



WYLDEFYRE

January 2013 No 32

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BWFAC Events **Mid Lancs Interclub & Club**
Champ Fell Races **English FR Champ Interclub**
Races Club Champ Lancs, Northern or
National Events **YAL League** **NA League**
Sportshall League

FORTHCOMING EVENTS DIARY

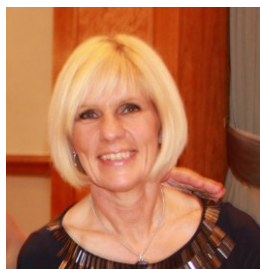
Abbreviations & Key: Club Champ races are marked with asterisks; ICoun – Inter Counties; HM – Half Marathon; TR – Trail Run; FR – Fell Race; MT – Multi-Terrain; CE – Combined Events; NA – Northern Athletics; YAL – Young Athletes League; EIS – English Institute of Sport; ESAA – English Schools Athletic Association; BUSA – British University Sports Association; BMAF – British Masters Athletic Federation; NVAC – Northern Veterans Athletic Club; CAU – UK Counties Athletic Union; IAAF – International Association of Athletics Federations; IAU – International Association of Ultrarunners; CH – Club Handicap; IC – Inter Club; CBP – Championship Best Performance; Ch – Championship; CC – Club Championship; JR – junior races; U – under; V – vet; ncr – new club record since merger in 2006; CR – new club record including records set under Blackpool & Fylde AC and North Fylde AC; CR – course record HJ – High Jump; LJ – Long Jump; DT – Discus; SP – Shot; PV – Pole Vault; H – Hurdles; h – heat; F – Final; c – chip; i – indoor; m – metres; M – Mile; K – Kilometre; ‘ – feet; dq – disqualified; ws – wind speed

Foreword:

With the countdown to Christmas December was a little quieter on the athletic front. However there was still the third fixture of the Mid Lancs cross country season and several road races, some with a Christmas theme. A successful Christmas Predictor race was held at Stanley Park. Also there is a look back to 1894 when the English National was held in Blackpool.

November's Athletes of the Month

This month's female Athletes of the



Month is Bev Wright for her Road performances during November

- 05/01/13 **Lancs XC Championship** Blackburn
- 05 & 06/01/13 **England Athletics inc NA Sen & U20 Combined Events**
- 06/01/13** **Club Handicap** **New Road**
- 06/01/13 Central Lancs New Year Half Marathon Catforth
- 06/01/13 Manchester Indoor Open Sportscity
- 12 & 13/01/13 **NA Indoor Champs** EIS Sheffield
- 12/01/13 **Mid Lancs XC** Hyndburn
- 13/01/13 **Lancashire Sportshall League**, Blackpool
- 13/01/13 Garstang 10K & South East Lancs XC Leigh Sports Village
- 20/01/13 Inskip Half Marathon
- 26/01/13 **Northern Athletics XC Champs** Knowsley Liverpool
- 26/01/13 British Athletics International Match, Glasgow
- 27/01/13 Chernobyl 10K Preston
- 02/02/13 **British Universities XC Champs** Bodington Play Fields Leeds
- 03/02/13 Manchester Indoor Open Sportscity
- 03/02/13 Witton Pk Trail Relay (3x5K/189m) & Jun Relay (3x2.5K/106m)
- 09/02/13 **Mid Lancs XC** Lancaster University
- 09 & 10/02/13 **British Athletics European Trials & UK Champs** EIS Sheffield
- 10/02/13 Blackburn Winter Warmer 10K/Junior 2.5K & Southport 10K
- 16/02/13 British Athletics Grand Prix NIA Birmingham
- 17/02/13 **Lancashire Sportshall League**, Blackpool Sports Centre
- 23/02/13 **ECCA XC Champs** Sunderland
- 24/02/13 Manchester Indoor Open Sportscity
- 02/03/13 **Mid Lancs XC** Beacon Park Skelmersdale
- 09/03/13 **Inter Counties XC Championships** & Vault Manchester
- 23/03/12 **Northern 12 & 6 Stage Road Relays** Blackpool
- 24/03/13 **World XC Championship** Bydgoszcz Poland
- 10/04/13 **BWFAC Inter-Club** Stanley Park Blackpool
- 12/04/13 **Inter Club Fell Race Wardle Skyline**
- 27/04/12 **National Athletics 12 & 6 Stage Road Relays** Birmingham
- 02/05/13 **LSARRC Inter-Club** Pleasure Island St Annes
- 06/05/13 **Inter Club Fell Race Wray Caton Moor**
- 25 & 26/05/12 **Lancs T&F Championship**
- 12/06/13 **Preston Inter Club** Vernon Carus Sports & Social Club
- 26/06/13 **Inter Club Fell Race Harrock Hill**
- 30/06/13 British Athletics Birmingham Grand Prix, Alexander Stadium
- 12 to 14/07/13 **British Athletics World Trials & UK Champs** Alexander Stadium
- 22/07/13 **Wesham RR Inter Club** Salwick Club
- 26 & 27/07/13 British Athletics London Grand Prix
- 05/08/13 **Inter Club Fell Race Farelton Knott**
- 14/08/13 **Chorley AC Inter Club** Astley Hall
- 04/09/13 **Red Rose RR Inter Club** Worden Park

