

**ATHLETICS:** Bingley international win in Haworth after county races are hit

# Late switch pays as Ian 'ghosts' in

by JIM DALTON

*T&A Correspondent*  
Bingley international Ian Holmes found time to squeeze in another victory on a weekend when sport of all kinds was badly hit by the weather.

Frustrated at the late decision to call off Saturday's North of England Cross Country Championships, he went along to Haworth yesterday and beat 30 other runners in a 'ghost' race which replaced the scheduled Statutory Splash fell race.

Organiser Dave Woodhead, from Skipton, had already decided to postpone the scheduled race for seven days when the athletes turned up at the Penistone Hill venue.

But he agreed to stage an event of some kind so that they would not have a wasted trail.

Holmes ploughed his way through the snow and ice along with club-mate Ian Ferguson and they filled first and second places in a five-mile event, similar to the recent Stoop fell course.

Woodhead himself ran third, just over a minute behind the Bingley duo.

Rochdale's Glenda Cook clocked 35:26 to get the winner of Holmfirth's Lisa Lacon in the women's section.

The decision of Saturday's referee Doug Eke to call off the North of England Championship left the organisers with a tricky problem of having to find a replacement date in a very congested calendar.

The title races were also one of the two ways to qualify for the British Athletics Federation Championships and world trials on March 3. Not everyone in consideration contested the later Counties races in January, which doubled as another way in.

An emergency meeting will be held this coming week to come up with a new date.

Linford Christie continues to keep the world guessing as to whether he will defend his Olympic 100 metres title in Atlanta.

Christie, 33, who has been training in Australia for the past month, showed his class in the Adelaide leg of the Australian athletics grand prix series, winning the sprint in 10sec ahead of Australian Tim Jackson in 10.3.



**SNOW BUSTER:**

Bingley's Ian Holmes managed to squeeze in a weekend win despite the weather playing a part in calling off the Stoop event.

**SOREEN STANBURY SPLASH/THE STOOP**  
Penistone Hill Country Park, Keighley, W Yorks

AS with last year's race, thick ice and heavy snow forced the postponement of the 'Stanbury Splash' which has now been rescheduled for Sunday February 4. Gareth

Webb reports. Nevertheless, even allowing for the perilous conditions and race organiser Dave Woodhead taking the precautions of advising local press and radio stations of the postponement, several runners felt turned up expecting a race.

Woodhead, who actually found time to place third in his own promotion, expected as much and admitted: "We knew people would turn up and if they do we need to provide them with a race. So we did. We used the 'Stoop' course which is more suitable, being a straight up and down route."

"All 31 runners were given a free entry, a race number - to make it official - a Soeren Mattoaf after the race and a few spot prizes as well."

A 9.30am phone call to Ian Holmes (who in turn rang Bingley team-mate Ian Ferguson) requesting his services as ice breaker through the three foot snow drifts, was rewarded with an imperious display from the double Ben Nevis winner. And the not inconsiderable distraction of a snow ball fight and rugby tackle from Ferguson in the latter stages couldn't deny Holmes a six second victory.

Holmes, who with team-mate Andy Peace had endured an abortive five hour to the Northern Champs at Lincoln the previous day, was only too pleased to help the race organisers and will be back on Sunday to head a strong field chasing Colin Donnelly's two-year-old course record of 46:27.

So severe were the conditions that 'Three Peaks' course record holder, Ferguson - also enlisted as 'trail breaker' - wore shin pads down the front of his tights to protect against the thick crust of ice smashing against his shins, as well as guaranteeing a degree of grip by wearing running spikes.

English Championship bronze medalist Glynda Cook wasn't deterred by the conditions as she produced a marvellous run to place 12th overall, a minute clear of English junior champion Lisa Lacon of Holmfirth.

**Men (5M, 800ft)**  
1 I Holmes (Bing) 30:12; 2 I Ferguson (Bing) 30:18; 3 D Woodhead (Horn) 31:28; 4 J Brook (Bing) 31:32; 5 S Addison (C le M) 31:41; 6 J Barker (Roch, M40) 31:58; 7 I Wilson (Fellars) 33:20; 8 M Nutter (C le M) 33:52; 9 P Whelan (Bing) 35:05; 10 A Hicks (Wyltwa, M40) 35:17; 11 J Collinson (Bing, M40) 35:23; 12 G Cook (Roch, W35) 35:26; 13 D Tolson (Unatt) 35:28; 14 M Coffey (Bing) 35:43; 15 P Dugdale (C le M) 35:52  
**M50:** 1 M Coles (Skiyrac) 38:56; 2 J Devlin (Unatt) 48:13

**Women**  
1 G Cook (Roch, W35) 35:26; 2 L Lacon (Holm, U20) 36:24; 3 A Curle (Fellars) 38:43; 4 J Howard (Fellars, W40) 40:57; 5 J Smith (Bing, W35) 41:20

**No of finishers:** 31  
"Stoop" Course records: I Holmes (1995) 28:35/1, Wright (1995) 31:27

## THE GHOST STOOP RACE

Due to postponement of STANBURY

1	IAN HOLMES	BINGLEY	30:12	
2	IAN FERGUSON	BINGLEY	30:18	
3	DAVE WOODHEAD	HORWICH	31:28	
4	JOHN BROOK	BINGLEY	31:32	
5	SHAWN ADDISON	CLEM	31:41	
6	JEREMY BARKER	ROCHDALE	31:58	V40
7	IAN WILSON	FELLSDALE	33:20	
8	MARK NUTTER	CLEM	33:52	
9	PAUL WHELAN	BINGLEY	35:05	
10	ANDY HICKS	WYLDWA	35:17	V40
11	JOHN COLLINSON	BINGLEY	35:23	V40
12	GLYNDA COOK	ROCHDALE	35:26	FV35
13	DAVID TOLSON	WIA	35:28	
14	MICK COFFEY	BINGLEY	35:43	
15	PAUL DUGDALE	CLEM	35:52	
16	ANDY FIRTH	CLEM	36:07	
17	JOHN ADAMIE	HOLMFIRTH	36:12	V40
18	MICK FORD	BINGLEY	36:15	
19	RICHARD HENDERSON	CALDER	36:16	
20	LISA LACON	HOLMFIRTH	36:24	Fem
21	MIKE SMITH	BINGLEY	36:35	
22	NGER FIELDON	MAN YACA	37:22	
23	PHIL ROBINSON	MIDD VALLEY	37:46	
24	MARK WEBER	ILKLEY	38:24	
25	ALISON CURLE	FELLSDALE	38:43	FEM
26	MALCOLM COLES	SKIRAC	38:56	V50
27	JUNE HOWARD	FELLSDALE	40:57	FV40
28	JANE SMITH	BINGLEY	41:20	FV35
29	PHIL HELLAWELL	NALIFAX	43:16	V40
30	DAVID MADDOX	DENBYDALE	43:36	
31	JOHN DEVLIN	WIA	48:17	V50

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