



# WYLDEFYRE

February 2013 No 33



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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 U20/U17 Development**  
**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; Medals **Gold Silver Bronze**

**Foreword:** January was dominated by Cross Country, with the County Championships, the Hyndburn Mid Lancs fixture and the Northern Cross Country Championship in Knowsley. There was also the Northern Indoor T&F Championship in Sheffield and the second Sportshall League. Athletic Profile looks back to a tragic death at the Northern XC in 1895 in Blackpool.

### December's Athletes of the Month

December's recipients are **Laura Lawler** and **Gary Johnston**, who have both received it for their performance and work as Cross Country Captains..



- 02/02/13 Lancs Schools XC Witton Park Blackburn
- 02/02/13 British Universities XC Champs Bodington Play Fields Leeds
- 03/02/13 Club Handicap & 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
- 16/02/13 Parbold Hill Race (6.75M) & Leeds Young Athletes Open
- 17/02/13 Muddy Shoes 5M/11M Caldervale & Keswick /Buttermere 34K
- 17/02/13 Lancashire Sportshall League, Blackpool Sports Centre
- 23/02/13 ECCA XC Champs Sunderland
- 24/02/13 Manchester Indoor Open Sportscity & Gt NW HM Bpl
- 02/03/13 Mid Lancs XC Beacon Park Skelmersdale & Stanley Pk 10K
- 02/03/13 England & NA Comb Events U15 & U17 Indoor Champs
- 03/03/13 Haweswater HM & Glasson Dock Grizzly HM
- 09/03/13 Inter Counties XC Championships & Vault Manchester
- 10/03/13 Winter Warm-Up T&F & Spring 5K
- 10/03/13 Roddleworth Roller MT 6M & Spen 20M
- 17/03/13 Ultrafit St Annes 10M Manchester Indoor Open Sportscity
- 23/03/13 Northern 12 & 6 Stage Road Relays Blackpool
- 24/03/13 World XC Championship Bydgoszcz Poland
- 24/03/13 Goal-Den Girls Women's 10K & Thirsk 10M
- 29/03/13 Caldervale Country 10M & Salford 10M
- 31/03/13 Muddy Bottoms Off Road 9M/17M & Carr Hill Triathlon
- 06/04/13 ERRA National 12/6 Stage Road Relays
- 10/04/13 BWFAC Inter-Club Stanley Park Blackpool
- 12/04/13 Inter Club Fell Race Wardle Skyline
- 20/04/13 Liverpool Throws & Jumps Open Meeting
- 27/04/13 National Athletics 12 & 6 Stage Road Relays Birmingham
- 28/04/13 U20/U17 Development League
- 02/05/13 LSARRC Inter-Club Pleasure Island St Annes
- 05/05/13 NA T&F League Match 1
- 06/05/13 Inter Club Fell Race Wray Caton Moor
- 18/05/13 Mid Lancs League Preston
- 25 & 26/05/13 Lancs T&F Championship
- 02/06/13 U20/U17 Development League
- 09/06/13 NA T&F League Bury
- 12/06/13 Preston Inter Club Vernon Carus Sports & Social Club
- 15/06/13 Mid Lancs League Lancaster
- 22 & 23/06/13 Northern Athletics Senior & U20 T&F Champs
- 26/06/13 Inter Club Fell Race Harrock Hill
- 30/06/13 U20/U17 Development League
- 30/06/13 British Athletics Birmingham Grand Prix, Alexander Stadium
- 05 & 06/07/13 English Schools Champs Birmingham
- 07/07/13 NA T&F League Match 3 Blackpool
- 12 to 14/07/13 British Athletics World Trials & UK Champs Alexander Stadium
- 20/07/13 Northern Athletics Inter Counties Champs Hull

# REPORTS & RESULTS

## **Club Handicap:** Jan 6<sup>th</sup> **CH**

**Dave Randall 28:58; Tony Croft 30:19;**  
**Ian Close 27:04; Nick Hume 29:06;**  
**John Bradley 33:32.**

**Timekeeper: Sharon Randall Helper:**  
**David Wood.**

Initially it was very misty, but this cleared to reveal a mild still day, which was perfect for running.

