

Harriers make their mark

THE 2005 winner Andi Jones dominated the Stoop Fell Race at Penistone Hill in Haworth on Sunday. A number of local runners, including juniors, took part in the races.

He beat five-times winner and current British champion Robert Hope and current English champion Simon Bailey, leading from start to finish, cruising home 30 seconds ahead of the chasers.

On the treacherous descent Hope and Bailey closed in but they had little chance of catching the fleet-footed Salford man.

Jones was only 15 seconds shy of his own record set in 2005 and showed no tiredness from winning the Red Rose cross-country event the previous day.

Hope would love to emulate Ian Holmes of Keighley who received an oil painting of himself competing in the race in recognition of winning the event ten times.

Holmes, having run the event for 17 years now and never finishing outside the first three, blotted his copybook by missing the start.

He assumed the race started at noon and was warming up on the other side of Penistone Hill. Sarah Rowell, heading home after a training run, put him right to the 11.30am start.

Consequently he gave chase with a hefty deficit to claw back but not even



TOP TALENT: Silsden's Thomas Sessford and Skipton's Jonathan Bradshaw who were first and second in the U-16s event at the Stoop Fell Rac.

he could manage this! However, Holmes did pass several runners on his

way to a 78th place finishing position.

Fortyone year-old Gary Devine of

Gargrave won the veteran category

while Abbey Runners' Brian Goodison

won the V50 as British and English V60 champion Dave Tait suffered a rare defeat at the feet of Jim Shemilt from the York Acorn club.

Wharfedale Harrier Ted Mason finished seventh in 32.41 with fellow club member Kirt Livesey ninth in 33.31 and Addingham's Stefan Macina (Pudsey and Bramley) 18th in 35.11.

Wharfedale Harriers Sam Watson was 34th in 36.25 with club colleagues Peter Kieron and Paul Hallstead taking 43rd and 44th places respectively in 36.57 and 37.08.

Kevin White, another Wharfedale Harrier, was 52nd in 37.38 with clubmate Simon Throup 104th in 42.02 and Adam Barker 133rd in 43.48.

Altrincham's Olivia Walwyn sliced nearly two minutes off 2006 English champion Natalie White's course record to finish in 19th overall and seems to enjoy these moors after winning the Auld Lang Syne in 2006.

The junior races had a record 145 youngsters turn out in the bitterly cold conditions. Organisers the Woodheads are looking at orviding 200 goioidic bags next year.

First off out of the quarry at break-neck speed were 56 Under-8s with Thomas Sumner dashing across the finish line first and then dashing off to a karate competition.

Jack Garside, another unattached runner, was second with Keighley & Craven Athletic Club's Louis Holmes third and Wharfedale Harriers Robbie Johnson fourth.

The first girl was Georgia Smith Calvert from Spen AC in ninth overall. The third girl home was Keighley & Craven's Emily Cox.

In the U-16s, U-14s, U-12s and U-10s combined race, Silsden's Thomas Sessford of Keighley & Craven AC, won the U-16s section in a record time of 11.31 beating Ben Lindsay's 2003 time by ten seconds.

Skipton's Jonathan Bradshaw of Wharfedale Harriers finished second also dipping inside the old record. If these two follow in Ben's footsteps then in years to come they will be running in World and European cross-country championships.

Todmorden's Sean Carey won the U-14s. Keighley & Craven's Rosie Hellawell was the first U-14s girl to cross the line and just finished behind U-12s winner Ben Johnson from Wharfedale Harriers in fifth overall.

U-10s boys' winner Philip Done of Bradley won by a mere second out-sprinting Niall Oxley from Calder Valley.

For more details about the race, visit www.woodentops.org.uk.