



LEADING LADY: Emma Waterhouse of Leeds University/DOSS MP080321-28

Tough conditions for Easter athletics

By CHRIS QUINE

SUNNY, but cold and windy conditions greeted runners for the 46th Isle of Man Easter Athletics Festival. After three hard days of competitive action, Trafford AC's Tom Minshull and Emma Waterhouse of Leeds University/DOSS AC took the individual honours. Overall team awards went to Liverpool Harriers and Waterhouse's Leeds University/DOSS AC. The action started in Port Erin on Good Friday evening in extremely windy conditions. With pre-race favourite James Walsh withdrawing following his selection for the World Cross, defending champion Jonny Mellor of Liverpool Harriers had a comfortable win from Tom Minshull and Paul Rodgers of Crawley AC.

With a record field in the women's race there was an extremely close finish with just four seconds covering the top three — Emma Waterhouse taking the verdict from Fiona Thompson (Aberdeen) and Victoria Finch (Solihull and Smallheath). The action moved to Peel on Saturday afternoon where the lung bursting climb to Corrin's Folly was made even tougher by the strong winds. Rodgers and Minshull again battled it out, this time for the win, with Minshull prevailing in the last 100 metres to the finish outside the House of Mannanan. The women's race over a slightly shorter route was a surprise win for Emily Klee of Leeds University/DOSS AC. The final day saw a move to Douglas Promenade and the traditional 4x5km for men and a straight 5km race for women. Although the wind had dropped a little, conditions were still tough on the flat out-

and-back route. Emma Waterhouse completed the double in the women's to win the race and secure the overall award. Liverpool Harriers, including a super-quick leg of 14 min 54 sec by Jonny Mellor, had a comfortable win from Manchester University and Hunters' Bog Trotters in the men's 4x5km relay.

Overall Men's Easter Athletics Festival points totals

1, Tom Minshull (Trafford AC) six; 2, Jonny Mellor (Liverpool Harriers) nine; 3, Paul Rodgers (Crawley AC) 11; 4, Murray Strain (Hunters Bog Trotters) 16; 5, Adam Peers (LH) 16; 6, John McCole (LH) 24; 7, Darren Talbot (Manchester Alehouse) 27; 8, Alasdair Anthony (HBT) 36; 9, Tim Crossland (Leeds/Doss) 36; 10, James McMullan (HBT) 41; 11, David Yu (Cambridge Univ) 43; 12, Matt Bell (HBT) 44; 13, Andy Greenleaf (14AC) 45; 14, Joel Clewett (CAC) 54; 15, James Meldrum (LH) 54. Locals 19, Darren Gray (Manx Harriers) 66; 22, Ed Gumbley (MH) 84; 29, Andrew Duncan (CU) 106; 40, John Holden (IoMVAC) 183; 43, Thomas Mevin (Northern

Overall Women's points totals

1, Emma Waterhouse (IoMVAC) 229; 45, Phil Cain (MH) 200; 52, James Bishop Barry Moore (Western AC) 268; 65, Bernard Cannan (Northern AC) 299. (Leeds/Doss) 6; 2, Sarah Graham (L/D) 10; 3, Fiona Thompson (Aberdeen University) 13; 4, Lisa Blackman (Manchester Alehouse) 15; 5, Kath Farquhar (Holmfirth) 27; 6, Emily Klee (L/D) 31; 7, Lindsay Fraser-Moodie (L/D) 36; 8, Claire Day (CU) 38; 9, Polly Keen (CU) 44; 10, Miranda Grant (Hunters Bog Trotters) 50. Locals 13, Gail Griffiths (Manx Harriers) 59; 16, Sarah Nelson (MH) 68; 26, Bridget Kaneen (MH) 125. Overall men's team points 1, Liverpool Harriers A 3; 2, Hunters Bog Trotters 7; 3, Manchester Alehouse A 10; 4, 14AC 15; 5, Cambridge Univ (H&H) A 18; 6, Leeds/Doss A 19; 7, Manchester Alehouse B 23; 8, Cambridge Univ (H&H) B 30; 9, Manx Harriers 30; 10, 12, Leeds/Doss C 53; 13, Manchester Alehouse C 53; 14, Leeds/Doss A 3; 2, Manchester Alehouse 7; 3, Leeds/Doss B 10; 4, Cambridge Univ (H&H) 11; 5, Manx Harriers 17; 6, Aberdeen University 20; 7, Leeds/Doss C 23.



