

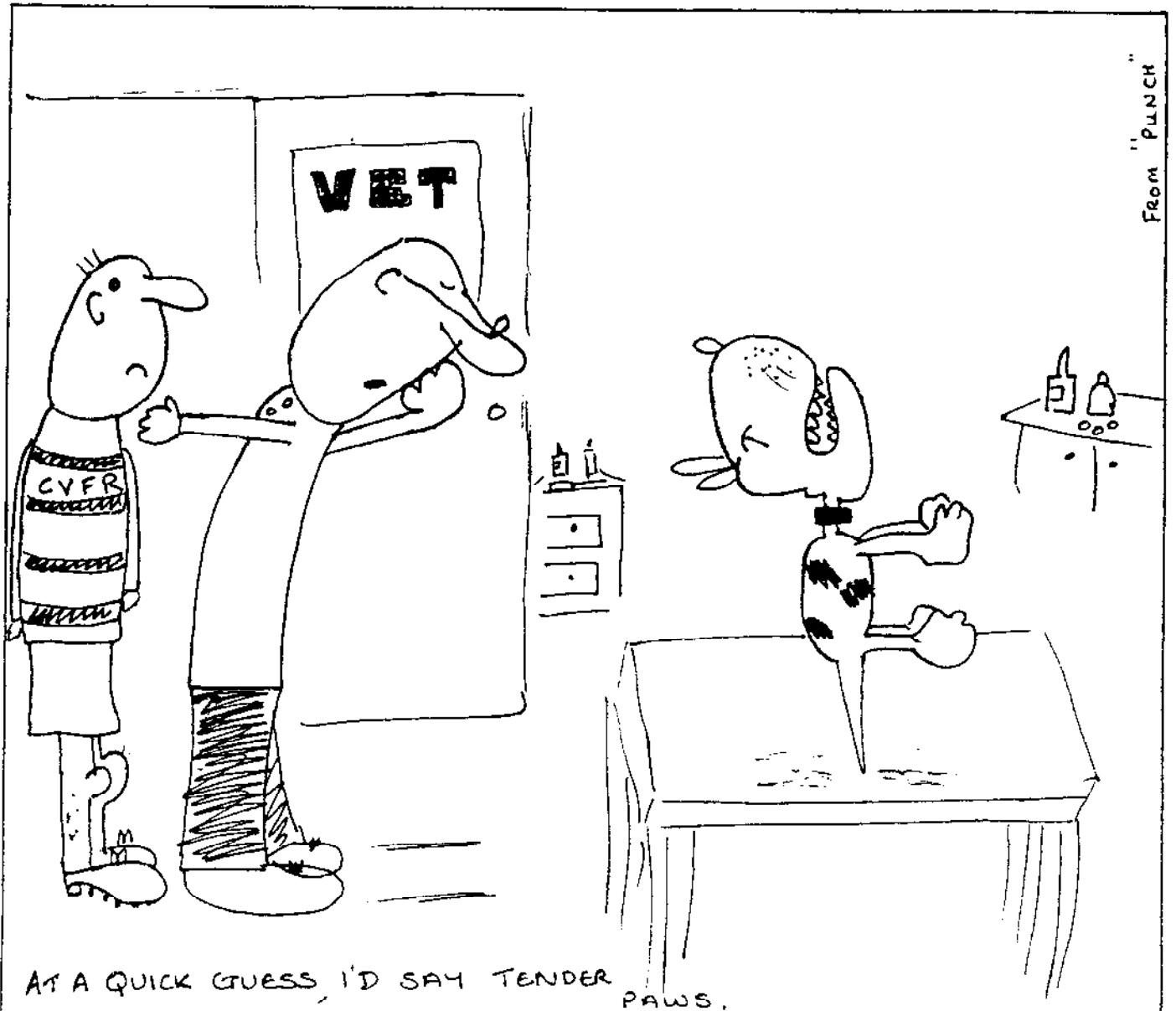


# RAMPAGE

ISSUE 13

CALDER VALLEY  
FELL RUNNERS

NOV 89



CALDER VALLEY FELL RUNNERS

ANNUAL DINNER

SATURDAY, 27th JANUARY, 1990

7.30 for 8.00 p.m.

KERSHAW HOUSE, LUDDENDENFOOT

Disco and bar extension till 1.00 a.m.

