

Sport
☎ 627797

The start of the climb at Peel on Saturday, and Festival winner Robert Quinn is already stretching out a comfortable lead over his rivals. (Inset) Cheers, Brenda Walker celebrates her Athletics Festival hat-trick with a glass of orange! (John Watterson)



QUINN RETAINS FESTIVAL TITLE

PAISLEY Harriers Robert Quinn retained the Isle of Man Easter Athletics Festival title for a second year over the weekend, while Colby's Brenda Walker stormed home in the Ladies category with a hat-trick of wins.

The Western A.C. mother of three (inset right) was dominant at Douglas on Good Friday, Peel on Saturday, and Douglas again on Sunday where she was simply in a class of her own.

Graham Clarke was the leading local in the Senior Mens category, helping Manx Harriers to third place overall in the team contest. Local school teacher Alan Postlethwaite won the Veteran Mens class, while Louise Davies of Whitby Heath was the top woman.

■ Full results on page 36.



McCluskey's win in opening athletics event

KEVIN McCluskey of Copeland won the opening event of the 1992 Easter Athletics Festival, the six mile road race through the streets of Douglas on Good Friday. He clocked 25.06, beating last year's overall champion, Robbie Quinn of Paisley, into second place by half a minute.

The winning time was 35 seconds faster than that achieved by the 1991 winner, Bashir Hussein, of Stockport Harriers. On Friday, fourth placed Graham Clarke of Manx Harriers was the best placed local, with Gianni Epifani, now running for Liver-

pool Pembroke, 11th.

Best local lady was Jane Mooney of Manx Harriers, who was sixth with a time of 34:24. The winner was Lucy Martin of Manchester University.

Great Britain International Steve Partington won the six mile walk, and junior international Carolyn Brown took the honours in the ladies' section.

Good Friday Six Mile Road Race Results, Senior Men (leading positions): 1, Kevin McClusky (Copeland) 25:06; 2, Robert Quinn (Paisley) 25:36; 3, Greg Hull (Leeds University) 26:14; 4, Graham Clarke (Manx

Harriers) 26:22; 5, Seb Shepley (Loughborough University Old Boys) 26:41; 6, Andy Sawyer (Copeland) 26:41; 7, Martin Wood (Manchester University) 26:42; 8, Eric Williams (Stockport) 26:47; 9, Mark Harriss (Lancaster University) 26:58; 10, Martin Roscoe (Leeds University) 27:00; 11, Gianni Epifani (Liverpool Pembroke) 27:03; 12, Robert Fitzimmons (Paisley) 27:08; 13, Alan Gage (Western AC) 27:12; 14, Philip Hilton (Lancaster University) 27:14; 15, Michael Shackcloth (Manchester University) 27:25; 16, John Wilkinson (Leeds University) 27:28.

Ladies: 1, Lucy Martin (Manchester University) 31:35; 2, Clare Fielding (Hearne Hill Harriers) 32:00; 3, Joanna Cliffe (Glasgow University) 32:30; 4, Helen Ruffell (Manchester University) 33:20; 5, Jackie Pursey (Manchester University) 34:19; 6, Jane Mooney (Manx Harriers) 34:24.

Veteran Men (13 finishers): 1, Alan Postlethwaite (IOM Vets) 29:37; 2, David Findel-Hawkins (Stockport) 30:19; 3, Ian Ellis (Manx Harriers) 31:12; 4, Robert Webb (Manx Harriers) 31:56; 5, Brian Goldsmith (Manx Harriers) 32:12; 6, Peter Cooper (Manx Harriers) 32:38.

Veteran Ladies (3 finishers): 1, Brenda Walker (Western AC) 29:56; 2, Louise Davies (Whitby Heath) 34:00; 3, Jean Turner (Whitby Heath) 44:50.

Team Results, Senior Men: 1, 'Three Legged Camell AC' (26 points); 2, Leeds City AC 'A' (29); 3, Paisley Harriers Unathletic (40); 4, Loughborough Students OB (49); 5, Lancaster University OB 'A' (55); 6, Manx Harriers 'A' (62)

Easter Festival Walking Race, Men (6 miles): Steve Partington (Manx Harriers) 36:32; 2, Steve Taylor (Manx Harriers) 40:03; 3, Dave Keown (Manx

Harriers) 41:44; 4, Brian Brough (Manx Harriers) 56:04.