The male athlete of the month is Harry Mercer for his performance at November's Sportshall, where he was U15 boy athlete of the meeting. Also nominated were Jess Rogers and Connor Finlayson.



REPORTS & RESULTS

Cross Country Awards:

Missed from last month's **Wyldefyre** were the **2011/12 Championships Cross Country Results**: Under 15 Boy's Champion **Declan Darnbrough** Under 13 Boy's Champion **Samuel Matthews**; Runner-up **Thomas Matthews**.

Mid-Lancs XC: Sefton Park Liverpool Nov 24th **ML**

The Mid Lancs positions had not been issued when last month's **Wyldefyre** was published. Below are the Mid Lancs updated positions:

U11G Maisie Rogers 18th 9:01; Natalie Luczak 34th 9:40; Caitlyn Preddy 35th 9:47; first of 48 was Keely Hodgkinson of Leigh Harriers & AC.

U11B Benjamin Preddy 4th 7:43; James Smith 11th 8:00; first of 55 was Kyle Jones of Leigh Harriers & AC in 7:40.

U13G Hannah Eadie 36th 14:13; first 59 was Blythe Fourie of Hyndburn AC.

U13B Connor Finlayson 2nd 11:20; George Robinson 19th 12:41.

U15G Deni Impett 9th 12:17; Jessica Rogers 16th 12:59; first of 45 was Rosie Jonnson of Liverpool Pembroke Sefton in 11:32.

U17W Molly Betmead 2nd 17:19; Kelly Smith 18th 20:56; first of 23 was Abbie Hetherington of Team North Cumbria in 17:00.

U20W Lauren Gowland 4th 17:46; first of 8 was Laura Riches in Leigh Harriers & AC in 16:55.

SW Andrea Smith 37th (3rd L45) 38:40; Karen Dunford 49th (7th L45) 39:59; Laura Lawler 61st (20th L35) 41:23; Hilary Goorney 89th (14th L55) 52:33; Claire Irons 91st 53:15; first of 94 was Lauren Howarth of Leigh Harriers & AC in 28:42.

Teams: SW 'A' 18th 69 pts (3rd Div 1); **SW 'B'** 14th 156 pts (6th Div 3); **L35** 2nd 53 pts; **L45** 2nd 30 pts.

SM Malc Eadie 20th (5th V40) 36:22; John Wright 27th (7th V40) 37:38; Adam Weightman 32nd (6th JM) 37:58; Andrew Smith 40th 38:35; Trevor Uttley 73rd (24th V40) 40:57; Gary Johnston 92nd 42:17; Alan Wilkinson 186th (13th V60) 50:04; Norman Greenwood 204th (19th V60) 1:01:42; first of 207 was James Douglas of Border Harriers & AC.

Teams: SM'A' 3rd 208 pts (1st Div 2); **SM'B'** 18th 780 pts (4th Div 4); **V40** 3rd 82 pts (1st Div 2); **V50** 8th 91 pts; **V60** 3rd 49 pts.