## **Lancs XC Champs:** Witton Pk Blackburn Jan 5<sup>th</sup> **LC**

**U11B Benjamin Preddy 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:53; James Smith 7<sup>th</sup> 8:17;**  
**Timothy Woodman 26<sup>th</sup> 9:26; first of 37 was Niall Caley of**  
**Manx Harriers in 7:47.**

**U11G Danielle Whipp 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:11; Isabelle Woodman 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:13; Grace Webster 7<sup>th</sup> 9:17; Maisie Rogers 13<sup>th</sup> 9:36; Dani-**  
**ella Parziale 15<sup>th</sup> 9:40; Minnie Rogers 24<sup>th</sup> 10:40; first of 35**  
**was Jasmine Jolly of Preston Harriers in 8:30.**

**Team 1<sup>st</sup> 27 pts**

**U13B Connor Finlayson 8<sup>th</sup> 12:32; Christian Linton 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**13:32; first of 43 was Dean Tierney of Preston Harriers in**  
**11:28.**

**U13G Hannah Eadie 24<sup>th</sup> 15:33; first 32 was Morag Moly-**  
**neux of Liverpool Pembroke & Sefton Harriers.**

**U15B Samuel Matthews 14<sup>th</sup> 17:03; Thomas Matthews**  
**20<sup>th</sup> 17:50; Alexander Hamilton 30<sup>th</sup> 20:02; first of 31 was**  
**Chris Durney of Preston Harriers in 14:42.**

**U15G Jessica Rogers 15<sup>th</sup> 18:37; Rebecca Terras 32<sup>nd</sup>**  
**25:11; first of 33 was Grace Handley of Blackburn Harriers**  
**in 16:10.**

**U17W Molly Betmead 1<sup>st</sup> 22:56; Amelia Beaman 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**24:02; Katrina Kelly 10<sup>th</sup> 26:24; Imogen Trafford 12<sup>th</sup> 26:54;**  
**15 competed.**

**Team 1<sup>st</sup> 13 pts**

**U20W Lauren Gowland 3<sup>rd</sup> (13<sup>th</sup> SW) 13:41; first of 8 was**  
**Sarah Hodgson of Lancaster & Morecambe AC in 30:11.**

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

**SM Luke Minns 10<sup>th</sup> 36:24; Harry Poole 23<sup>rd</sup> (5<sup>th</sup> JM) 38:26;**  
**Daniel Quarmbly 35<sup>th</sup> (10<sup>th</sup> JM) 39:45; John Wright 47<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**V45) 40:49; James Unsworth 53<sup>rd</sup> 41:54; Andrew Wood-**  
**ward 59<sup>th</sup> 42:23; Gary Johnston 88<sup>th</sup> (8<sup>th</sup> V55) 45:30; David**  
**Dyson 134<sup>th</sup> (14<sup>th</sup> V55) 56:03; David Randall 135<sup>th</sup> (13<sup>th</sup> V50)**  
**57:04; first of 142 was Ben Fish of Blackburn Harriers & AC**  
**in 33:46. Teams: SM 5<sup>th</sup> 227 pts; Vets 8<sup>th</sup> 195 pts.**

It was one of the best days weather-wise for some years for the Lancashire Cross Country Championship, with no rain, no wind and the temperature in double figures. Al-

21/07/13

22/07/13

26 & 27/07/13

03/08/13

05/08/13

10/08/13

14/08/13

17 & 18/08/13

24 & 25/08/13

31/08/13

31/8-01/09/13

04/09/13

08/09/13

22/09/13

Mid Lancs League Ormskirk

Wesham RR Inter Club Salwick Club

British Athletics London Grand Prix

NA T&F League Match 4

Inter Club Fell Race Farelton Knott

Mid Lancs League Hyndburn

Chorley AC Inter Club Astley Hall Chorley

Northern Athletics U17 & U15 T&F Champs Liverpool

Senior/U20 Jump & Throws Fest

Mid Lancs Medal Meeting Blackpool

England Athletics U17 & U15 Champs

Red Rose RR Inter Club Worden Park

BWFAC Open Meeting & Autumn 5K

BWFAC Open Meeting

though there was light cloud early on, the sun did eventually break through later in the afternoon.