Ladies (6 miles): 1, Carolyn Brown (Manx Harriers) 44:11; 2, Elizabeth Corran (Manx Harriers) 51:01; 3, Linda Kelly (Manx Harriers) 53:08; 4, Ruth Sadler (Manx Harriers) 57:41; 5, Gill Hughes (Manx Harriers) 60:25;

● As usual there were two other events in the Easter Festival, the Peel Hill Race on Saturday, and the team relay along the Marine Drive on Sunday. Up to the time of the *Examiner* sports pages going to press the results of these events had not been released by the organisers

Veteran takes top honours in even tougher marathon

VETERAN runner John Nixon of Achilli Ratti won the 1992 Manx Mountain Marathon, taking top honours in the event for the first time at the age of 44.

In extremely difficult conditions he beat last year's winner, Alan Hauser of Holmfirth, into second place, with four times champion and course record holder Brent Brindle, of Horwich third. The best placed local was Richie Stevenson, of Manx Fell Runners, who was seventh overall.

The swirling mist and strong north westerly wind made it extremely difficult for competitors, and not surprisingly the winning time, 5:05:58, was well down on Brindle's best ever 4:28:12. However, that didn't detract from a tremendous battle involving the top three runners as far as South Barrule, and between Nixon and Brindle in the closing stages of the

to tell. His legs gave up, and, completely exhausted, he was forced to walk to the finish. Hauser, himself on the verge of collapse, saw Brindle was in difficulty from some distance away, and managed to keep running long enough to claim second place.

The top three runners had built up such a commanding lead that Brindle wasn't caught by fourth placed Andrew Belton.

The runners in Saturday's event faced a wide range of conditions, from the Winter gales at the Bungalow, to the Spring sunshine at St John's. The thick mist over much of the higher ground meant they relied to a large extent on their compasses, particularly for finding the summits of the 13 peaks.

One competitor who fell victim to the conditions was Tony Rowley of Manx Fell Runners. He was going well right up to the closing stages of his first Manx Mountain Marathon, but twisted his ankle and had to drop out.

9, G Oliver (Bramcote AC) 6:19:45; 10, E Reid (Bramcote AC) 6:27:18.

Main trophy winners: Lloyd Cup and plaque (Elite Winner), John Nixon; Team Prize (Ellan Vannin Trophy and plaques), Manx Fell Runners (Richie Stevenson, Mike Cowbourne, Ian Callister); Standard Class winner (Dennis Lace Trophy and plaque), Paul Driver; Team Prize (AC Jones Trophy and plaques), Macclesfield Harriers (Paul Driver, Phillip Cheek, Alan Ireland); Fastest Manxman (Snaefell Trophy and plaque), Richie Stevenson; Fastest Newcomer (Quirk Trophy and plaque), Paul Driver; Fastest Veteran (Plaque), John Nixon; Fastest Supveter (Plaque), Alan Ireland.



Richie Stevenson, of Manx Fell Runners, who was seventh overall.

The swirling mist and strong north westerly wind made it extremely difficult for competitors, and not surprisingly the winning time, 5:05:58, was well down on Brindle's best ever 4:28:12. However, that didn't detract from a tremendous battle involving the top three runners as far as South Barrule, and between Nixon and Brindle in the closing stages of the 30 mile race.

At the Bungalow, after the first hour, Nixon, Hauser, Brindle and Peter Irwin of Rossendale were in the leading bunch. Irwin retired at Injebreck, but the other three were only seconds apart when they reached St John's, 12 miles from the finish.

They were still together when they reached the top of South Barrule, but in the thick mist Hauser lost his way, and with it his chance of glory. He ran down to the road virtually the same way he went up, which left him about half an hour off the pace.

Nixon and Brindle continued their ding-dong battle for honours, with very little between them until the ascent of Bradda Cairn. Nixon is renowned for his climbing ability, and he put it to good effect, storming into a commanding lead.

Brindle recently returned to fell running after an absence of two years, and on the descent to Braddan Tower the strain began

wide range of conditions, from the winter gales at the Bungalow to the Spring sunshine at St John's. The thick mist over much of the higher ground meant they relied to a large extent on their compasses, particularly for finding the summits of the 13 peaks.

One competitor who fell victim to the conditions was Tony Rowley of Manx Fell Runners. He was going well right up to the closing stages of his first Manx Mountain Marathon, but twisted his ankle and had to drop out.