TOP MAN: Tom Minshull of Trafford AC had a first, second and third MP080321-10



DAMP START: Wintery showers swept across Port Erin bay as a combined field of 180 runners set off from the lifeboat station at the start of the 10km road race on the popular Great South Run course on Good Friday evening MP080321-4



GO-ED: Edward Gumbley ran consistently throughout JW080322-136



NIPPER: Phil Cain showed a good turn of speed at Peel MP080321-35



DON'T SACK THE JUGGLER: Peter Branney of Leeds/DOSS juggled three balls the whole way up Peel Hill and back in windy conditions JW080322-95

Darren scoops best local finish

Easter Festival

By JOHN WATTERSON

DARREN Gray was the best local performer in the Easter Athletics Festival, enjoying three top-25 places in a total field of 65 male runners on contest all three events.

Follow Manx Harrier Gail Griffiths of Pele was the leading local female, finishing 13th out of the 31 to run all three events.

Gray, previously of Foxdale but now a resident of Peel, finished 25th out of 119 runners in the opening 10km road race over the Great South Run course based around Port Erin and Port St Mary. He was beaten to the line by Cambridge University student Andrew Duncan by four seconds, the latter completing the distance in 34 min 54 sec. Ed Gumbley, Gianni Epifani and Mike Garrett were the other three locals in the fading light of a cool evening.

Conditions were even bleaker at Peel the

following afternoon where the strong north-westerlies made for spectacular, but bitterly cold viewing for the MannLink Travel-sponsored hill races.

While Tom Minshull of Trafford AC made it two different winners in two races, Jonny Mellor of Liverpool Harriers having won the Friday evening road race, this time it was Gray who led the locals home in 19th place with a time of 22.58, a clear 47s in front of Gumbley with veteran over-50 Phil Cain (Manx Harriers) running well to outstrip ex-Marine Thomas Melvin (Northern AC) for 60th place.

Andrew Duncan, clearly unhappy on the hills, regained his confidence to cruise home six places in front of Gray on corrected time in Sunday's flat 5km run on Douglas promenade. He stopped the clock 20s earlier than his rival in 16.15 with Gumbley the only other local to dip under 17 minutes. Overall though, the local honours went to Gray.

On her home patch in Port Erin, Sarah Nelson narrowly outspurred rival and training partner Gail Griffiths for 17th

place in the 10km road race on Friday evening.

Griffiths proved much more adept to the off-road going at Peel, while she made sure of the local female honours in the straight 5km prom race on Sunday morning.

The overall winner was Emma Waterhouse of Leeds University/Doss with two firsts in the road runs and a steady fourth in Saturday's hill race.

Results

Friday, 10km road race - Port Erin

Men's results 1, Jonny Mellor (Liverpool Harriers) 31 min 30 sec; 2, Tom Minshull (Trafford AC) 31.47; 3, Paul Rodgers (Crawley AC) 31.55; 4, Murray Strain (Hunters Bog Trotters) 32.01; 5, John McCole (LH) 32.30; 6, Adam Peers (LH) 32.49; 7, Darren Talbot (Manchester Alehouse) 33.15; 8, Alasdair Anthony (HBT) 33.24; 9, Tim Crossland (Leeds/Doss) 33.28; 10, James McMullan (HBT) 33.31; 11, David Yu (Cambridge Univ (H & H)) 33.47; 12, James Meldrum (LH) 33.50; 13, Richard Ward (MA) 33.56; 14, Andy Greenleaf (14AC) 34.02; 15, Matt Bell (HBT) 34.14. Locals: 24, Andrew Duncan (CU (H & H)) 34.54; 25, Darren Gray (Manx Harriers) 34.58; 28, Ed Gumbley (MH) 35.31; 34, Gianni Epifani (MH) 36.22; 37, Mike Garrett (MH) 36.33; 40, Russell Collister (MH) 36.38; 41, Christian Varley (Unattached) 36.58; 46, Paul Clarke (MH) 37.50; 48, Kevin Vondy (Northern AC) 37.58; 52, John Holden (IoMVAC) 38.31; 54, Gavin Quayle (Manx Tri Club) 38.55; 55, Juan Kinley (MTC) 38.57; 56, James Broughton (NAC) 39.12; 58, Thomas Melvin (NAC) 39.32; 60, Phil Cain (MH) 39.45; 61, Paul Cubbon (IoMVAC) 39.50; 63, Paul Curphey (MH) 40.16; 66, Thomas Bateson (MH) 40.26; 69, James Bishop (IoMVAC) 40.55; 73, Kevin Deakes (NAC) 41.11; 74, Paul Swindale (MTC) 41.16; 75, Paul Kneen (U/A) 41.46; 77, Richard Radcliffe (NAC) 42.03; 78, Terry Bates (IoMVAC) 42.06; 80, Ben Lambden (MH) 42.26; 81, Lynton Hoch (U/A) 42.30; 83, Barry Moore (Western AC) 42.35; 87, Stephen Brown (IoMVAC) 43.53; 89, Aaron Quinn (U/A) 44.22; 90, Les Brown (MH) 44.23; 92, Lewis Veale (IoMVAC) 44.33; 93, Andrew Colm (U/A) 45.41; 95, Finlo Cottier (U/A) 46.11; 96, Bernard Cannan (NAC) 46.18; 100, David Anderson (MH) 47.37; 103, Garry Ross (IoMVAC) 48.08; 105, Alan Pilling (IoMVAC) 49.26; 106, Ian Harrison (MTC) 49.27; 108, Matthew Kelly (NAC) 51.43. There were 119 finishers.