## **Cheshire XC Champs:** Reeseheath College Nantwich January 5<sup>th</sup> **CC**

**SW (7.7K) Claire Irons 61<sup>st</sup> 52:10; first of 62 was Olivia**  
**Walwyn-Bush of Altrincham & District AC in 28:12.**

## **Mid-Lancs XC:** Wilson Playing Fields Hyndburn January 12<sup>th</sup> **ML**

**U11G Isabelle Woodman 5<sup>th</sup> 9:55; Danielle Whipp 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:09; Maisie Rogers 10<sup>th</sup> 10:13; Minnie Rogers 19<sup>th</sup> 10:59;**  
**Caitlyn Preddy 21<sup>st</sup> 11:14; first of 42 was Jasmine Jolly of**  
**Preston Harriers in 8:52).**

**U11B Benjamin Preddy 2<sup>nd</sup> 8:32; James Smith 9<sup>th</sup> 9:02;**  
**Jamie Jackson 18<sup>th</sup> 9:43; Tim Woodman 30<sup>th</sup> 10:15; first of**  
**50 was Ben McLaughlin of Leigh Harriers & AC in 8:21.**

**U13G Hannah Eadie 14<sup>th</sup> 11:44; first of 31 was Emma**  
**Whitaker in 10:28).**

**U13B Connor Finlayson 3<sup>rd</sup> 14:04; Tim Collinson 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**16:27; William Holmes 33<sup>rd</sup> 17:33; first of 43 was Dean**  
**Tierney of Preston Harriers in 13:15.**

**U15G Jessica Rogers 8<sup>th</sup> 15:58; first of 22 was Grace Hand-**  
**ley of Blackburn Harriers & AC in 13:56.**

**U15B Samuel Matthews 11<sup>th</sup> 16:22; Thomas Matthews**  
**15<sup>th</sup> 16:55; Declan Darnbrough 28<sup>th</sup> 18:33; Tom Holmes**  
**29<sup>th</sup> 18:33; Alexander Hamilton 30<sup>th</sup> 18:55; first of 33 was**  
**Chris Durney of Preston Harriers in 14:57. Team 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**(League 4<sup>th</sup>).**

**U17W Alisha Johnson 3<sup>rd</sup> 18:15; Kelly Smith 10<sup>th</sup> 20:27.**  
**1<sup>st</sup> of 15 Abbie Hetherington of North Cumbria in 16:23.**

**SW Lauren Gowland 8<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> JW) 26:23; Andrea Smith 41<sup>st</sup>**  
**(6<sup>th</sup> L45) 32:57; Stasia Bligh 47<sup>th</sup> (22<sup>nd</sup> L35) 33:32; Karen**  
**Dunford 57<sup>th</sup> (11<sup>th</sup> L45) 31:42; Alison Titterington 62<sup>nd</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**L55) 35:34; Tanya Barlow 65<sup>th</sup> (26<sup>th</sup> L35) 36:08; Sarah**  
**Wetherill 75<sup>th</sup> (32<sup>nd</sup> L35) 37:19; Hilary Gorney 106<sup>th</sup> (12<sup>th</sup>**  
**L55) 49:07; first of 110 was Sarah Tunstall of Kendal 25:29.**

**Teams: SW 'A' 10<sup>th</sup> 93 pts (4<sup>th</sup> Div 1); SW 'B' 17<sup>th</sup> 179 pts**  
**(9<sup>th</sup> Div 3); L35 8<sup>th</sup> 90 pts League 3<sup>rd</sup>; L45 1<sup>st</sup> 33 pts, Leg 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**SM** Luke Minns 7<sup>th</sup> 38:08; **Malc Eadie** 29<sup>th</sup> (6<sup>th</sup> V40) 42:16; **Chris Essex-Crosby** 65<sup>th</sup> 45:47; **Trevor Uttley** 85<sup>th</sup> (25<sup>th</sup> V40) 47:20; **Gary Johnston** 86<sup>th</sup> (10<sup>th</sup> V50) 47:23; **James Unsworth** 107<sup>th</sup> 48:57; **Chris Lloyd** 112<sup>th</sup> 49:30; **Peter Broome** 164<sup>th</sup> (35<sup>th</sup> V50) 54:38; **Jeff Wright** 194<sup>th</sup> (43<sup>rd</sup> V50) 58:54; **Alan Wilkinson** 199<sup>th</sup> (13<sup>th</sup> V60) 60:04; first of 224 was **James Douglas** of Border Harriers & AC in 36:18.

