

# Locals shine in Easter Festival

FIVE of the Island's leading hopes for athletics glory at the Gotland Games in 11 weeks time showed good early season form in last weekend's three day Easter Athletics Festival.



Jackie Ashman sprints for the finish at Peel harbour side on Saturday, with Sheila Fairweather close behind (JW)

Chris Quine, who has the unique record of winning a medal in every Island Games to date, was a fine 12th overall in the men's contest, while Games newcomer Jackie Ashman finished runner-up in the women's after winning the Peel hill event on Saturday.

The ever consistent Quine was 11th in the Good Friday road race around Douglas and Onchan; 14th in the gruelling hill race at Peel; and 12th fastest in the men's 5k relay on Sunday morning — the best local on each occasion.

Manx Harriers and Island Games team-mate Paul Clarke was 17th in the final standings with a 20th and two 18ths; followed by Andy Fox in 25th spot (23rd, 25th and 27th). Keith Callister, who is not selected for Gotland, was 26th overall, two places in front of namesake but no relation Robbie Callister.

Making a rare appearance in a running vest these days, Robbie won the veteran over 40s class with two wins and a second, but it would have been a different story if Easter had fallen a couple of weeks later as Keith is about to join the 40 watt bulb club any day!

Phil Cain of the Northern Club was 38th overall and third vet, while there was an impressive debut from Harriers man Jim McGregor to finish 47th overall, one place in front of Northern's Bernard Cannan.

Alan Postlethwaite of the Northern Club was 51st overall and first veteran over 50, while clubmate Steve Kelly was 61st and first vet over 45.

Overall, Mark Croasdale of Bingley

Harriers regained the Easter Festival title with three stirring performances. He was runner-up in the Friday evening road race, but went on to win the Peel Hill event and set the fastest individual time in the relays at Pulrose.

England international Larry Mathews, winner of this year's Manx Airlines half marathon, won the first leg of the three day festival, the 5.3 mile road run around the streets of Douglas and Onchan, but slipped to fourth in the overall order with ninth at Peel and fourth in the relays.

Second and third places were filled by Donald Naylor of Hunters Bog Trotters and Mick Hill of Leeds University.

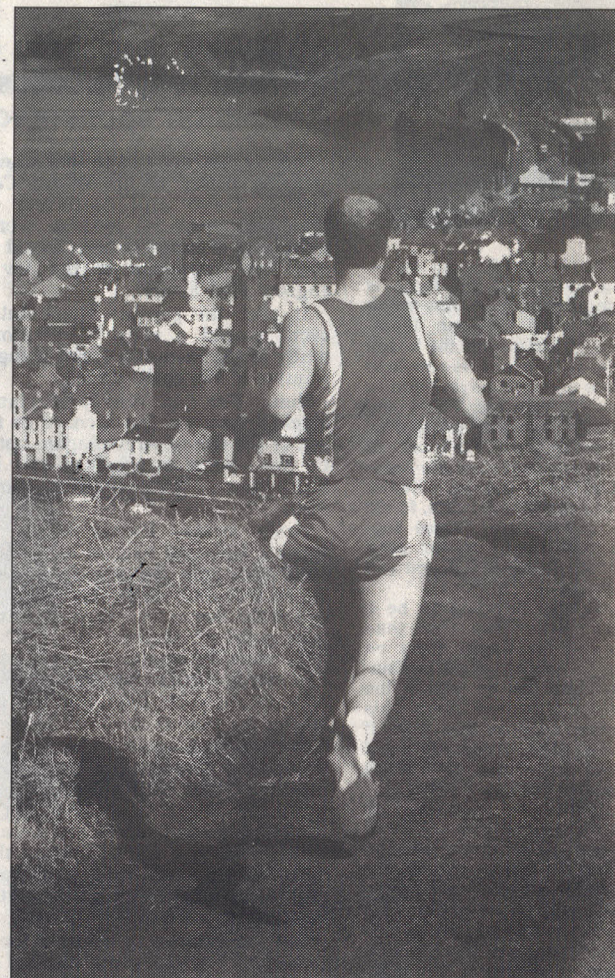
## WOMEN'S FESTIVAL

British students indoor 3000m champion Sheila Fairweather of Glasgow University took the women's title at the first attempt with comfortable wins on the two tarmac events and second at Peel behind new local resident Jackie Ashman.

