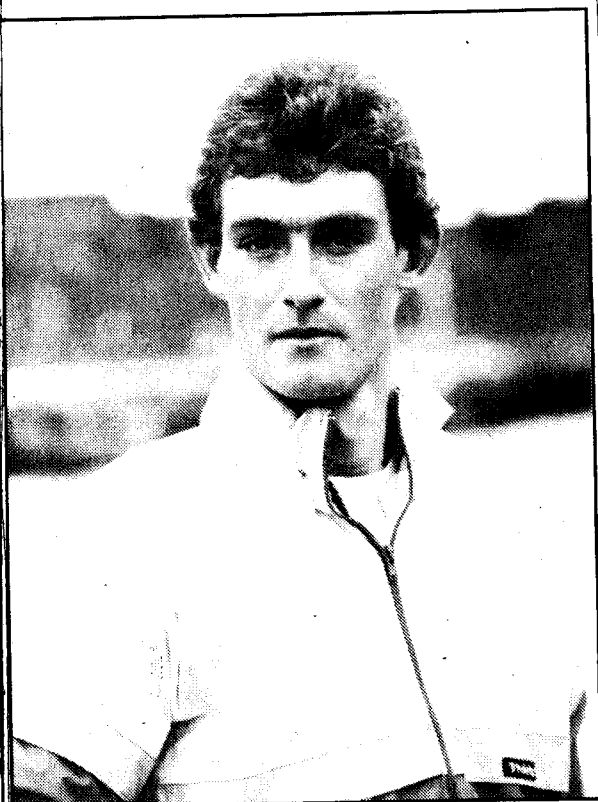


# Clarke's the man of the weekend



*King of the Castle - Graham Clarke*

IN last weekend's Easter Athletics Festival Graham Clarke of the Manx Athletic Club created athletics history when he became the first local athlete to win the 'Man of the Festival' award, in the 26-year history of the event.

He achieved this honour by retaining his title in Saturday's Peel Hill Race; finishing second in the Good Friday Road Race around the streets of Douglas; and clocking the third-fastest time in Sunday's Festival Relay, on Douglas Promenade.

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## Clarke's Double

Conditions were damp and cold when the action moved to Peel on Easter Saturday for a series of Hill Races, and the question on everyone's lips was "Will Graham Clarke repeat his victory of last year?"

This question was answered in less than 21 minutes when Graham stormed home to score a great victory over Scottish Inter national Bobby Quinn, but it was only in the final quarter-mile that he managed to break clear of his rival to snatch victory by just three seconds.

In the team race, victory went to Salford Harriers who scored 32 points, just two points clear of the defending champions, the Manx Athletic Club.

With Lynne McIntyre deciding to miss this event, it was Lucy Elliot of Liverpool University who took charge of the proceedings and pulled clear to score a great victory by fifty seconds over Stephanie Quirk, who had a comfortable margin of 27 seconds over third finisher Ruth Isaacs.

John Cookson of East Cheshire Harriers made it two

## Easter Athletics Festival by Peter Mac

wins in two-days with a comfortable victory in the Youths Hill Race, but in a battle for second place Gianni Epifani just missed-out by one second to Jason Boothroyd of East Cheshire Harriers.

Other Hill Race victories went to Adam Harrison (East Cheshire) who scored a fairly comfortable win in the Boys race; Victoria Jones (Neston) who was well clear of her rivals in the Junior Ladies class; Mark Morris (East Cheshire) who scored a narrow victory in the Colts section; and local girl Victoria Jagger of Northern A.C. who took the honours in the Girls race.

## Summer Comes Early

As the Festival entered the final stages on Sunday on Douglas Promenade, the sun shone brightly, the wind dropped to next-to-nothing, and summer arrived early.

The result of the 4x3 mile Men's Relay remained in doubt until the final stages, with victory finally going to the Glasgow/Paisley quartette, with Leeds University taking second place, Salford Harriers third, and the Manx Athletic Club fourth.

On the opening leg it was Irishman Pat Corcoran who led the way, handing-over a comfortable lead, with Chris Quinn (Manx A.C.) in third spot.

HORWICH'S Brent Brindle was attempting to equal the legendary Joss Naylor's record hat-trick of wins in this year's I.O.M. Breweries Mountain Marathon held on Easter Saturday.

True to form, Brent was one of the leading five runners who led from the start at Ramsey, until, at St. John's, he and former British champion Jack Maitland eased away from Rosendale's Pete Irwin, Andy Schofield of Rochdale, and one man who was probably having his finest run ever, local Tony Varley.