**Teams: SM'A'** 6<sup>th</sup> 354 pts (2<sup>nd</sup> Div 2); **SM'B'** No team (6<sup>th</sup> Div 4); **V40** 8<sup>th</sup> 174 pts (2<sup>nd</sup> Div 2); **V50** 10<sup>th</sup> 108 pts (9<sup>th</sup> Div); **V60** No team (3<sup>rd</sup> Div).

Witton Park which hosted the Lancashire Championships the previous week is generally considered to be a tough course, but compared to the one at Wilson Playing Fields in Clayton-le-Moors, it was a pussy cat. Much of the route of the cross country ran through woodland, which had retained much of the moisture from the heavy rains over the last few months. The mud in the woodland was brutal and although there are no big hills there were many leg sapping steady climbs.

### Northern Athletic Championship: English Institute of Sport Sheffield January 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> **NAC**

**SW 60m i** Katy Wyper (U23) **h1** 4<sup>th</sup> 8.03, **F 7<sup>th</sup>** 8.03. **Beth Towers** (U23) **h1** 5<sup>th</sup> 8.44. **200m i** Katy Wyper **h2 3rd** 26.05, **F 6<sup>th</sup>** 26.65. **Lucy Mansfield** (U23) **h1** 4<sup>th</sup> 26.64. **PV i** Loryn McCrudden (U20) 6<sup>th</sup> 2.80m.

**SM PV i** Matt Wright 4<sup>th</sup> 4.30m.

**U20W PV i** Loryn McCrudden 3<sup>rd</sup> 2.80m.

**U17W 200m i** Taylor Smith **h4** 5<sup>th</sup> 28.81. **300m i** Jordan Dixon **h3** 43.25 **PB**. **PV i** Fiona Hockey 2<sup>nd</sup> 3.00m; Hannah Newell 4<sup>th</sup> 2.70m.

**U17M PV i** Dom Lavelle 6<sup>th</sup> 3.30m **PB**; Jack Hails 11<sup>th</sup> NH.

**U15G 60m i** Ash Colvin **h5** 2<sup>nd</sup> 8.49, **SF3** 4<sup>th</sup> 8.41 **PB**, **F** 6<sup>th</sup> 8.45; **200m i h4** 1<sup>st</sup> 27.57, **SF1** 3<sup>rd</sup> 27.30, **F** 6<sup>th</sup> 27.82; **60mH i h4** 4<sup>th</sup> 10.36 **PB**. **800m i** Annie Bradshaw **h2** 1<sup>st</sup> 2:27.72, **F** 4<sup>th</sup> 2:26.95.

Thirteen members of **BWFAC** competed and came back with two medals as well as some very good performances with several qualifying for finals.

### Sportshall League: Blackpool SC Jan 13<sup>th</sup> **SL**

Full results are not yet published, but overall BWFAC was second behind Preston Harriers.

### Northern Athletics XC Champs: Knowsley Liverpool January 26<sup>th</sup> **NAXC**

**JW (5.8K)** Lauren Gowland 18<sup>th</sup> 26:30. First of 41 was Georgia Taylor-Brown of Sale Harriers in 22:56.

**U15B (4K)** Alex Hamilton 141<sup>st</sup> 21:00. First of 147 was Daniel Evans of Warrington AC in 14:29.

**SM** Stuart Robinson 50<sup>th</sup> (Salford Harriers) 45:34; **Dave Everson** started but not in the results. First of 583 was **Steve Vernon** *pictured* of Stockport Harriers & AC in 40:01.



Thick snow covering Knowsley Park made for one of the toughest Northern Cross Countries ever. And it was also tough for the marshals especially **Vicky Huyton** who finished the day with frostbite in one of her toes - **Brave Girl!**

## Other Results:

### Sale Open Meeting: Sportscty January 6<sup>th</sup>

**60m** Henry Taylor (U20M) 7:57 **PB**; Katy Wyper (U23W) 8.13; **Rory Anderson** (U17M) 8.07 **PB**; **Dom Lavelle** (U17M) 7.84 **PB**; 8.11; **Ash Hails** (U17M) 8.38 **PB**; 8.41; **Jack Hails** (U17M) 8.61; 8.64; **Ellie Gibson** (U17W) 9.16 **PB**; **Ash Colvin** (U15G) 8.67 **PB**; **Gary Leek** (MV50) 8.90. **200m i** Henry Taylor 24.37; **Katy Wyper** 26.98; **Rory Anderson** 25.65; **Jordan Dixon** (U17W) 27.43; **Ash Colvin** 28.39. **60mH i** **Ash Colvin** 10.67 **PB**. **Lji Pool A** **Dom Lavelle** 2<sup>nd</sup> 5.24m; **Ash Hails** 15<sup>th</sup> 4.44m; **Jack Hails** 20<sup>th</sup> 4.30m.