Club Mince pie Handicap: December 2nd **CH**

Ian Close 27:11; Peter Gibson 27:11; Reg Smallbone 27:35; Dave Randall 28:47; Tony Croft 31:21.

Timekeeper: Sharon Randall Helper: David Wood.

A crisp, but calm sunny morning attracted a somewhat disappointing entry for the traditional mince pie handicap. As is traditional all competing started off together and on finishing received a box of Mince pies.

Mid-Lancs XC: Crooklands Kendal Dec 8th **ML**

U11G Emily McNeill 6th 7:14; Isabelle Woodman 7th 7:20; Daniella Parriale 8th 7:28; Grace Webster 10th 7:42; Maisie Rogers 27th 8:59; first of 42 was Jasmine Jolly of Preston Harriers in 6:53).

U11B Benjamin Preddy 5th 6:41; Jamie Jackson 9th 7:05; first of 46 was Ben McLaughlin of Leigh Harriers & AC in 6:36.

U13G Hannah Eadie 18th 12:07; first of 34 was Charlotte Crook in 34).

U13B Connor Finlayson 6th 11:57; George Robinson 15th 12:31; Tim Collinson 22nd 13:10; William Holmes 35th 13:44; first of 44 was Cole Blaikie of Kendal AAC in 11:18.

Team 4th 78 pts.

U15B Lauren Brook 21st 15:50; Rebecca Terras 22nd 16:10; first of 22 was Grace Handley of Blackburn Harriers & AC in 11:55.

U15B Samuel Matthews 18th 16:29; Thomas Matthews 23rd 17:20; first of 29 was Chris Durney of Preston Harriers in 14:22.

SW Lauren Gowland 10th (3rd JW) 26:23; Stasia Bligh 34th (13th L35) 28:52; Laura Lawler 53rd (19th L35) 29:56; Karen Dunford 56th (12nd L45) 31:42; Alison Titterington 65th (5th L55) 30:23; Hilary Goorney 90th (14th L55) 40:14; first of 96 was Amanda Crook of Southport Waterloo AC in 23:47.

Teams: SW 'A' 8th 93 pts (4th Div 1); **SW 'B'** 23rd 203 pts (12th Div 3); **L35** 4th 88 pts; **L45** 4th 72 pts.

SM Daniel Quaruby 23rd (4th JM) 36:03; Malc Eadie 27th (7th V40) 36:40; Liam Craine 49th 38:49; Adam Weightman 81st (12th JM) 41:02; Gary Johnston 91st (15th V50) 41:54; Trevor Uttley 98th (26th V40) 42:07; Dave Dyson 179th (39th V50) 49:43; Peter Gibson (41st V50) 50:24; Jeff Wright 188th (42nd V50) 50:46; Alan Wilkinson 196th (17th V60) 51:32; John Winters 209th (22nd V60) 59:37; Norman Greenwood 210th (23rd V60) 63:02; first of 216 was James Tartt of Southport Waterloo AC in 32:22.

Teams: SM'A' 7th 363 pts (2nd Div 2); **SM'B'** 23rd 1145 pts (6th Div 4); **V40** 10th 201 pts (2nd Div 2); **V50** 10th 91 pts (9th Div); **V60** 3rd 62 pts (3rd Div).

Christmas Predictor: Stanley Park Dec 16th **CP**

This year's Christmas competition took the form of two Predictor races, one over 2012 metres and a 2½ mile race around Stanley Park. Both races started and finished with a circuit of the Stanley Park athletic track. It was a fine day, with Stanley Park looking beautiful in winter sunshine. All competing had to predict their time and the nearest to their prediction were the *winners. Club President **Howard Henshaw** donated two first prizes. Entry was by providing Christmas gift, so that everyone competing received a prize.