Jackie was superb on the Saturday, and after sitting in behind Fairweather for most of the return trip to Corrin's Folly, overtook her rival in the latter stages of the decent — digging deep into her resources to pull out a 15 second margin by the finish line outside the Heritage Centre.

A recent competitor in the junior world cross country championships, Susan Partridge of Glasgow University was third overall, followed by Megan Clark and Dorothea Lea, both of Oxford University.

The only other local woman to contest all three events was Ann Cain of Manx Harriers, who was 24th overall.



No time to look at the view: Top local Chris Quine starts the descent back to Peel harbourside en route to 14th place in Saturday's hill race (Photos: John Watterson)

## Good Friday road races (5.3 miles — Douglas/Onchan)

**Men** 1, Larry Mathews (Thames Hares) 25 minutes 57 seconds; 2, Mark Croasdale (Bingley Harriers) 26.04; 3, Donald Naylor (Hunters Bog) 26.19; 4, Mick Hill (Leeds Un) 26.33; 5, Andy Beevers (Leeds City AC) 26.42; 6, Greg Hull (LC AC) 26.49; 7, Martin Roscoe (LC AC) 26.58; 8, Tim Field (Sun Harriers) 27.05; 9, Martin Hilton (LC AC) 27.19; 10, John Heap (Liverpool Un) 27.25; 11, Chris Quine (Manx Harriers) 27.36; 12, Alistair Kennis (TH) 27.42; 13, Andrew Weir (TH) 27.54; 14, Chris Birchall (LU) 27.58; 15, Nick Altman (TH) 28.00; 16, Carl Saint (LC AC) 28.07; 17, David Rowbotham (LC AC) 28.08; 18, Tomi Suskanto (LU) 28.14; 19, Shane Green (LU) 28.26; 20, Paul Clarke (MH) 28.35.

**Other locals** 23, Andy Fox (MH) 28.48; 29, Keith Callister (MH) 29.25; 31, Robbie Callister (IoMVAC) 29.41; 40, Paul Curphey (MH) 30.23; 44, Phil Cain (Northern AC) 30.32; 52, Bernard Cannan (NAC) 31.17; 53, Jim McGregor (MH) 31.21; 54, Alan Postlethwaite (NAC) 31.39; 57, Mike Gellion (IoMVAC) 31.55; 62, Peter Hughes (NAC) 32.13; 68, Steve Kellv (NAC) 32.43; 77, Robert Webb (MH) 33.24; 81, Alan



## Easter Sunday 5km road races (NSC/Groves Road)

**Individual men's times** 1, M. Croasdale 14 minutes 55 seconds; 2, D. Naylor 14.59; 3, J. Nolan 15.05; 4, L. Mathews 15.07; 5, M. Hill 15.15; 6, G. Hull 15.21; 7, A. Beevers 15.21; 8, M. Roscoe 15.24; 9, M. Hilton 15.25; 10, J. Heap 15.39; 11, N. Altman 15.49; 12, C. Quine 15.55; 13, T. Field 16.01; 14, A. Weir 16.01; 15, S. Green 16.03; 16, A. Kennis 16.04; 17, T. Suskanto 16.04; 18, P. Clarke 16.09; 19, Nils Bolander (UCD) 16.10; 20, C. Birchall 16.18.

**Other locals** 27, A. Fox 16.35; 31, K. Callister 16.45; 33, R. Callister 16.53; 39, P. Curphey 17.15; 45, P. Cain 17.31; 53, B. Cannan 17.50; 50, J. McGregor 17.41; 55, G. Butterworth 17.53; 58, A. Postlethwaite 17.58; 67, Richard Radcliffe 18.27; 71, S. Kelly 18.43; 82, D. Gray 18.59; 87, R. Webb 19.14; 93, P. Robinson 19.28; 97, A. Bagley 19.41; 100, Thomas Davies (MH) 20.03; 110, Keiron Murray (MH) 20.40; 113, M. Phillips (MH) 20.55; 115, K. O'Brien (MH) 21.02; 118, Kevin Martin (Loughborough) 21.14; 120, David Harding (Loughborough) 21.28.