Women 1, Emma Waterhouse (Leeds/Doss) 38 min 13 sec; 2, Fiona Thompson (Aberdeen University) 38.16; 3, Victoria Finch (Solihull & Small Heath) 38.17; 4, Sarah Graham (L/D) 38.37; 5, Lisa Blackman (Manchester Alehouse) 38.52; 6, Kath Farquhar (Holmfirth H AC) 39.22; 7, Gemma Smith (L/D) 40.35; 8, Eilidh Wardlaw (Hunters Bog Trotters) 40.57; 9, Lindsay Fraser-Moodie (L/D) 41.04; 10, Polly Keen (Cambridge Univ (H & H)) 41.05.



RAY IN RED: Darren Gray (centre) was the leading local overall JW080322-76



MATCHING STRIDES: Gail Griffiths (left) and Sarah got to the end of the 10km race, but Sarah got the

Locals 17, Sarah Nelson (Manx Harriers) 42.57; 18, Gail Griffiths (MH) 42.57; 28, Sally Walker (IoMVAC) 46.51; 31, Wendy Ross (MH) 47.39; 32, Bridget Kaneen (MH) 48.16; 36, Victoria Jacobsen (MH) 49.42; 41, Julia Furner (U/A) 51.21; 42, Georgia Crellin (U/A) 51.34; 44, Bethany Clague (IoMVAC) 52.04; 46, Tanya Sanderson (Manx Tri Club) 53.01; 48, Wendy Sandford (IoMVAC) 55.00; 49, Lesley Christian (IoMVAC) 55.02; 50, Tara Slinger (Northern AC) 55.10; 52, Louise Kinvig (U/A) 57.03; 54, Melaine Hebden (U) 57.29; 55, Catherine Russell (U/A) 57.35; 56, Patricia Blackburn (IoMVAC) 57.37; 57, Miriam Kelly (IoMVAC) 57.37; 61, Sue Furner (IoMVAC) 1 hr 00.28. There were 61 finishers.

Saturday, Peel Hill Race

Men's results 1, T. Minshull (Trafford AC) 20 min 57 sec; 2, P. Rodgers (Crawley AC) 21.00; 3, Nick Leigh (Altrincham & District AC) 21.05; 4, M. Strain (Hunters Bog Trotters) 21.10; 5, Dave Norman

PRIOR to competing in the Half Manx Mountain Marathon, Lloyd Taggart of Dark Peak Fell Runners continued his excellent form on the British fell running scene with a great victory in Lad's Leap Fell Race, which incorporated the Derbyshire Championship.

Staged at Woodhead, near Penistone, South Yorkshire, Lloyd clocked 45 mins 40 secs for the tough 5.9 miles/1,700 feet course which gave him a winning margin of more than two minutes, while his partner Jackie Lee took second spot in the women's class over the same course in

hill running scene, will be 89.

Leading local football pundit, official and Arsenal supporter Tony Mephram will be 47 on Sunday, March 30 while Gibraltar Games 400 metres hurdler Marc Morley will be 30.

On Monday, March 31 leading pistol shooter Ian Hodgson, who has won a sackful of Island Games medals between 1997 and 2007, will be 57; Shetland Games Squash international Jane Wyllie will be 46; veteran cyclist-athlete Stuart Garry will be 56; Isle of Man Games gymnast Melanie Jones will be 21 and two-



Congratulations one and all, especially Walter Kennaugh who is probably the elder-statesman of the exclusive Old Gits'

'Yuckie' Clarke.

