



Festival 10km win for Gerrard

APPROXIMATELY 240 runners participated in the first leg of the Easter Athletics Festival at Port Erin and Port St Mary on Good Friday evening, but it was Peel's Keith Gerrard (pictured right) who made history by becoming the first Manx athlete to win a leg of the three-day event.

The GB senior international cross-country representative broke free of a group of four runners in the latter stages of the event to win the 10km road race in a time of 30 min 48 sec, crossing the finish line outside of the former Marine Biological Station on Port Erin promenade seven seconds in front of Matt Bond (Manchester Alehouse), with the latter man's team-mate Dave Norman third.

Next best of the locals were Kevin Loundes in sixth and Manx Harriers team-mate Darren Gray in 18th.

The women's event was dominated by Leeds/Doss runners, with Emma Waterhouse first across the line in 36.51, from Lisa Da Silva, Clare Duck, Sarah Graham and Gemma Smith.

Gail Griffiths of Manx Harriers was the best local, finishing eighth in a superb personal best time of 39.14.

The Festival continued with hill races at Peel on Saturday afternoon and 5km promenade races on Douglas seafront on Sunday morning.

For a fuller report and more pictures see this Friday's *Manx Independent*.

PHOTO: JOHN MADDRELL 090410-66

Easter titles for UK duo

Easter Athletics Festival

By JOHN WATTERSON

MATT Bond of Manchester Alehouse and Emma Butterworth of Leeds/Doss were the overall winners of the 47th annual Easter Athletics Festival.

Bond was super-consistent with second places at Port Erin on Good Friday, Peel Hill on Saturday and in the 5km relay on Douglas promenade on Sunday morning (where he was pipped for the fastest time by 0.4 of a second on official timing).

Emma, celebrating her hen weekend (see separate story), retained the women's title she also won last year with individual successes on Friday and Sunday, finishing second behind team-mate Clare Duck in Saturday's hill race.

Kevin Loundes, of the organising Manx Harriers club, had a cracking weekend, finishing sixth, sixth and fifth for an excellent third overall.

Clubmate Darren Gray was ninth overall (18-12-12), while former leading cyclist Christian Varley also finished in the top 20 (18th) with 24-25-20.

Foxdale's Gail Griffiths (Manx Harriers) was the best local in the women's festival, finishing ninth overall.

She ran a superb personal best time of 39.14 in Friday's 10km road run at Port Erin, taking pace from experienced road runner Nigel Armstrong to knock an impressive 3 min 25 sec off her course best and 46s off her all-time best for the distance.

Approximately 240 runners participated in the first leg of the festival over a picturesque course in the Port Erin and Port St Mary area, but it was Peel's Keith Gerrard who made history by becoming the first Manx athlete to win the opening road leg of the three-day men's event (*see below).

The GB senior international cross-country representative broke free of a group of four runners in the latter stages of the 10km road race to win with a time of 30.48, crossing the finish line outside of the former Marine Biological Station on Port Erin promenade seven seconds in front of eventual overall festival champion Matt Bond, with the latter man's Manchester Alehouse team-mate Dave Norman third.

Next best of the locals were Loundes and Gray in sixth and 18th respectively.

Gerrard did not contest any of the other races in the three-day festival.

The women's 10km event was dominated by Leeds/Doss runners, with Emma Waterhouse first across the line in 36.51.



LEADING LOCALS: (Above) Kevin Loundes on the steepest part of the climb at Peel. He finished sixth in that event, sixth in the 10km and was fifth quickest in the 5km relay for an excellent third overall in the men's contest JW090411-13
(Left) Gail Griffiths ran with Nigel Armstrong in the 10km for a big pb JM090410-142

won the Peel Hill race in 1987 by a margin of three seconds from Robert Quinn (Paisley), with Greg Hull (Leeds University) third. Quinn went on to be a Scotland and Great Britain international, while Hull raced for England and GB.

Clarke won the hill race again the following year when he took the overall Festival title.