Name	Event	Est T	Time	Diff
*Peter Broome	Round Park	16:20	16:13	00:07
*Maisie Rogers	Round Park	19:13	19:20	00:07
*Terry Westhead	Round Park	17:30	17:37	00:07

Peter Singleton	Round Park	18:45	18:35	00:10
Bev Wright	Round Park	17:30	17:37	00:11
Timothy Woodman	2012m	08:32	08:45	00:13
Trevor Uttley	Round Park	15:15	15:28	00:13
James Smith	2012m	08:15	08:42	00:27
Isabelle Woodman	2012m	08:15	08:43	00:28
Daniel Smith	2012m	08:14	08:44	00:30
John Winters	Round Park	21:33	21:03	00:30
Lauren Gowland	Round Park	17:32	16:51	00:41
Jessica Rogers	2012m	17:00	16:12	00:48
Carl Barnard	2012m	08:30	09:24	00:54
Dave Bamber	Round Park	20:00	20:55	00:55
Bernard Singleton	2012m	08:00	21:18	00:58
Connor Finlayson	Round Park	17:10	16:05	01:05
India Rogers	2012m	09:30	10:42	01:12
Natalia Luczak	2012m	10:33	09:19	01:14
Peter Singleton	2012m	08:00	09:19	01:19
Minnie Rogers	2012m	09:20	10:42	01:22
Bernard Singleton	2012m	12:15	10:43	01:32
Dave Randall	Round Park	21:03	19:15	01:48
Alan Wilkinson	Round Park	21:03	19:01	01:48
Charlie McLaine	Round Park	17:18	19:29	02:11
Ian Close	Round Park	20:19	17:49	02:30
Amelia Sherman	Round Park	19:51	23:07	03:16
Norman Greenwood	Round park	26:30	22:33	03:57
Howard Henshaw	2012m	21:20	17:08	04:12
Carl Barnard	Round Park	23:59	19:29	04:30
Stephen Grice	Round Park	23:50	19:11	04:39
Ralph Halliburton-Chaplin	2012m	12:06	16:52	04:46
Jamie Bamber	Round Park	26:20	20:55	05:25

Ribble Valley 10K (Northern Athletics

Championship: Clitheroe December 30th NAC

Stuart Robinson (Salford Harriers, 2nd claim *BWFAC*) 42nd 32:02, c32:03; Steve Waterhouse 106th 35:36, c 35:26 **PB**; John Oliver 180th 38:11, c 38:01 **PB**; Bev Wright (24th F & 1st FV50) 41:23, c 41:23; Stasia Bligh 398th (38th F) 43:21, 43:11; David Twizell 767th 51:46, 50:47; John Bradley 986th 59:31, c 58:35. First of was **David Bishop** of Bristol & West AC in 30:02 and first lady was **Alyson Dixon** of Chester-le-Street (72nd) in 34:02.

It was a windy day with many prolonged showers, so fast times were at a premium. The prizes and awards were presented by Pole Vault and Olympian **Holly Bleasdale**.

Other Results:

Manchester Open Meeting: Sportscity Dec 2nd

300m i Katy Wyper 43.00 **PB**. **600m i** Annie Bradshaw 1st 1:45.32 **PB**.

Guy's 10M: Billington December 2nd

Stuart Robinson 2nd 53:19; Stasia Bligh 90th (11th F) 1:09:40; Tanya Barlow 159th (24th F) 1:17:29; Jeff Wright 212th 1:23:29; John Bradley 230th (1st MV70) 1:27:07. First

of 318 was **Ben Fish** of Blackburn Harriers in 51:52 and first lady was **Sarah Ridehalgh** of Accrington RR (17th) in 1:00:44.

Longridge 7 Mile Race: December 9th

Ian Close 65th (3rd MV55) 53:58, c 53:51; **John Bradley** 156th (1st MV70) 1:05:16, c 1:04:53. First of 213 was **Matthew Thompson** of Southport Waterloo AC in 40:23 and first lady was **Rachel Jones** of Horwich RMI (13th) in 44:58.

Red Rose XC: Leverhulme Park December 15th

Malc Eadie 22nd (2nd V40) 40:14.