MENU

Homemade Soup of the Day  
Chilled Melon Crescent  
Smoked Salmon Paté

\* \* \*

Roast Spring Chicken  
Plaice aux Fruits de mer  
Pork Cicero  
(plus vegan and vegetarian options)

\* \* \*

Choice of sweets

\* \* \*

Coffee and mints

PRICE: £11.00 per person. £5.00 deposit to Rod Sutcliffe  
as soon as possible please. Balance to be paid by Tuesday  
16th January, 1990.



WIDDOP FELL RACE

After three years as organiser of the Widdop Fell Race I feel it's time to stand down and let someone else take the reins. I would like to thank all the club members who have supported me and helped on the day when they would rather have had a run. We all realise, I'm sure, that the success of the race and the credibility of the club, is paramount.

I have compiled a "Widdop File" containing all the relevant information such as landowners addresses etc. for any future organiser, and I'm sure the committee would welcome any volunteers prepared to take on the job.

I hope someone will take it on as the Widdop is our most popular and most lucrative race. Perhaps the answer to race organization in the future is to have a race committee of say three or four people, rather than one very harassed individual. No doubt time will tell. In the mean time thanks again for all your help.

Cheers, **BOD!**

BEFORE THE AGM: Nominations???



THANKS A LOT

I would like to thank all members of Calder Valley Fell Runners who sponsored me at the end of June for the walk up Ben Nevis, which was in aid of Cystic Fibrosis.

The weekend was a great success, though unfortunately the second half of the ascent was completed in thick cloud, so views from the top were non-existent. The weather did clear later to provide good views of "The Ben" from below.

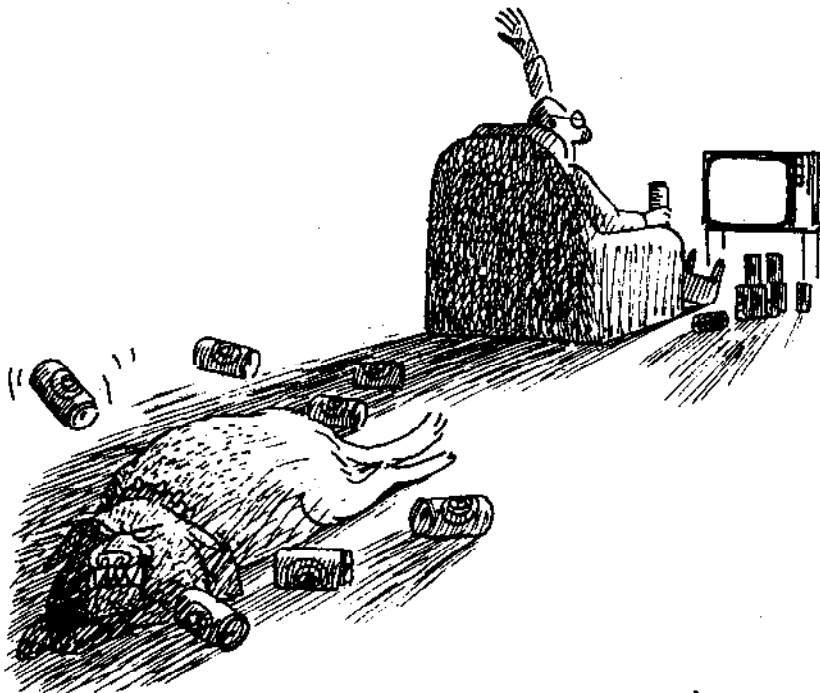
I managed to raise £70 in sponsorship, and the grand total raised by everybody over the weekend was around £3000, which was gratefully received by the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust.

Once again, thanks a lot.

Yours  
Gordon Thompson.

# Strange but genuine PROVERBS

'A MAN MAY PROVOKE HIS OWN DOG TO BITE HIM.'



*Mike Wimmer*

## ODDS & ENDS..... Russ

Why is it that everyone smiles when they hear that Jimmy's my Karrimor partner??

I liken it to the "loony on the bus" sketch. You're sitting alone on a double seat when on walks the loony. You spread yourself along the seat so as to look as if there's no room and give out a sigh of relief when he sits next to someone else.

Remember...it could have been you!!

## WINTER HILL TRAINING... Rod

In order to reduce erosion, this year's Winter Hill race will be run in reverse. It is difficult to see what effect this will have, since it still involves the same number of runners over the same course. However, Jeff says we must take this seriously. Consequently, throughout November, the Tuesday training runs will be run backwards. Please dress accordingly. If this is a success, there will be a backwards race to Stoodley Pike in December (singing: I'm running backwards for Xmas!!!!)