In the last five miles Brent showed just how determined he was to clinch victory, forcing the pace to open a seven minute winning margin by the finish at Bradda Glen.

Jack Maitland came home second — as last year — with Andy Schofield getting the better of Pete Irwin to record his highest placing in the Marathon. Best local was Tony Varley in an excellent fifth place, with Englishman Martin Hudson sixth and first veteran.

Peter Browning of Clayton finished an impressive seventh to take the newcomers award, and, along with Andrew Howarth and Martin Clark,

by Richie Stevens

won the Ellan Vannin trophy team prize. Manx local success came in standard team prize for A.C. Jones trophy M.A.C. trio Peter Corbett, Martyn Strickett, George Brown being winners.

A big thanks to I.O.M. Breweries for their generous sponsorship and Andy Jones and his many helpers for a well organised event.

## Results

1. Brent Brindle (Horwich A.C.) 4 hours 28 minutes; 2. Jack Maitland (Pudsey and Bramley) 4.41.14; 3. Andy Schofield (Rochdale) 4.41.33; 4. Peter Varley (Boundary Harriers) 4.52.08; 5. Martin Hudson (Hoad Hill) 4.56.06.

List of other local finishers: 11. Ian Callister (Manx A.C.) 5.3.54; 12. Stephen (Boundary Harriers) 5.3.54; 13. Peter Corlett (Manx A.C.) 6.09.39; 14. Mike Cowley (Boundary Harriers) 6.09.39; 15. George Hull (Boundary Harriers) 6.09.39; 16. Don Higgins (Boundary Harriers) 6.09.39; 17. Alistair Sutherland (Boundary Harriers) 6.09.39; 18. Martyn Strickett (A.C.) 6.44.37; 19. Eddie (Northern) 6.44.37; 20. George Brown (A.C.) 6.58.29; 21. Bob (Manx A.C.) 7.30.56; 22. Gell 8.51.37.



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Despite this superb performance the Manx Athletic Club "A" team of Graham Clarke, Andrew Fox, Chris Quine and Dave Newton, just failed to retain the "Team-of-the-Festival" title, and had to settle for second place to the very strong quartette from Salford Harriers.

Winner of the "Woman -of-the-Festival" award was Lucy Elliott of Liverpool University who won the Peel Hill Race, and finished in second place in both the Good Friday and the Easter Sunday Road Races, while Stephanie Quirk finished in second spot (second at Peel; plus fourth and fifth in Douglas), and also won the special trophy for the "Manx Woman of the Festival".

The "Veteran of the Festival" award went to 41 year old Dennis Shannon of Tinryland A.C..

Despite the threat of the Seamen's strike, most of the competitors who had entered for the Athletic Festival decided to travel to the Island and sample the delights of what is now recognised as one of the best sporting weekends on the British Athletic Calendar.

#### Irish Victory

The festival opened on Good Friday with a series of Road Races around the streets of Douglas, with Graham Clarke involved in a titanic battle for honours in the five mile senior event, with Pat Corcoran (Tinryland A.C. — Ireland), Pete Mayo (Lancaster University), and Scotsman Bobby Quinn of Paisley Harriers.

Victory finally went to the 32 year old Irishman, who on his first visit to the Island was highly-delighted with his success, covering the course in 25 minutes 33 seconds, with Graham taking second place after leading the race until the final 200 yards. Such was the intensity of this race for victory that only eight seconds covered the first four finishers.

In the supporting races it was Olympic 1500 metres finalist Lynne McIntyre of Paisley Harriers who dominated the Ladies Five Mile event, while John Cookson of East Cheshire Harriers scored a narrow victory over team-mate Clive Bonnelly in the 3 mile Youths class.

First local home in the Ladies race was Stephanie Quirk who finished an excellent fourth, while the local challenge in the Youths event was spearheaded by Gianni Epifani who finished a brilliant third, just 11 seconds behind class winner Cookson.

Cheshire) who scored a narrow victory in the Colts section; and local girl Victoria Jagger of Northern A.C. who took the honours in the Girls race.

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The result of the 4x3 mile Men's Relay remained in doubt until the final stages, with victory finally going to the Glasgow/Paisley quartette, with Leeds University taking second place, Salford Harriers third, and the Manx Athletic Club fourth.

On the opening leg it was Irishman Pat Corcoran who led the way, handing-over a comfortable lead, with Chris Quine (Manx A.C.) in third spot.

The second-leg was dominated by Kevin McCluskey (East Cheshire Harriers Select) who tookover in ninth place and powered his way past his rivals into the lead, with a stunning run in just over 14 minutes, the second-fastest time ever recorded for this circuit. Andy Fox was also in fine form and had pushed the leading local squad into second spot.