Results, Elite Class: 1, John Nixon (Achilli Ratti) 5:05:58 (Veteran); 2, Alan Hauser (Holmfirth) 5:19:34; 3, Brent Brindle (Horwich) 5:27:10; 4, Andrew Belton (Macclesfield Harriers) 5:29:51; 5, Dave Marshall (New Zealand) 5:49:19; 6, D Kearns (Bolton Harriers) 5:49:23 (Veteran); 7, Richie Stevenson (Manx Fell Runners) 5:53:38; 8, R Fowler (Chorley AC) 5:56:28; 9, P Browning (Clayton-le-Moors) 5:57:07; 10, Mike Cowbourne (Manx Fell Runners) 6:03:28 (Veteran); 11, N Robinson (DPFR) 6:33:13; 12, Ian Callister (Manx Harriers) 6:43:52; 13, M Kelly (Bolton Harriers) 6:47:17 (Veteran); 14, S Marshall (Clayton-le-Moors) 7:50:05.

Standard Class (46 finishers): 1, P Driver (Macclesfield Harriers) 5:46:57; 2, D MacPhee (Kildalton AC) 5:48:23; 3, P Cheek (Macclesfield Harriers) 5:56:49 (Veteran); 4, A Ireland (Macclesfield Harriers) 6:05:38; 5, Alan Bagley (Stockport Harriers) 6:10:19; 6, D Ashton (Salford AC) 6:11:11 (Veteran); 7, N Hindle (Altringham AC) 6:12:16; 8, D Young (Manx Fell Runners) 6:15:56 (Young);

Driver, Phillip Cheek, Alan Ireland); Fastest Manxman (Snaefell Trophy and plaque), Richie Stevenson; Fastest Newcomer (Quirk Trophy and plaque), Paul Driver; Fastest Veteran (Plaque), John Nixon; Fastest Supervet (Plaque), Alan Ireland.



*John Nixon approaches the finish to win his first Manx Mountain Marathon.
Picture: William Craig*

Easter Festival results

Good Friday

DOUGLAS ROAD RUN (5.8 miles)

Senior Men: 1, Kevin McCluskey, 25 minutes 6 seconds; 2, Robert Quinn 25.36; 3, Greg Hull 26.14; 4, Graham Clarke 26.22; 5, Seb Shepley 26.41; 6, Andy Sawyer 26.41; 7, Martin Wood 26.42; 8, Eric Williams 26.47; 9, Mark Harriess 26.58; 10, Martin Roscoe 27.00. **Other locals:** 11, Gianni Epifani 27.03; 24, Paul Clarke 27.59; 34, Andy Fox 28.32; 42, Stewart Sayle 28.53; 50, Paul Curphey 29.19; 54, Mick Hannay 29.44; 62, Phil Crowe 30.18; 65, Ian Watson 30.23; 66, Jim Anderson 30.25; 71, Kevin Wynne-Smyth 30.36; 73, Peter Kennaugh 30.38; 76, Steve Kelly 30.57; 83, Raymond Cox 31.28; 86, John Crellin 31.44; 87, Martyn Strickett 31.47; 91, Bernard Cannon 31.59; 97, John Leece 32.27.

■ 146 runners finished.

Veteran Men: 1, Alan Postlethwaite 29 minutes 37 second; 2, David Findel-Hawkins 30.19; 3, Ian Ellis 31.12; 4, Robert Webb 31.56; 5, Brian Goldsmith 32.12; 6, Peter Cooper 32.28; 12, Alan Pilling 36.23.

■ 13 finishers.

Veteran Men (Over-45): 1, Len Carr 33 minutes; 2, Vernon Thomas 34.51; 3, Phil Cox 37.03.

Veteran Ladies (Over 35): 1, Brenda Walker 29 minutes 56 seconds; 2, Louise Davies 34.00; 3, Jean Turner 44.50.

Senior Ladies: 1, Lucy Martin 31 minutes 35 seconds; 2, Clare Fielding 32.00; 3, Joanna Cliffe 32.30. **Locals:** 6, Jane Mooney 34.24; 16, Pauline Kennaugh 37.56; 21, Rose Garman 40.02; 25, Jackie Kennaugh 44.45.

■ 30 finishers.

Youths: 1, Phillip Jackson 30 minutes 43 seconds; 2, Keiron Murray 37.05.

WALKING RACE (5.8 miles)

Men: (all Manx Harriers) 1, Steve Partington 36 minutes 11 seconds; 2, Steve Taylor 40.03; 3, Dave Keown 41.44; 4, Brian Brough 56.04.