## RUSS'S CHRISTMAS BOX

With the festive season fast approaching, here's a few pressie ideas!!!!

\* A cycle proficiency book for Iron Man Thommo (or even a Ladybird ABC 123 book following his quiz in the last RAMPAGE).

\* "How to win friends and influence people" for Gary of the Diplomatic Corps.

\* "Klaus Barbie, the butcher of Lyons: an auto biography" for George "Floppy Burger" Ridgway.

\* "A population census" for Simon "of the Ben" Towler (expectant father AGAIN.....No of races = No of children. No wonder he only trains).

\*\*\*\*\*And for you Russell.... a brand new filofax to go with the Belmont and the car phone so you can be a complete YUPPY in 1990!!!!

# The pink streak matures

**T**HE owner of the kebab carryout in Fort William was not impressed. "Up for the race then, ye?" he asked the youth with the Yorkshire accent, one earring and pink hair. "Fancy your chances do you?"

The race in question was to the top of Ben Nevis and back. The lad replied that yes, he did rather, and hoped to finish in the first ten. From the other side of the counter a confident wager was laid. "First ten! If you do, you can come here tomorrow and eat what you like on the house."

Gary Devine did not pay for his supper the following night. The punk rocker from the Pudsey and Bramley Club had come second in the race up and down Britain's highest mountain.

The following year he went back and won "The Ben" — his finest achievement to date. The kebab house owner made no more bets.

At 23 Gary Devine is one of the country's top hill runners "and I'm improving all the time". He is likely to win the English fell racing championship this year, and also to win his second "England cap" in the World Cup mountain races which will be staged at Die in the French Alps in September.

With the advantage of youth, he is gradually closing the gap on British champion Colin Donnelly. He is maturing, though. "I don't dye my hair anymore, I just bleach it." After years tinkering with A-levels, an apprenticeship as a bricklayer and periods on the dole, he is now working as a builder on the Enterprise Scheme. And after years of squatting he rents a flat in Hyde Park, Leeds, where he lives with his girlfriend Zombie. They brew their own cider and go to punk gigs in Leeds and Bradford, "but these days I don't drink so much when I am training hard".

Gary and his Pudsey and Bramley clubmates tend to travel *en masse* to races; they camp together in the Lakes and Scotland; they walk in a bunch to the starting line, the acolytes known by some, fondly, as Gary's minders. Their hard-man image masks a bunch of nice lads who like to go out together for a good time. They enjoy being in the hills, they all run well. One of them just happens to have exceptional talent.

Gary Devine started jogging at the age of eight with his father, a rugby player for Upper Wharfedale. At school in Menston the sports teacher Terry Lonergan (who now runs a sports shop in Ilkley and has run a marathon in two hours 25 minutes) introduced him to cross country running.

Living in Ilkley he used the moors for training then progressed to fell racing, first as a junior.

Now he trains locally, on the Meanwood Trail or at Beckett Park in Leeds, putting in about 50 miles

in the winter but only 30 or so in the summer when he is racing once or twice a week.

So far his wins this year have included the races at Chew Valley, Calder Valley, Simon's Seat and Kaim Hill in Scotland, while Gary was particularly pleased with his second place in the Three Peaks race. "I have come second rather a lot this year," he says with a grin.

At Penistone Hill near Howarth on a glorious summer evening he only managed fourth place in a six miler — over the moors to Top Withins. But that was only three days after a hard weekend: the 23-mile Wasdale fell race in the Lakes, arguably the toughest on the calendar, on the Saturday followed next day by a five-mile short course up and down Black Combe.

"Yes, I suppose I do over-race. But I love it. I love running in the hills, and over rough ground. You do it because you love it. You don't run for the prizes." The prizes are usually vests, shorts, tracksuits. Once he won a microwave oven "but I gave that to my mum". He has been known to spend prize vouchers on chocolate bars for the rest of the club.

He is an unlikely looking athlete, nor does he adopt any of the postures of self-importance often found in those with superior talent. And he finds no conflict of lifestyles. The punk philosophy (he's not political but if pushed will claim leanings to anarchism rather than socialism) led him to an interest in animal rights and vegetarianism which in turn has led to a diet which he believes improves his running.