LEADING RESULTS

Men's 10km road race, Port Erin, Good Friday: 1, Keith Gerrard (Manx Harriers) 30 min 48 sec; 2, Matt Bond (Manchester Alehouse) 30.55; 3, Dave Norman (Manchester Alehouse) 31.06; 4, Matt Gillespie (Glasgow University) 31.07; 5, Andy Norman (Manchester Alehouse) 31.40; 6, Kevin Loundes (Manx Harriers) 32.15; 7, Alex Littlewood (Hercules Wimbledon AC) 32.34; 8, Yuiro Iida (Edinburgh Uni) 32.45; 9, Tim Pattison (Cambridge Uni) 32.54; 10, Michael Gillespie (Edinburgh Uni) 32.58. **Other known locals:** 18, Darren Gray (Manx Harriers) 34.11; 22, Andy Cannell (Northern AC) 34.31; 24, Christian Varley (MH) 34.41; 28, Edward

locals: 56, Kevin Vondy (NAC) 37.08; 67, Paul Renshaw (U/A) 38.50; 70, Ben Lambden (MH) 39.07; 71, Nigel Armstrong (MH) 39.14; 75, John Holden (IoMVAC) 39.37; 80, Campbell Guy (U/A) 39.49; 82, Paul Lewthwaite (Manx Fell Runners) 39.52; 84, Aaron Quinn (MH) 40.13; 86, Andy Page (Manx Tri) 40.16; 87, Robert Parker (MH) 40.21; 90, Matthew Taylor (MH) 40.40; 91, Neil Wilson (IoMVAC) 40.42; 93, Mike Gellion (IoMVAC) 40.51; 94, Finlo Cottier (U/A) 40.52; 98, Roger Raatgever (Manx Tri) 41.11; 103, Lee Brooks (U/A) 41.44; 104, Barry Moore (Western AC) 41.57; 106, David Newton (MH) 41.59; 107, Stephen Brown (IoMVAC) 41.59; 112, Paul Swindale (Manx Tri) 42.44; 113, Jonathan Leece (NAC) 42.57; 114, Les Brown (MH) 42.58; 115, Philip Motley (IoMVAC) 43.12; 122, Tom Bateson (MH) 43.55; 123, Andrew Marshall (U/A) 43.59; 125, Colin Furner (U/A) 44.49; 133, Nick Watterson (U/A) 45.40; 140, Terry Kinvig (U/A) 46.47; 142, David Anderson (MH) 47.16; 147, David Bester (Manx Tri) 50.06; 151, Ian Clague (U/A) 51.02; 156, Eric Lee (WAC) 53.15; 158, Kevin Cowley (U/A) 55.19. **There were 161 finishers.**
Women's 10km: 1, Emma Waterhouse

(Edinburgh University) 38.44. **Known locals:** 8, Gail Griffiths (MH) 39.14; 24, Sarah Curphey (MH) 43.40; 31, Samantha Cowen (MH) 44.35; 39, Wendy Ross (MH) 46.41; 41, Nicky Kennaugh (MH) 46.59; 48, Christine O'Hanlon (U/A) 50.14; 51, Kerry Clarke-Smith (MH) 50.54; 54, Alison Clague (Manx Tri) 51.20; 55, Julia Furner (U/A) 51.35; 56, Deborah Smith (WAC) 51.37; 57, Lisa Hodgson (U/A) 52.23; 58, Lesley Christian (IoMVAC) 52.57; 59, Jill Smith (U/A) 53.19; 62, Bronwen Raatgever (U/A) 54.04; 63, Helen Gibson (U/A) 54.04; 64, Drusilla Parnell (Manx Tri) 54.07; 65, Jackie Moore (WAC) 54.21; 66, Sue Furner (IoMVAC) 54.30; 67, Louise Kinvig (U/A) 54.59; 68, Katherine Shea (U/A) 55.43; 69, Tara Slinger (NAC) 55.56; 71, Alison Corlett (IoMVAC) 58.05; 75, Miriam Kelly (IoMVAC) 1:05.30; 76, Claire Hulme (IoMVAC) 1:05.31; 77, Helen Cullen (IoMVAC) 1:05.31. **There were 78 finishers.**

OVERALL FINAL POSITIONS

Men: 1, Matt Bond (Manchester Alehouse) six points; 2, Matt Gillespie (Glasgow University) eight; 3, Kevin Loundes (Manx Harriers) 12; 4,



MATT FINISH: Manchester Alehouse-MENA's Matt Bond won the men's section of the Easter Athletics Festival for the first time JW090411-47

(Manx Harriers) 42; 10, Pete Webster (Leeds/Doss) 43. **Other locals:** 18, Christian Varley (MH) 69; 22, Edward Gumbley (MH) 75; 56, John Holden (IoMVAC) 206; 77, Barry Moore (Western AC) 269. 95 runners completed all three events.