### Central Lancashire HM: January 6<sup>th</sup>

**Tanya Barlow** 152<sup>nd</sup> 1:50:05; **Jeff Wright** 162<sup>nd</sup> 1:52:35; **Vicky Robinson** 200<sup>th</sup> 1:58:31. First of 315 was **Daniel Grant** (Unattached) in 1:13:40 and first lady was **Josia Zakrzewski** of Dumfries Running Club (4<sup>th</sup>) in 1:17:46.

### Garstang 10K: January 14<sup>th</sup>

**Bev Wright** 53<sup>rd</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> F & 1<sup>st</sup> FV50) 41:35 c 41:32; **David Twizell** 244<sup>th</sup> 50:57, c 50:28; **John Bradley** 307<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> MV70) 53:41 c 53:11. First of 462 was **Anthony Valentine** of Bolton in 32:48.

### Inskip Derby Arms Half Marathon: January 20<sup>th</sup>

**Stuart Robinson** 1<sup>st</sup> 1:08:25 **PB** (Salford Harriers/BWFAC); **Liam Craine** 12<sup>th</sup> 1:20:02 **PB**; **David Williamson** 22<sup>nd</sup> 1:22:21 **PB**; **Bev Wright** 65<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> F & 1<sup>st</sup> FV50) 1:31:00; **Tanya Barlow** 146<sup>th</sup> (17<sup>th</sup> F) 1:44:36; **Dave Randall** 163<sup>rd</sup> 1:48:26; **Jeff Wright** 206<sup>th</sup> 1:54:36; **John Bradley** 242<sup>nd</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> V70) 2:01:04;. First Lady was **Mary Kelly** of Penny Lane Striders (54<sup>th</sup>) 89:10. A total of 316 competed.

The **Brass Monkey HM** at York and the **Four Villages HM** at Helsby were both cancelled because of ice on the courses.

### Chernobyl 10K: Preston January 27<sup>th</sup>

**Andrea Smith** 133<sup>rd</sup> (7<sup>th</sup> F & 1<sup>st</sup> F45) 45:48; **Karen Dunford** 200<sup>th</sup> (20<sup>th</sup> F) 49:46; **John Bradley** 328<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> MV70) 56:31; **Hilary Goorney** 419<sup>th</sup> 63:17; **John Murray** 449<sup>th</sup> 68:21. First of 476 was **Tom Charles** of Trafford AC in 33:13 and first lady was **Olivia Walwyn** of City of Norwich AC (4<sup>th</sup>) in 35:43.



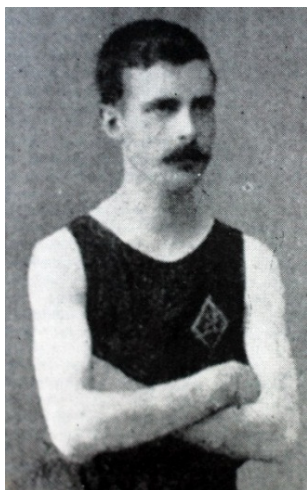
## **Athletic Profile: 1895 Northern Cross Country Championship – ‘Simply Madness to Run’**

The winter of 1894/95 started off relatively mild, but by the end of December there was heavy snowfall in Norfolk and this spread across the country during January. Bitter east winds gusted across Britain during February, with heavy snow down the west of Britain and thick snow covered the Fylde. These were the conditions under which **13<sup>th</sup> Northern Cross Country Championship** was run in Blackpool (only the second time outside Manchester). On the day of the race the coldest temperature recorded in the country was -23.9C and February 1895 was the second coldest ever on record. Many at the time questioned the sense of running the race as the **Southern Championship** had been cancelled because of the weather conditions.