Enjoying the isolation of a long fell race, he is nevertheless usually surrounded by a crowd afterwards. "That's what I love about the fell running scene, the atmosphere and the people. And in the end it's the team effort that really matters."



Gary Devine, left, and above running on Penistone Hill on the Yorkshire/Derbyshire border. "I love running in the hills, and over rough ground. You do it because you love it. You don't run for the prizes."

*Pictures by Jim Moran*



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reply to

**apathy**



Dear Editor,

I do not wish to mention any Webbs, but I must (well I really should) complain in the strongest possible terms (at least somewhat) about the naughty language which crept into the last edition of RAMPAGE. *Apathy rules OK by me*. I cannot condom words such as "shit", "abysmal" and "unattached". I don't even know what it means (condom I mean). I don't think I do.

If you want to give your solutions to Jeff please (if you please) be polite about it or put them in a french letter in a plain brown envelope. Maybe then there'll be no more "bastards" either (not many anyway).

Yours sincerely (nearly),

P Rude (really!!!)

---

ON ANOTHER MATTER ENTIRELY.....

I have obtained a supply of cover film (33cm X 1 metre rolls) at a cheap rate and can supply club members at 50p per roll. So if your maps need covering - do it now while THE PRICE IS RIGHT.

Contact Duncan on Nelson 63559.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As a fairly new member of Calder Valley Fell Runners, I was saddened to read Gary's article in the previous edition of Rampage. Yet I had to agree with some of the points that he made. However, I was disappointed that Gary did not put forward any positive suggestions to remedy the current ills of the club and shake members out of their apathy.

Therefore, I am putting forward a few ideas partly based on previous experiences with other clubs:

### 1. TRAINING

When I first started training with Calder Valley last winter, I was pleasantly surprised by the numbers attending on a Tuesday night. I attributed this to the fact that training runs of varying distances catering for all standards of runner had been programmed throughout the winter.

A programme covering part of the summer period was published, but I must admit that I didn't really understand it, and judging by the response, neither did many others.

I feel that training routes catering for all standards of runners, male and female, comprising runs of varying lengths and climbs, should be programmed well in advance and published in Rampage. Once the programme has been published, we should stick to it, wherever possible.

### 2. RACES

The club championship includes enough races to give every member, irrespective of family and work commitments, the opportunity to score points in ten events. Even though I have been injured for a large part of 1989, I will still manage to run in nine or ten races this season.

However, the high number of championship races reduces the entry at individual events. I agree with 21 championship races but think a few (say six, two long, two medium and two short) should be classed as "key" races. "Key" races should all be outside the South Pennines area and include British and English championship races to widen the reputation of Calder Valley and the maximum points on offer should be 50 to encourage a bigger entry.

The handicap championship is rather complicated and seems to have attracted little interest. This championship could be limited to the six "key" races not only in total, but for each of these races, the winner on handicap could be awarded a prize, for example a T shirt, to be presented after training on the Tuesday following the race. A member could be restricted to only one prize per season to prevent someone with a favourable handicap winning every race. This idea would both create extra interest and increase the entry at "key" races.

### 3. COMMUNICATION

Not many small clubs have a regular newsletter. Despite Jill's efforts, she is always short of contributions and there are usually blank pages. I feel that Rampage should be used more to tell club members about future events and to generate more enthusiasm. Here are some of my ideas:



### 1. Training

The training programme should be published well in advance including any alterations to start times (due to dark nights) and Community Centre closures (Halifax holidays).

### 2. Social Events/Training Weekends etc.

These should be planned well in advance and publicised in at least one issue of Rampage. In the past, much of the publicity has been by word of mouth at short notice.

### 3. Race Diary

This should be expanded to include full details (start time, directions entry fee etc.) of all club championship races. Not all club members are in the F.R.A. and have access to the fixture list.

### 4. Race results

Championship race results should be highlighted and up to date championship positions published.

Finally, I understand that Gary is considering resigning from the club and running "unattached". My plea is "Don't resign now". I suggest that Gary should become Vice Captain or even Captain, if Jeff wishes to stand down, in 1990 and try to remedy the ills of the club from within. I also urge all club members to rally round. If the situation remains the same at the end of 1990, then he can think about resigning.

Ian Hartman

-----  
Dear Ed,

Gary's letter in the last RAMPAGE was, in my opinion, both negative and offensive to the Club members and should not have been published unedited.

Rather than "gee-up" the membership, it could easily have the opposite effect. After all, nobody likes being called a selfish, apathetic so-and-so who couldn't give a monkey's... whether the points are valid or not.