\* There were 133 finishers

**Women** 1, S. Fairweather 17 minutes 27 seconds; 2, J. Ashman 17.45; 3, S. Partridge 17.52; 4, M. Clark 18.16; 5, D. Lea 18.37; 6, J. Turnbull 18.58; 7, A. Cain 19.01; 8, A. Clark 19.01; 9, A. Clark 19.01; 10, A. Clark 19.01; 11, A. Clark 19.01; 12, A. Clark 19.01; 13, A. Clark 19.01; 14, A. Clark 19.01; 15, A. Clark 19.01; 16, A. Clark 19.01; 17, A. Clark 19.01; 18, A. Clark 19.01; 19, A. Clark 19.01; 20, A. Clark 19.01.





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\* There were 126 finishers

**Women** 1, Sheila Fairweather (Glasgow Un) 30 minutes 9 seconds; 2, Jackie Ashman (Manx Harriers) 31.07; 3, Susan Partridge (GU) 31.23; 4, Megan Clark (Oxford Un) 31.38; 5, Dorothea Lea (OU) 31.48; 6, Jenny Clague (LUVHAR) 32.06; 7, Lyn Quigley (Wigan Phoenix) 32.06; 8, Jessica Turnbull (LU) 32.24; 9, Claire O'Connor (LU) 32.58; 10, Jo Wilkinson (OU) 33.24.

**Other locals** 31, Ann Cain (MH) 39.36; 37, Dot Grainger (MH) 41.30.

\* There were 47 finishers

#### **Easter Saturday hill race (Peel)**

1, M. Croasdale 21 minutes 24 seconds; 2, M. Hill 21.42; 3, D. Naylor 21.47; 4, G. Hull 21.57; 5, M. Roscoe 22.16; 6, M. Hilton 22.25; 7, A. Beevers 22.30; 8, J. Heap 22.33; 9, L. Mathews 22.36; 10, A. Weir 22.47; 11, S. Green 22.53; 12, C. Birchall 22.57; 13, A. Kennis 23.08; 14, C. Quine 23.19; 15, T. Field 23.34; 16, N. Altman 23.38; 17, Adam Osborn (L'pool Uni) 23.42; 18, P. Clarke 23.51; 19, Roger Mullins (Cheltenham) 23.55; 20, Phil Townsend (LC AC) 23.56.

**Other locals** 21, K. Callister 24.03; 25, A. Fox 24.15; 27, R. Callister 24.58; 31, P. Cain 25.03; 49, Glenn Butterworth (MH) 26.45; 51, B. Cannan 27.01; 52,

A. Postlethwaite 27.04; 54, J. McGreggor 27.12; 63, Darren Gray (MH) 27.56; 66, S. Kelly 28.02; 70, P. Robinson 29.08; 71, Peter Cooper (IoM VAC) 28.09; 73, R. Webb 28.24; 104, A. Pilling 32.56; 105, Simon Cox (IoM VAC) 33.36; 115, Ian Watson (NAC) 40.47.

\* There were 126 finishers

**Women** 1, J. Ashman 18 minutes 42 seconds; 2, S. Fairweather 18.57; 3, D. Lea 19.14; 4, M. Clark 19.17; 5, J. Turnbull 19.24; 6, S. Partridge 19.44; 7, J. Wilkinson 20.09; 8, Sarah Jackson (Liv Uni) 20.35; 9, Lois Joslin (Leeds Uni) 20.53; 10, Hsu-Min Chung (Oxford Uni) 21.04. Other local finisher 25, A. Cain 24.26.

\* There were 37 finishers

**Sunday team relay race** 1, Leeds City AC (M. Hilton, G. Hull, M. Roscoe, A. Beevers) 1 hour 1 minute 31 seconds; 2, Thames Hare & Hounds (N. Altman, A. Kennis, A. Weir, L. Mathews) 1.03.01; 3, Doss AC A (M. Hill, T. Suskanto, S. Green, C. Birchall) 1.03.40; 4, University College Dublin A (J. Nolan, C. Richie, K. Walker, N. Bolander) 1.04.32; 5, Manx Harriers A (C. Quine, P. Curphey, A. Fox, K. Callister) 1.05.24; 6, Liverpool University A (J. Heap, A. Osborn, J. Wood, P. Wooddisse) 1.07.33.

**Other local teams** 14, Northern AC Vets (R. Radcliffe, S. Kelly, A. Postlethwaite, P. Cain) 1.12.39; 16, Manx Harriers B (P. Curphey, P. Robinson, G. Butterworth, D. Gray) 1.13.35; 18, Manx Harriers C (R. Webb, A. Bagley, J. Halligan, J. McGreggor) 1.14.05; 28, Manx Harriers D (O'Brien, K. Murray, M. Phillips, T. Davies) 1.22.40.

about to join the 40 watt bulb club any day!