It's not for me to say how tanned she got, but her daughter, Trish, also of JJs, assured me that there were no white bits left!

As a precaution my doctor advised me to keep taking the tablets and to have at least two cold showers a day!

ONCE again I had the pleasure, as a guest of Isle of Man Newspapers, of attending the Sports Awards 2007 Ceremony at the Villa Marina last week and I thoroughly enjoyed the night

Island mourns sportsmen

Obituaries

THE Island lost two very able and popular sportsmen at the weekend with the sad and untimely deaths of cyclist Chris Harrison and athlete Brian Goldsmith.

Chris, 34, had been fighting a brain tumour for the past 10 months, but Brian's death came as a total shock.

The 58-year-old had marshalled at the Easter Athletics Festival 10k in Port Erin the previous evening, having been out for one of his regular training walks earlier in the day. It is believed that he suffered a sudden heart attack in the early hours of Saturday morning.

A promising swimmer as a youth, Brian played Rugby Union in his early 20s when off-Island at college and in his first civil service job in Manchester.

Upon returning to the Isle of Man in the early 1980s he immediately took up running and was a handy performer as a member of Boundary Harriers, recording a sub-60 minute time for 10 miles and a sub-three hour marathon.

He switched to walking about eight years ago and continued to perform with determination and great enthusiasm over a range of distances.

A member of both Manx Harriers and the

IoM Veteran Athletes' Club in recent times, one of Brian's most satisfying walks was six months ago when he finished the End-to-End in 8 hrs 23 min 16 sec, third in the 55-59 age category.

As a runner he enjoyed his regular Sunday morning pack runs with the likes of Colin 'Giffy' Bowen, Mitch Joughin, Irene Corlett, Dave Corrin and one or two more, while that same friendship was enjoyed in recent times on training walks with a number of individuals in the Ballagry Breakfast Club, notably Dougie Allan and John Stubbs.

A close knit family man, he leaves his wife of 35 years Sandie, daughter Kate and son Robert.

■ Chris Harrison was an exceptional cyclist who, had he been born 15 or 20 years later, would undoubtedly have been in the British Talent Team or even following in the wheeltracks of Mark Cavendish, Jonny Bellis and Peter Kennaugh Jnr on the international scene.

He was a national time trial champion for his age group and winner of the GHS 10 title in 1989 when representing Ballakermee High School.

His name still stands proudly as an Island record holder in the under-16 category at 25 and 10 miles with times of 58m 30s and 22m 10s in 1988 and 1989 respectively, then

as a member of Manx Viking Wheelers.

He rode for the GB Junior team in the 1990 Plech Pledrannaise one-day race in France, winning the trophy for the most aggressive rider in the 170-strong field. In the same season he won the opening round of British Cycling's Peter Buckley junior road race series in Stourbridge.

Chris, whose brother Mark was also a talented cyclist as a teenager, retired from competitive riding at an all-too-young age, but he made a comeback a few years ago, riding a few 10s and handicap road races (having swapped clubs to Ellan Vannin), also riding well off-road in mountain bike races. He particularly enjoyed the End to End.

His tumour was diagnosed last May, about the time of the IoM Youth Tour, but Chris fought the condition with typical resilience and determination.

He still attended the major road races with his father, Graham, and was out at Jurby on the day of the postponed Christmas hamper race.

Chris was also a staunch family man. He leaves a wife Nicola, young daughters Abigail and Madeline, mother and father Liz and Graham, and brother Mark. His funeral service will take place at the Christian Spiritualist Church, Duke's Road, Douglas at 2.15pm today, Friday.

John Watterson



CHRIS HARRISON



BRIAN GOLDSMITH

Easter Festival results

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Women 1, E. Klee (Leeds/Doss) 18.11; 2, Rosie Smith (Edinburgh Univ H&H) 18.25; 3, S. Graham (LD) 18.27; 4, E. Waterhouse (LD) 18.37; 5, F. Thompson (Aberdeen Univ) 18.42; 6, L. Blackman (Manchester Univ) 18.42; 7, Hannah Edwards (EU H&H) 19.06; 8, L. Fraser-Moodie (LD) 19.15; 9, Kat Fitzpatrick (MA) 19.21; 10, Harriet Owses (Cambridge University H&H) 19.21; Locals 20, G. Griffiths (Manx Harriers) 20.06; 28, S. Nelson (MH) 21.04; 42, Sally Walker (IoM/VAC) 22.52; 44, B. Kaneen (MH) 23.17. There were 59 finishers.