It was all-change on leg three, with Glasgow/Paisley handing over a slight lead to Bobby Quinn on the final lap, with Leeds University and Salford very close behind, while Dave Newton had dropped the Manx A.C. back to fourth.

On a dramatic final leg, Graham Clarke closed the gap on the second and third teams, but was unable to better his position, and had to be satisfied with an excellent fourth spot, with a lap time of 14 minutes 35 seconds, the third best of the day.

The Ladies 3 mile race gave Lynne McIntyre her second win of the weekend, but her margin of victory over Lucy Elliot was just seven seconds, while the local challenge was again spearheaded by Steph Quirk who just lost fourth place in the final sprint finish.

Other class victories went to Cath Chojnack of East Cheshire Harriers (Girls); Viv Jones of Neston (Junior Ladies) and Mark Morris of East Cheshire who won the Colts race.

#### Thanks

Finally, thanks must go to all race officials, marshalls and helpers who helped to make this 26th Easter Athletic Festival such a resounding success. Special thanks must go to Festival Organiser Graham Davies who was on duty virtually full-time for the whole weekend, even though in his state of health he should have been in bed.

If there was a medal for services, above and beyond the call of duty, he certainly deserved it!

along with Andrew (Manx A.C.) 7.30. Howarth and Martin Clark, Gell 8.51.37.



*Almost there. Brent Brindle presses on towards Ballarock in the final stages of his record equalling Mountain Marathon hat-trick.*



*Come for the weekend from Cumbria, Stephanie Quirk was in impressive form throughout the weekend, here pictured on the final ascent of Corrin's Colly during her second place run in the Peel Hill Race.*



*Manx A.C.'s Dave Newton leads the chasing bunch of some 200 athletes during Saturday's Senior Hill Race at Peel.*

*(Photo*

## **Good Friday Road Races**

### **Senior Men's 5 Miles**

1. Pat Corcoran (Tinryland A.C.) 25 minutes 33 seconds; 2. Graham Clarke (Manx A.C.) 25.38; 3. Pete Mayo (Lancaster University) 25.40.

Other local placings were as follows: 16. Chris Quine 26.38; 21. Andy Fox 26.46; 23. Alan Gage 26.48; 24. Dave Newton 26.49; 30. Steve Kelly 26.58; 48. Jim Anderson 27.42; 55. Ray Cox 27.54; 57. Mick Hannay 27.58; 59. Mark Gage 27.58; 80. Paul Clarke 28.33; 81. Phil Cain 28.35; 99. John Crellin 29.07; 109. Dave Ronan 29.27; 111. John Tasker (Vet.) 29.32; 125. Robbie Corkish 29.57; 129. John Leece 30.04; 137. Simon Capelen 30.29; 141. Ian Ellis (V) 30.44; 142. Dave Corrin (V) 30.49; 148. Mark Callister 31.06; 160. Brian Goldsmith 31.25; 175. Bill Hooke (V over 55) 32.12; 178. Alan Kelly (V) 32.20; 179. Bernie Cannon 32.32; 182. Kevin Groom 32.49; 189. Steve Higgins 33.23; 190. Alan Pilling 33.25; 206. Eddie McArd (V) 34.22; 208. Kevin Tasker (V) 34.38; 212. Phil Kenny 35.09; 232. Frank Williams 38.33; 240. Brian Hollinrake (V) 41.03; 242. John Lelant (V over 50) 41.52. (252 finishers).

### **Ladies 5 Miles**

Lynne McIntyre (Paisley H.) 30 minutes 1 second; 2. Lucy Elliot (Liverpool University) 30.47; 3. Maureen Dodsworth (Houghton H.) 31.51.

Local placings were: 4. Stephanie Quirk 32.21; 9. Diane Rohrer 34.14; 11. Doreen Wilson 35.21; 15. Margi Purvis 36.01; 16. Anne Gomer (V) 36.52; 22. Helen Kermod 38.55; (36 finishers).

### **Youths 3½ Miles**

1. John Cookson (East Cheshire H.) 18 minutes 30 seconds; 2. Clive Bonnell (East Cheshire H.) 18.33; 3. Gianni Epifani (Manx A.C.) 18.41. (16 finishers).

## **Easter Saturday Peel Hill Races**

### **Senior Men's 4 Miles**

1. Graham Clarke (Manx A.C.) 20 minutes 59 seconds; 2. Robert Quinn (Paisley H.) 21.02; 3. Gregory Hull (Leeds University) 21.21.

