

# Missed start costs Ian 11th Stoop win

## FELL RUNNING

THE 2005 winner Andi Jones dominated the Stoop Fell Race at Penistone Hill in Haworth on Sunday.

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 copy book 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 he could manage this! However, Holmes did pass several runners on his way to a 78th place finish.

Forty-one-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.

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.

First off out of the quarry at breakneck speed were 56 U-8s where Thomas Sumner dashed across the finish line, and then dashed off to a karate competition. Keighley & Craven Athletic Club's Louis Holmes finished third.

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. Skipton's Jonathan Bradshaw of Wharfedale Harriers finished second.

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](http://www.woodentops.org.uk).



THE STOOP: Sam Thom of Keighley & Craven AC (above), emerges from the quarry at the Stoop Fell Race on Sunday. He finished 28th in the U-8s race. Robert Thompson (below left), finished seventh in the U-10s race and fancy dress Santa, Ted Mason of Appletreewick (below right), was seventh in the senior race.