Sunday Men's 4x5km relay, Douglas promenade
Team results 1, Liverpool Harriers A 62 min 26 sec; 2, Manchester Albhouse A 64.45; 3, Hunters Bog Trotters B 64.55; 4, Cambridge Univ H&H A 66.15; 5, Old Coddger goes last 67.39; 6, 14AC 68.11; 7, Leeds/Doss A 68.35; 8, Cambridge Univ H&H B 68.40; 9, Manchester Albhouse B 68.56; 10, Edinburgh Univ H&H A 69.14; 11, Manx Harriers 71.43; 12, Manx Missiles 72.09; 13, The Best & Rest 73.06; 14, Edinburgh Univ H&H B 73.57; 15, Manchester Albhouse D 75.44; 16, Cambridge Univ H&H C 77.19; 17, Shamrocks 77.22; 18, Leeds/Doss B 88.21; 19, Edinburgh Univ F 80.39; 20, Leeds/Doss C 81.43; 21, Scottish Uni Elite 81.56; 22, Manchester Albhouse C 83.39; 23, Northern AC 84.20; 24, Western AC/Die Hards 89.03.

Individual times 1, J. Mellor (Liverpool Harriers) 15.54; 2, D. Norman (Manchester Albhouse) 15.10; 3, T. Minshull (Trarford AC) 15.18; 4, A. Peers (LH) 15.23; 5, T. Pattison (Cambridge Univ H&H) 15.39; 6, P. Rodgers (Cratley AC) 15.40; 7, D. Talbot (MA) 15.46; 8, M. Strain (Hunters Bog Trotters) 15.49; 9, Tim Crossland (Leeds/Doss) 15.59; 10, James Meldrum (LH) 16.01; 11, J. McCole (LH) 16.02; 12, David Yu (CU H&H) 16.03; 13, Matt Bell (HBT) 16.09; 14, J. Clewett (CAC) 16.10; 15, Yujiro Iida (Edinburgh Univ H&H) 16.12; Locals 16, A. Duncan (CU H&H) 16.15; 22, D. Gray (Manx Harriers) 16.35; 30, E. Gumbley (MH) 16.56; 38, Gianni Epifani (MH) 17.35; 51, Chris Quine (MH) 18.03; 60, James Broughn (Northern AC) 18.24; 67, J. Holden (IoM/VAC) 18.47; 75, T. Melvin (NAC) 19.03; 80, P. Cain (MH) 19.35; 81, J. Bishop (IoM/VAC) 19.37; 90, T. Bateson (MH) 20.37; 93, B. Moore (Western AC) 21.06; 100, B. Caman (NAC) 21.41; 108, Eric Lee (WAC) 24.04; 110, Geoff Hall (WAC) 24.16; 111, M. Kelly (NAC) 25.06. There were 111 finishers.

Women's 5km road race 1, E. Waterhouse (Leeds/Doss) 18.12; 2, R. Smith (Edinburgh University H&H) 18.20; 3, S. Graham (LD) 18.26; 4, L. Blackman (Manchester Albhouse) 18.28; 5, K. Farquhar (Houlthorn H AC) 18.32; 6, F. Thompson (Aberdeen University) 18.36; 7, E. Klee (LD) 18.40; 8, Gemma Astin (Manx Harriers) 18.41; 9, Hannah Edwards (EU H&H) 18.55; 10, Jenny Reed (Mallack AC) 19.11; Locals 21, G. Griffiths (MH) 20.06; 23, S. Nelson (MH) 20.30; 31, Clara Kaneen (MH) 21.09; 45, Fay Latham (MH) 22.30; 49, B. Kaneen (MH) 22.59; 54, B. Clague (IoM/VAC) 23.37; 63, T. Slinger (Northern AC) 25.29. There were 68 finishers.

The final overall results appeared in Tuesday's edition of the *Isle of Man Examiner*.

Junior walking championships

Junior Race Walking

E Isle of Man younger age group race walking championships will take place on today at the National Sports Centre imeter roadway.

There will also be an open 5km walk for ages over 15 and walkers of all abilities to be made most welcome.

Race distances will be 1km for under-2km for U13, 3km for U15 and 5km U17 and above.

Lighting on at Manx Harriers clubhouse on 9.30am. Entry fees are £1.50 for juniors and £3.50 for seniors.