkshire runners Ian Holmes and Matthew Whitfield doing battle throughout, running virtually neck-and-neck the whole way.

Holmes managed to outpace his Bingley team-mate in the closing stages to win narrowly for the seventh time in six years - one of these being the 'Ghost' race, a couple of years ago, when the event had to be re-staged after three feet of snow covered the course. Incidentally, the popularity of the race is such that, despite the appalling conditions that year, 70 runners still turned up to run.

Festivities also ensured proceedings were got underway by 'celebrity starter' Louie Lloyd Holmes, three-month-old son of winner Ian Holmes. Young Louie had help pressing the klaxon from mum Zina, Ian's wife, who both watched Holmes extend his winning sequence in all races over Haworth Moor to almost 30, the only setbacks in that time coming at the inaugural Stoop Race, in 1990, to Allan Whalley and in the Withens Skyline Race, in 1995, to Graham Patten.

The women's race proved only marginally less competitive than the men's as Lucy Wright held off last year's winner Sarah Rowell to place a fine 50th overall.

The Leeds runner held a 20-second advantage over Rowell throughout the race with the Los Angeles Olympian being rewarded with a W35 course record of 42:44, well inside her own year old mark of 45:52.

Other records on the day went to Kate Rogan, of Wharfedale, who sliced 10 seconds off Amy Green's (Spenborough) two-year-old U18 mark of 50:28 and Sylvia Watson, of Valley Striders, who carved more than 11 minutes off Chris Porritt's (Ikley) W50 best of 68:45.

This year, for the first time, the race was run in the opposite direction for safety reasons, mainly because of severe ice on the "Stairs". The general consensus of opinion was that although this made for a tougher race - the peaty skyline section now comes in the latter stages - this is a better route and, according to race organiser Dave Woodhead, will be used for all future races.

Finishers were presented with a bottle of beer by race sponsor Briscoe's Brewery but as organisers catered for 'only 500' finishers, consolation prizes of a rival well-known North-Eastern beverage were handed out to the tail-enders.

Men (6M, 900ft)

1 I Holmes (Bing) 35:07; 2 M Whitfield (Bing) 35:14; 3 P Sheard (P&B) 37:38; 4 S Oxdfield (Brad A, M40) 37:50; 5 R Jebb (Bing) 38:08; 6 A Schofield (Borrow) 38:13; 7 A Peace (Bing) 38:28; 8 G Wilkinson (Clay) 38:34; 9 J Wright (Tod) 38:37; 10 D Walker (Clay) 38:39; 11 A Whalley (P&B) 38:44; 12 M Lee (Ross) 38:54; 13 G Devine (P&B) 38:59; 14 J Hemsley (P&B) 39:04; 15 G Schofield (Horw, M40) 39:19; 16 J Butler (K&C, M40) 39:41; 17 S Jackson (Horw, M40) 39:50; 18 J Ingram (Sadd) 40:14; 19 T Werrett (Mercia) 40:19; 20 S Bottomley (P&B) 40:22; 21 A Shaw (Holm) 40:22; 22 C Shuttleworth (Prest, M40) 40:24; 23 S McDonald (Bing) 40:27; 24 M Peace (Bing) 40:31; 25 C Seddon (Horw) 40:34; 26 C Speight (Kend, M40) 40:54; 27 S Addison (Clay, M40) 40:54; 28 S Macina (P&B) 40:59; 29 S Webb (Vall S) 41:03; 30 R Crossland (Brad A, M40) 41:13

M50: 1 J Kershaw (Macc) 42:16; 2 R Taylor (Stock) 42:35; 3 K Taylor (Ross) 42:40; 4 B Whitfield (Bing) 43:32; 5 K Carr (Clay) 43:35

M60: 1 R Jaques (Clay) 50:10; 2 D Brown (Clay) 54:46; 3 M Mahoney (St B) 55:21; 4 G Arnold (Prest) 56:41; 5 B Leithley (Clay) 59:54

U18: 1 M Carter (Spen) 42:32; 2 J Carter (Spen) 45:50; 3 M Hounslow (Wharfe) 51:10; 4 S Hounslow (Wharfe) 51:18

TEAM: 1 Bingley 8; 2 Pudsey and Bramley 27

Women

1 L Wright (Leeds) 42:22; 2 S Rowell (P&B, W35) 42:44 (W35 rec); 3 S Newman (Ross, W35) 44:45; 4 S Nolan (Imp, W35) 45:00; 5 L Lacon (Holm) 45:40; 6 L Whittaker (Sadd) 48:09; 7 S Whilde (Roch) 49:13; 8 R Whitehead (Bing) 49:32; 9 C Cresswell (Notts) 49:38; 10 K Mather (Sadd, W35) 50:12; 11 K Rogan (Wharfe, U18) 50:18 (U18 rec); 12 T Carney (Dews, W35) 52:02; 13 S Taylor (Bing) 52:30; 14 H Alcock (Tod, W35) 52:45; 15 G Keddie (unatt) 52:46

W40: 1 P Oldfield (Brad A) 53:22; 2 V Musgrove (Eryn) 55:15; 3 S Norris (Horw) 55:20; 4 M Jagan (EPOC) 55:32; 5 R Gooch (Ik) 56:33

W50: 1 S Watson (Vall S) 57:10 (W50 rec); 2 S Carris (Bing) 58:38; 3 H Morrell (Bing) 59:44; 4 B Carney (Bing) 59:45; 5 H Morath