Other local placings were: 12. Allan Gage 22.11; 15. Andy Fox 22.18; 18. Dave Newton 22.29; 22. Steve Kelly 22.48; 28. Mick Hannay 23.06; 32. Tony Rowley 23.15; 33. Ray Cox 23.23; 40. Mark Gage 23.39; 52. Paul Clarke 24.10; 53. Phil Cain 24.11; 61. Jim Anderson 24.22; 72. John Crellin 24.41; 88. John Tasker (V) 25.11; 94. Dave Corrin (V) 25.33; 95. Dave Ronan 25.38; 115. Mark Callister 26.33; 116. Brian Hollindrake (V) 26.37; 117. Brian Goldsmith 26.38; 121. Alan Kelly (V) 26.51; 126. Ian Ellis (V) 27.08; 150. Alan Pilling 28.34; 153. Phil Kenny 28.44; 156. Bill Hooke (V over 55) 29.08; 157. Robbie Corkish 29.09; 160. Steve Higgins 29.27; 167. Eddie McArd 30.36. (208 finishers).

### **Ladies 3 Miles**

1. Lucy Elliot (Liverpool University) 18 minutes 46 seconds; 2. Stephanie Quirk (Kendal A.C.) 19.36; 3. Ruth Isaacs (Old Waders) 20.03.

Other local placings were: 6. Christine Kissack 20.25; 9. Doreen Wilson 22.12.

### **Youths 3 Miles**

John Cookson (East Cheshire H.) 16. Minutes 9 seconds; 2. Jason Boothroyd (East Cheshire H.) 16.38; 3. Gianni Epifani (Manx A.C.) 16.39. (11 finishers).

### **Boys 1½ Miles**

1. Adam Harrison (East Cheshire) 10 minutes 36 seconds; 2. Roger Watterson (Colchester A.C.) 10.50; 3. Michael Jackson (Manx A.C.) 11.00. Junior Ladies 1½ Miles: 1. Victoria Jones (Neston) 10 minutes 9 seconds; 2. Chris Cunningham (Warrington) 11.24; 3. Christine Johnson (Western A.C.) 11.45.

Other local placings were: 5. Gillian Smith 12.52.

### **Colts 1¼ Miles**

1. Mark Morris (East Cheshire) 10 minutes 3 seconds; 2. Les Shaw (East Cheshire) 10.06; 3. Julian Martin (Southern A.C.) 10.19.

Other local placings were: 4. Kieron Murray 10.33; 5. Colin Cooil 11.05; 6. Barry Critchley 11.13; 7. D. Johnstone 11.33; 9. Andrew Murray 11.52. Girls 1¼ Miles: 1. Victoria Jagger (Northern A.C.) 11.28; 2. Chris Emery (Warrington) 11.45.

## **Easter Sunday Road Races**

### **Ladies 3 miles**

1. Lynne McIntyre (Paisley H.) 17 minutes 18 seconds; 2. Lucy Elliot (Liverpool University) 17.25; 3. Maureen Dodsworth (Houghton H.) 18.09.

Local placings were: 5. Stephanie Quirk 18.26; 10. Christine Kissack 19.33; 14. Doreen Wilson 20 minutes 12 seconds; 17. Margi Purvis 20.55. (40 finishers).

### **Girls 2 Miles**

1. Cath Chojnack (East Cheshire) 12 minutes 42 seconds; 2. Chris Emery (Warrington) 12.55; 3. Louise Kennedy (Western A.C.) 14.03; 4. Sarah Lowey (Southern A.C.) 14.14. Junior Ladies 2 Miles: 1. Viv Jones (Neston) 11 minutes 33 seconds; 2. Chris Cunningham (Warrington) 12.34; 3. Karen Weaver (Warrington) 13.20.

Local placings were: 4. Christine Johnson 13.34; 5. Gillian Smith 14.24; 6. Suzanne Martin 17.03.

### **Colts 1¼ Miles**

Mark Morris (East Cheshire) 9 minutes 9 seconds; 2. Les Shaw (East Cheshire) 9.12; 3. Julian Martin (Southern A.C.) 9.16.

Other local placings were: 4. Colin Cooil 9.20; 5. Kieron Murray 9.53; 6. Barry Critchley 10.02; 7. D. Johnstone 10.03.

### **Senior Men's 4×3 Mile Relay**

1. Glasgow/Paisley Select (A); 2. Leeds University (A); 3. Salford Harriers (A); 4. Manx Athletic Club (A); 5. Tinryland A.C. (A); 6. East Cheshire Harriers; 7. Lancaster University; 8. Salford Harriers (B); 9. Liverpool University; 10. Manx A.C. (B). (80 Teams finished).