Sale Open Series (Indoor): Sportscity Dec 16th

60m i **Dominic Arnold** (SM) 7.88 **PB**; **Gary Leek** (MV50) 8.76. **HJ i** **Dom Lavelle** (U17M) 3rd= 1.60m **PB**. **PV i** **Pool A Dom Lavelle** 5th 2.95m; **Fiona Hockey** (U17W) 7th 2.80m; **Hannah Newell** (U17W) 9th 2.65m. **Pool B** **Matt Wright** (U23M) 2nd 4.60m **PB**; **Matt Walker** (U20M) 10th= 3.50m. **SP i** **Katrina Kelly** (U17W) 6th 8.89m.

Rudolph Red Nose Race: December 23rd

Daniel Quarmby 3rd (1st MU20) 29:17; **Trevor Uttley** 20th (2nd MV45) 33:38; **Bev Wright** 30th (1st F & 1st FV50) 35:15; **Peter Singleton** 39th 36:18; **John Murray** 49th (1st MV65) 37:47; **Jamie Midgley** 68th (3rd MU20) 40:04; **John Bradley** 103rd (1st MV70) 44:13; **John Winters** 110th (1st MV75) 44:56; **Norman Greenwood** 136th 48:32; **Jeff Wright** 175th 55:56. First of was **Steve Swarbrick** of Bowland FR in 28:37. A fun event with plenty of Santa etc outfits.

Lancaster Festive 4K:

Andrew Woodward 2nd 13:30; **William Eccleston** 10th 14:28; **Molly Betmead** 12th (2nd F) 14:58; **Amelia Beaman** 19th (3rd F) 15:23; **George Robinson** 21st 15:32; **Katrina Kelly** 28th (5th F) 16:18; **Jeff Wright** 73rd 20:04; **John Bradley** (1st MV70) 83rd 20:48. First of 155 was **Danny Parkinson** of Kendal AC in 12:34 and first lady was **Sarah Hodgson** of Lancaster & Morecambe AC (9th) in 14:19.

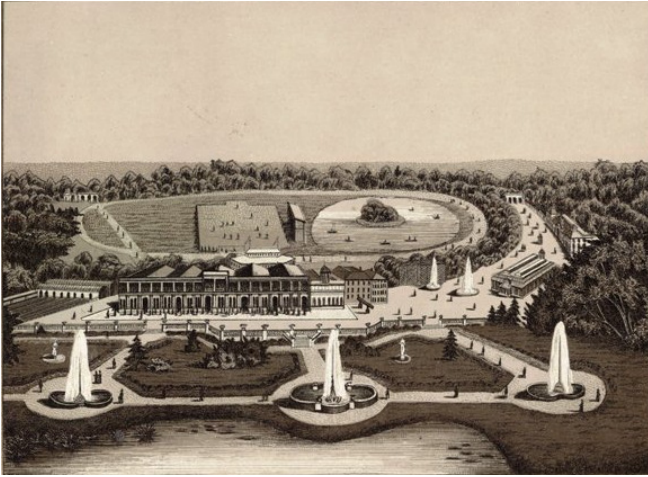
Athletic Profile: 1894 - The English National Cross Country Championship and formation of the first Blackpool Athletic Clubs

Last month I went back to the beginning of the twentieth century and this time I go further back to 1894.

This year was an important year in the history of Blackpool. The Tower was completed and opened on May 14th as was the Grand Theatre on December 22nd. The new Victoria Hospital was also opened on Whitegate Drive. And the 'Albana' was wrecked off Norbreck and 17 crew saved. As well as these general events, there were two major athletic events in the life of Blackpool. Blackpool Harriers and Blackpool & Fylde AC were formed and Blackpool hosted the English National Cross country Championship.

The English Cross Country Championship was first run in 1876 at Buckhurst Hill but for some reason it was declared void. For the next seven years the Championship was held in Roehampton, however in 1884, it started to be run alternately in the South, Midlands and North. In 1894, due to the exertions of **Douglas Johnson**, the secretary to the Ath-

letics Grounds Company, Blackpool was chosen as the venue. The Athletic Grounds were located at the Royal Palace



Gardens (Raikes Hall Gardens) pictured. The race was run on Saturday March 3rd 1894 in front of 1500 spectators, many of whom were sat in a grandstand.