Ladies: (all Manx Harriers) 1, Carolyn Brown 44 minutes 11 seconds; 2, Elizabeth Corran 51.01; 3, Linda Kelly 53.08; 4, Ruth Sadler 57.41; 5, Gill Hughes 60.25; 6, Sue Partington 63.52.

Easter Saturday

PEEL HILL RACE (four miles)

SENIOR MEN

1, Robert Quinn 21mins 14secs; 2, Greg Hull 21.47; 3, Graham Clarke 21.53; 4, Gianni Epifani 22.09; 5, Seb Shepley 22.22; 6, Martin Roscoe 22.37; 7, John Wilkinson 22.41; 8, Andy Sawyer 22.46; 9, Alan Gage 22.53; 10, Des Gibbons 22.58.

Other locals: 24, Paul Clarke 23.42; 31, Andy Fox 24.06; 39, Stewart Sayle 24.47; 44, Mick Hannay 25.16; 48, Kevin Wynne-Smyth 25.39; 52, Ian Watson 25.44; 60, Peter Kennaugh 26.20; 67, Steve Kelly 26.36; 73, Bernard Cannon 26.50; 76, Raymond Cox 26.56; 79, Jim Anderson 27.05; 82, John Crellin 27.38; 91, Robert Skillan 28.55; 100, Mark Bridson 30.36; 104, David Callister 30.42.

■ 120 finishers.

SENIOR LADIES

1, Brenda Walker 18mins 55secs; 2, Joanna Cliffe 19.29; 3, Lucy Martin 19.41; 4, Clare Fielding 19.45; 5, Helen Ruffell 20.19; 6, Kirstie Anderson 21.18; 7, Jane Mooney 21.18.

Other locals: 18, Pauline Kennaugh 23.56; 23, Jackie Kennaugh 27.19.

VETERAN MEN

1, Alan Postlethwaite 25.45; 2, David Findel-Hawkins 26.24; 3, Ian Ellis 26.37; 4, Brian Goldsmith 27.10; 5, Robert Webb 27.27; 6, John K. Smith 28.12.

Other locals: 9, Peter Cooper 29.18; 11, Alan Pilling 32.51.

VET MEN 45

1, Len Carr 28mins 06secs; 2, Vernon Thomas 28.47.

Girls: 1, Kerry Surridge 13mins 17secs. **Minors:** 1, Sarah Dowling 13.20. **Inters:** 1, Leanne Surridge 13.04.

Youths: 1, Phillip Jackson 18.14; 2, Keiron Murray 19.39. **Boys:** 1, Juan Wright 19.15; 2, Nicky Cowen 21.08; 3, Greg Hoskisson 21.37. **Colts:** 1, Neil Kelly 12.02; 2, Jonathon Leece 13.25.

EASTER SATURDAY MEN'S TEAM RESULTS

Senior Men: 1, Leeds City 15 points; 2, Liverpool Univ "A" 46; 3, Paisley Harriers Unathletic 46; 4, Manx Harriers "A" 58; 5, Manchester Univ "A" 59; 6, Leeds Univ "A" 84; 10, Northern AC "A" 160; 19, Manx Harriers "B" 222; 20, Northern AC "B" 230.

TEAM RESULTS

Veteran Men's: Manx Harriers 340 points. **Ladies:** 1, Manchester Univ "A" 26 points; 2, Glasgow Univ Hare & Hounds 36; 3, Manx Harriers 68; 4, Leeds Univ Ladies 79; 5, Manchester Univ "B" 81.

Easter Sunday

MARINE DRIVE 4x4 MILE RELAYS

(including composite teams)

1, Three-Legged Camel 78 minutes 54 seconds; 2, Leeds City AC 79.06; 3, Paisley H. Unathletic 79.27; 4, Manx Rejects 80.44; 5, Manx Harriers "A" 83.19; 6, Liverpool University "A" 84.23; 13, Northern A.C. "A" 89.29; 15, Manx Harriers "B" 90.33; 25, Manx Harriers Vets 95.03; 26, Mountain Marathon Men 95.55; 27, Manx Harriers "C" 96.09; 29, Northern A.C. "B" 97.08; 35, Manx Harriers "D" 103.37.

■ 44 finishers.

SENIOR LADIES (four miles)

1, Brenda Walker 22mins 15secs; 2, Joanna Cliffe 23.24; 3, Clare Fielding 23.49; 4, Lucy Martin 24.02; 5, Helen Ruffell 24.21; 6, Jayne Waller 24.33; 7, Jane Mooney 25.05; 18, Pauline Kennaugh 27.20; 20, Rose Garman 27.48; 22, Linda Kelly 28.57; 23, Liz Cowan 29.33; 26, Julie Moore 31.05; 27, Dorothy Grainger 31.08; 30, Jean Turner 31.39.