The course was the same as the one used for the **National Championship**, which had been much criticised for its toughness. The barbed, wire which had caused many cuts to legs the previous year, was removed but not much could be done about the thick snow. There had been 200 entries representing about 20 clubs from all over the North of England, however in the reports, I have not been able to find any mention of a Blackpool Harriers participating. Possibly because they had only been in existence for less than a year they had been unable to field a team. Two of the rules: *“...and must have taken part in not less than three runs or races with the club he represents during the current season”* and *“That no less than six nor more ten representatives from each respective club be allowed to compete...”*.

Despite the intense cold with a biting east wind there were 300 or 400 spectators as 175 runners commenced the race on the athletic track. Before the start several competitors were already seen to be suffering the effects of sub-zero conditions. As at the National in 1894 the course was ten mile in length over three laps each of 3¼ miles.

Early on the 1890 Champion **William Henry ‘Sonny’ Morton** pictured of Salford Harriers led the field with **Crook**



and **Lord** of Bolton Primrose in close attendance. **Crook** soon took the lead and stretched the field out with **J Harrington** of Northwich second and Salford Harrier’s **Moran** third. **Crook** looked certain to win but badly hurt his knee and struggled gamely on to finally finish in 18<sup>th</sup> place. **Moran** closed on **Harrington** and both went into the final lap of the country shoulder to shoulder. However **Harrington** when next seen was a 100 yards in the lead and by the finish this had lengthened to 300 yards, completing the course in 56:53½. Moran remained in second, with **Vickers** of Crewe third and 1892 Champion **Charley Souch** in fourth. Early leader ‘**Son-**

**ny’ Morton** finished in 18<sup>th</sup> place. The winning club with 74 points was Salford Harriers [Moran (2), Souch (4), Barlow (6), Morton (18), Lind (21) & Barlow (25)] with Airdale and Liverpool Harriers & AC second and third.

**Harrington** who was somewhat of a surprise winner, aged 23, was born in County Sligo in Ireland and had lived in England for five years. He was trained by a well-known professional runner of the time.

Although **Harrington** was described as “fresh as a daisy” after crossing the line, it was reported that the majority of runners were in a distressed state by the end of the race, with just 136 competitors completing the course, which meant that upwards of forty runners failed to finish.

One competitor, **Edward Whelan** from Birkenhead and a member of West Cheshire Harriers had not finished and the club West Cheshire captain **Thomas Gleave**, who had not run, went out to search for his teammate. He found him walking in ‘an enfeebled state’ at the rear of the Belle Vue Hotel. **Whelan** exclaimed: “Oh Tom!” and Gleave gave him some whiskey, but Edward collapsed shortly afterwards and he was taken to the hotel, where he was attended by Drs Richardson and Billing. However despite their efforts **Whelan** suffered convulsions and died 14 hours later. His death was declared as due to exhaustion and exposure to the cold. His ‘sweetheart’ and his mother were distraught when they came to see his body on the Monday after the race. It appears he had been treated the previous November for a “severe cold and a weak heart” and his doctor was against **Whelan** competing. He had promised his parents and his employers, the Estate Fire Assurance Company (who had threatened to dismiss him if he ran) that he would not compete, but the lure of a Gold Medal, which had been promised to the first club member to finish and the pressure from of his teammates persuaded him to run. Another runner **Alfred Lee** from Stockport also was seriously ill after the race, but recovered after medical treatment and three other runners also had to spend time recovering in bed.

Whelan’s case was particularly sad as it was his twentieth birthday on the day of the race. He was a talented athlete having competed for two seasons in Birkenhead athletics and won Wirral Hare & Hounds (then defunct) club championship. He was also the sole support for his aged parents. (A year later the Northern Athletic Association sent a cash donation to his mother who was described as being in ‘reduced circumstances’).

Afterwards there was much criticism in the Athletic press and the Manchester Evening News. Respected athlete **Sonny Morton** said afterwards: **“that it was simply madness to run over such a course on such a day”** and another top athlete declared that he would not do it again for all the honour and glory of winning twenty championships.

*Main sources used were the local Newspapers of the period, Blackpool Gazette, Blackpool Times & Blackpool Herald. Also “The Northern Cross Country Association - A Centenary History” by Dr Phil Thomas.*