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Alan Postlethwaite of the Northern Club was 51st overall and first veteran over 50, while clubmate Steve Kelly was 61st and first vet over 45.

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rival in the latter stages of the decent — digging deep into her resources to pull out a 15 second margin by the finish line outside the Heritage Centre.

A recent competitor in the junior world cross country championships, Susan Partridge of Glasgow University was third overall, followed by Megan Clark and Dorothea Lea, both of Oxford University.

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**Keith Callister and Andy Fox (left) are almost on their knees at the steepest part of the Peel hill climb on Saturday. Veterans class winner Robbie Callister is far right in white shirt (JW)**

## **NSC brings the Halifax race walking league to a conclusion**

**THE Halifax International race walking league comes to a conclusion this Sunday on the perimeter roadway at the National Sports Centre in Douglas, starting 10am.**

Since October, eight series of walks (senior 10km, senior 5km and junior 1km) have been held at various venues around the Island and 123 competitors of all ages have taken part so far.

Particularly encouraging has been the popularity of the junior walks where 29 youngsters have taken part and 14 are still in the hunt for league honours. It will depend on performances in the last race as to who wins, eight competitors can still score low enough to be league champion.

The 5km race, which is open to men and women and is aimed at giving an event for whom 10km is initially a big step, has had it's best year so far with 27 different competitors facing the starter. It has

provided competition for juniors who are in between the 1km event, but too young to tackle 10, others getting back into the sport or newcomers just having a tryout. This event, though not as intense as the juniors, still has titles hanging on the result of the final race.

The 10km event has been the mainstay of the winter league for over three decades. For the first few years of the league, which started in 1964/65, it was actually the imperial seven mile distance and this season reached new heights with 71 taking part in the seven races held. To date 41 competitors can still score in the league where five races are needed to count.

Five of these — Karen Mansell, Carol Bates, Mike Kneale, Simon Cox and Alan Clucas — all must complete the last walk as so far they have only scored in four events.

As to who wins or takes placings in the overall

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\* There were 38 finishers

**Men's overall points** 1, M. Croasdale 4 points; 2, D. Naylor 8; 3, M. Hill 11; 4, L. Mathews 14; 5, G. Hull 16; 6, A. Beevers 18; 7, M. Roscoe 20; 8, M. Hilton 24; 9, J. Heap 28; 10, T. Field 36. Locals 12, C. Quine 37; 17, P. Clarke 56; 25, A. Fox 75; 26, K. Callister 81; 28, R. Callister 91; 38, P. Cain 119; 47, J. McGreggor 155; 48, B. Cannan 156; 51, A. Postlethwaite 164; 61, S. Kelly 205; 69, D. Gray 229; 73, R. Webb 237; 84, P. Robinson 258; 108, A. Pilling 348.

\* 116 completed all three parts of the festival

**Men's overall team positions** 1, Leeds City AC 3; 2, Thames Hare & Hounds 7; 3, Doss AC A 8; 4, Manx Harriers A 12; 5, Leeds City AC B 15; 6, Cheltenham Harriers A 19. Other local teams 14, Northern AC Vets 40; 15, Manx Harriers B 52.

**Women's overall points** 1, S. Fairweather 4 points; 2, J. Ashman 5; 3, S. Partridge 12; 4, M. Clark 12; 5, D. Lea 13; 6, J. Turnbull 19. Other local 24, A. Cain 82. Women's overall team positions 1, Oxford University Old Girls 3 points; 2, Glasgow University Hares & Hounds 6; 3, Liverpool University A 9; 4, Doss AC A 12; 5, Manchester University Alehouse A 16; 6, Liverpool University B 23.

league title all depends on the final race.

This race incorporates the Isle of Man 10km championship so it will be a mass start, however the league is based on a handicap so league positions will only be known after computations at the conclusion of the event.

It will be a revelation to all competitors when after the race the final league positions are announced.

The awards will be presented by representatives of the sponsors, Halifax International, and it is hoped that they will have a representative or two in the races.

● The next race following the conclusion of the Halifax is the popular 40-mile Manx Telecom sponsored End to End walk, a fortnight on Sunday, April 25, at the Point of Ayre and finishing at the Sound.

Further details will be notified nearer the event. Entries are taken on the line.