COLTS (Two miles)

1, Glen Comish 12mins 27secs; 2, Neil Kelly 14.42; 3, Jonathon Leece 16.16. (Minors): Sarah Dowling 14.47. (Boys): 1, Juan Wright 11mins 18secs; 2, Nicky Cowen 12.15; 3, Greg Hoskisson 12.51.

Overall Team Results

Senior Men: 1, Leeds City, five points; 2, Paisley Harriers Unathletic 10; 3, Manx Harriers "A" 16; 4, Liverpool University "A" 17; 5, Leeds University "A" 22; 6, Lancaster University OB "A" 24; 11, Northern AC "A" 48; 12, Manx Harriers "B" 50; 18, Northern AC "B" 73.

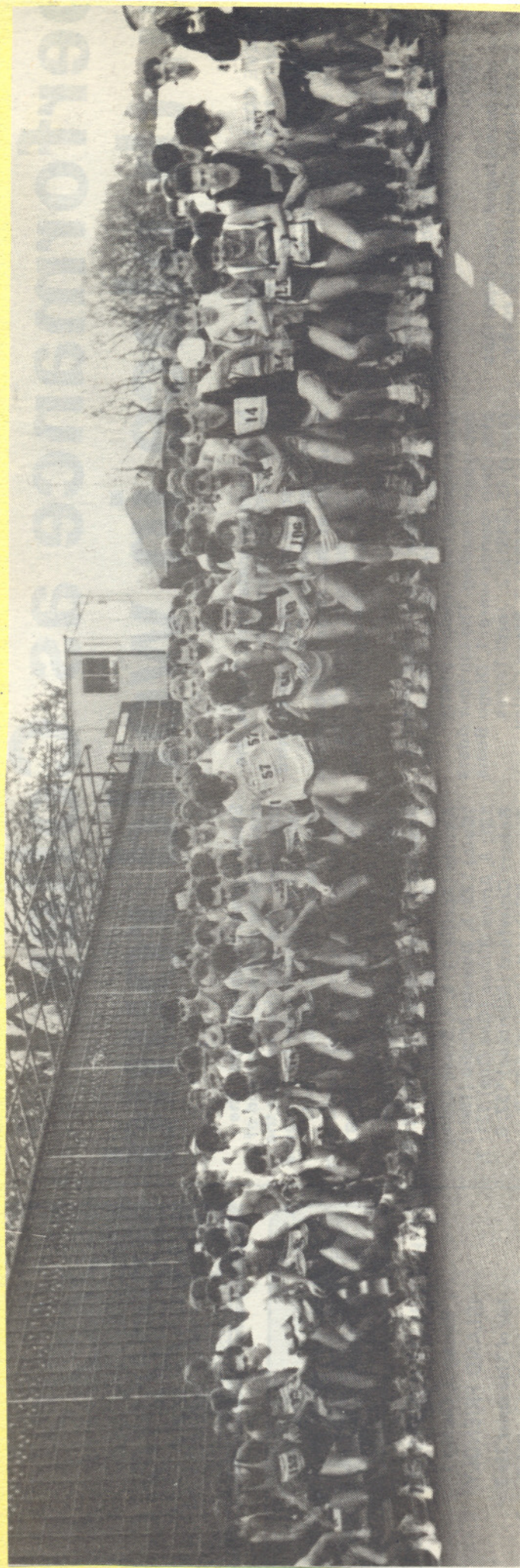
■ 24 finishers.

Veteran Mens: Manx Harriers three points.

Ladies: 1, Manchester University "A" three points; 2, Glasgow University Hare and Hounds six; 3, Manx Harriers nine; 4, Leeds University 12; 5, Manchester University "B" 15.

Overall Individuals

Senior Men: Robert Quinn, Paisley. **Senior Lady:** Brenda Walker, Western I.o.M. **Veteran Men:** Alan Postlethwaite, I.o.M. **Vets.** **Veteran Lady:** Louise Davies, Whitby Heath. **Best Manxman:** Graham Clarke, Manx Harriers. **Best Manx Lady:** Brenda Walker, Western.



The Island's Easter Athletics Festival about to get underway as the runners face the starter for the Good Friday 5.8 miles road race around Douglas