Women: 1, Emma Waterhouse (Leeds/Doss) four; 2, Lisa Da Silva (Leeds/Doss) seven; 3, Clare Duck (Leeds/Doss) seven; 4, Sarah Graham (Leeds/Doss) 12; 5, Fiona Thompson (Edinburgh University) 18; 6, Gemma Smith (Leeds/Doss) 20. **Locals:** 9, Gail Griffiths (MH) 31; 25, Samantha Cowen (MH) 93; 33, Wendy Ross (MH) 112. 44 runners completed all three events.

Teams (Men): 1, Cambridge University six points; 2, Edinburgh Uni seven; 3, Manx Harriers A. There were 17 teams. **(Women)** 1, Leeds/Doss three; 2, Edinburgh University six; 3, Manchester Alehouse 10. 6, Manx Harriers 19. There were nine teams.

● Full results for all three events and the overall festival can be found at www.results.manxtim

National darts

was the best local in the women's festival, finishing ninth overall.

She ran a superb personal best time of 39.14 in Friday's 10km road run at Port Erin, taking pace from experienced road runner Nigel Armstrong to knock an impressive 3 min 25 sec off her course best and 46s off her all-time best for the distance.

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*Graham Clarke (Manx Athletic Club)



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Women's 10km: 1, Emma Waterhouse (Leeds/Doss) 36 min 51 sec; 2, Lisa Da Silva (Leeds/Doss) 36.58; 3, Clare Duck (Leeds/Doss) 37.12; 4, Sarah Graham (Leeds/Doss) 38.02; 5, Gemma Smith (Leeds/Doss) 38.40; 6, Fiona

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National darts championships this weekend

Darts

THE Kirby Garden Centre and Castle Chippy-sponsored Manx Nationals Darts Competition will be held at the Mount Murray Hotel this weekend.

The singles competition will begin at 11am on Saturday with the pairs competition following on Sunday. A prize fund of £1,000 is up for grabs.

Will Wayne Harrison take the title for a third successive year, or will current Island number one Colin Tyrer claim his first national crown?

In the women's competition Margaret Kelly will be under pressure as she attempts to retain her Island title.

Action will take place next to the golf clubhouse in the Wentworth suite. All are welcome.

For further details contact the IoM Darts Organisation secretary on 451962.

● The IoMDO is holding its AGM on Sunday, April 26 at the Manor Hotel from 8pm. Teams wishing to take part in the Summer League must be in attendance. Further details on 451962.

The ultimate hen and stag do!

A COUPLE who met in the Island at the Easter Athletics Festival six years ago and are due to marry in a fortnight's time made quite an impression on last weekend's event.

Emma Butterworth, 26, a former undergraduate at the University of Leeds who has just completed her PhD at Durham, won Good Friday evening's 10km women's road race at Port Erin wearing an appropriately summery, short yellow dress.

Her fiancé, James Raven, 29, of Leeds University/Doss, also competed and ran Saturday's hill race at Peel in a Spiderman one-piece suit.

Emma and James used the Easter break in the Isle of Man as a combined hen and stag weekend. Many of their fellow runners and friends joined in on a bumblebee pub crawl round the popular Douglas hostellers.

It was Emma's eighth visit to the Manx Harriers organised event and James's 11th consecutive Easter trip to the Isle of Man. In the past few

years he has contested the Half Manx Mountain Marathon instead of the festival.

'James started to take running more seriously in the past year or so and has improved from 37 min 41 sec to 35.05 for 10km in that time,' explained Emma.

'Whilst he can beat me over every distance 5km and upwards, I still have the PBs over 1,500 and 3,000m. Since we got together we have raced head-to-head on 17 occasions: I have won eight of them and James has won nine — Friday's 10km being the ninth.

'We both also run for Chester-le-Street and District Athletics Club and our last pre-marriage race will be a 1,500m event a week before we tie the knot. The money is on me for that one,' she smiled.

They live in Durham and are getting married in Auckland Castle, Bishop Auckland. Emma is a research fellow at the university and James is a science teacher at a secondary school.

Even the wedding has a bit of a yellow theme, but Emma was not prepared to elaborate on that!

Ross Houston, Emma's brother-in-law, ran the joint fastest single leg in the men's 5km relay on Sunday morning with overall festival winner Matt Bond. Both the bride and groom-to-be's sisters — Claire Houston and Tamsin Raven — also competed.

Emma won the women's Easter Athletics Festival for the second year in succession but prefers track running (1,500m and steeplechase in particular). She is aiming to win a medal at the English Road Running Association National Senior Women's Six-Stage Road Relay Championship at Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham this Saturday.

CASTING HIS WEB: Spiderman (AKA James Raven), ran Peel Hill Race, while fiancée Emma Butterworth had the place buzzing in her bee outfit