It was advertised that there would be 180 competitors, but only 83 reached the start. Nine teams of harriers were entered with five teams from the London area, travelling up on the Friday. It was a fine day, but because recent rains the ground was very heavy and muddy. The course started with a double circuit of the Athletic Grounds track, three 3¼ mile laps and finishing with a further circuit of the track; a total of ten miles. Each lap featured rail and bush fences, ditches, a ploughed field and a big water jump in neighbourhood of Marton Mere. It was said that it was one of the stiffest courses on which the Championship had ever been run.

Prior to the start of the race a match of hockey was played between Blackpool and Crumpsall (Manchester). The game was won by the Manchester men by three goals to two. The start of the race was timed for 3:45pm, but was delayed by half an hour, partly whilst a photograph was taken much to the disgust of the runners. (*I haven't been able locate this image*).

George Crossland of Salford Harriers led from the start with **H Watkins** of Walthamstow and **Ron J Moran** of Salford in close attendance. After eight miles Moran was troubled by a "stitch" and struggled the last few miles, but still finished in fourth place (69:56). At about a mile from the finish Crossland forged ahead to win by sixty yards in 68:17, with Watkins second in 68:36 and Martin of Essex Beagles in 69:32. **George Crossland** was described as being "as fresh as a buttercup" after finishing the gruelling course. However for many, the tough course had taken its toll, with several collapsing after crossing the finishing line. They were covered in mud and blooded-legs caused by having to cross barbed wire fences, which were frequent along the route. Several of the top runners of the day were unable to complete the course. **G Lord** of Bolton "broke down" and **C Pearce** of Birchfield Harriers and the National Four Mile Champion hurt his leg so badly on the final lap that he had to be carried back. It was judged that he would

have finished in the top ten and this would have meant that Birchfield would have finished Champion club. Of the 83 who started, just 63 finished. One of the spectators was heard to say, that if the men had been animals, an inspector of the RSPCA would have had something to say about the matter. The Blackpool Times summed it up: 'How delightfully pretty was the scene as the teams turned out, but how painful it was to see the runners reach their journeys end, with torn and mud-splattered garments and limbs more or less blood-stained'.

A total of nine clubs were entered. The winning club was **Salford Harriers** with 60 points, **Birchfield Harriers** was second with 71 points and 1893 champions **Essex Beagles** were third with 100 points. Each of the six members of the first three teams received gold, silver or bronze medals with Crossland being awarded a special individual Gold Medal.

Despite the sorry condition of many of the finishers it was reported "that the men were eventually all right and held a pleasant smoking concert at the Palatine Hotel".

The Blackpool Gazette reported that it was hoped that the Championship would return when it was the North of England's turn again; however the leading sporting papers reported that the course was very bad. The National cross country did return ... but not for another sixty-eight years in 1962 and then again in 1970! Although this National event did not return for several generations, the Championship did seem to have sparked interest some formal organization of athletics.

Just under two weeks later on March 16th a meeting was held for the purpose of forming a harriers club, thus **Blackpool Harriers** was born. Forty members had been enrolled. **Mr F Nickson** was appointed President and **Mr C Hughes** and **Mr A E Taylor** were elected as Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer respectively. **Sir Matthew White-Ridley**, Blackpool's Member of Parliament was to be asked to be Patron. The proposed subscription was to be 3s 6d (17½P) per annum and honorary members to pay 5s (25P) each.

On April 27th there was a meeting at Blackpool Town Hall to form an athletic club. This had been instigated by **Mr G L McVittie**. It was would be "for the improvement of the physical condition of the rising generation of development of sport and healthy recreation". Mr McVittie proposed that the club should be worked along the lines of the "Fallowfield organization at Manchester" (Manchester AC) and should have a programme which included running, cycling*, jumping, gymnastics and other exercises. A provisional committee was formed, which included **Dr Kingsbury**, **Messrs A Kay**, **A Pugh** of Lytham, **G Dearden**, **H Wilde**, **H Pagnam** and **J Allen** of St Annes and **Mr McVittie** was elected as Honorary Secretary. Thus was born **Blackpool & Fylde AC**.

**Athletic events often had a mixture of running and cycling races at this time*