Most of what Gary says may be correct. Whilst it is always good to see improvement and enthusiasm, you can't force everyone to turn up at training, races and social events. You can only persuade and that's where we've been lacking.

There is more than one way to skin a cat (or a goat in George's case) and I would have thought that a more positive approach would be in order. For instance, why not stand for a committee post? I'm sure that some of the old hands would willingly take time out if others were willing to stand for Office.

Russ.

I consider one line of that offensive... But then who wants censorship??

Ed.

RESULTS RESULTS RESULTS

TURN SLACK 22/7/89  
8m/2000'

1.	R Berestrand (Mandale)	59.13
2.	S Hawkins (Bingley)	59.14
9.	D Thompson	1.04.26
30.	K Munton	1.09.33
39.	M Holmes	1.10.41
73.	R Kellett	1.15.52
96.	I Hartman	1.19.03
131.	P Regan	1.22.54
177.	C Peart-Binns	1.29.28
178.	G Spencer	1.29.36
193.	D Shepherd	1.32.25
	237 ran	

RAS Y CNICHT 27/8/89  
4.5m/1800'

1.	Hefin Griffiths (Hebog)	32.40
2.	D Hughes	33.21
33.	I Hartman	53.16
	65 ran	

BLACKSTONE EDGE 2/9/89  
3.5m/1200'

1.	Colin Donnelly (ERYRI)	26.33
18.	G webb	29.24
70.	R Sutcliffe	32.57
101.	S Pierce	34.10
115.	I Hartman	35.15
120.	J Wilkinson	35.31
126.	G Woodward	35.52
148.	R Arrandale	37.34
158.	G Ridgway	38.21
171.	D Rivron	39.41
177.	J Thistlethwaite	40.07

SHELF MOOR 3/9/89  
6m/1500'

1.	C Donnelly (ERYRI)	39.45
2.	M Prady (Glossopdale)	40.24
12.	D Thompson	45.23
30.	S Skelton	48.40
32.	K Munton	48.44
55.	I Hartman	51.31
	120 ran	

OTLEY CHEVIN 7/6/89  
3m/1000'

1.	G Devine (P&B)	18.39
2.	W Gaunt (P&B)	18.45
38.	B Horsley	21.26
58.	J Wilkinson	22.16
75.	J Riley	22.53
97.	T Wilkinson	23.57
133.	R Kift	25.39
	173 ran	

DOWNHAM FELL RACE 12/8/89  
5.5m/1700'

1.	S Livesey (Ross)	40.04
2.	G Hoddleson (Kendal)	40.41
9.	G Webb	43.45
26.	D Thompson	46.18
46.	K Munton	48.14
121.	J Marshall	52.54
127.	I Hartman	53.16
200.	D Shepherd	59.49
	251 ran	

BEN NEVIS RACE 2/9/89  
10m/4400'

1.	K Anderson (Ambleside)	1.27.41
44.	R Rowlands	1.47.10
67.	M Davies	1.51.47
91.	B Horsley	1.55.25
136.	P Horne	2.01.34
161.	J Riley	2.04.19
184.	R Kellett	2.07.30
189.	T Redmond	2.08.08
241.	A Sowden	2.15.18
168.	S Towler	2.19.37
319.	S Kirkbride	2.31.35

Colin Donnelly followed up his British Championship victory at Blackstone Edge the previous day with another record-breaking run. It has been suggested that we include this race in next year's Club Championship. Entry fee only £1. Course excellent, including one steep climb. Shower available!!!

RESULTS RESULTS RESULTS

THIEVELY PIKE 30/9/89  
3.5m/900'

TOUR OF PENDLE 7/10/89  
17m/1900'

1.	Sean Livesey (Rossendale)		1.	Sean Livesey	2.19.29
4.	Gary Webb	25.30	3.	Gary Webb	2.24.58
18.	Alex Bowden	27.08	9.	Duncan Thompson	2.27.23
20.	Duncan Thompson	27.17	15.	Jeff Winder	2.30.40
53.	Rod Sutcliffe	29.39	30.	R Rowlands	2.37.24
65.	Keith Munton	30.45	33.	R Sutcliffe	2.38.11
66.	Jon Wilkinson	30.41	45.	K Munton	2.43.39
69.	Brian Horsley	30.49	53.	P Horne	2.45.12
76.	Richard Kellett	31.19	66.	A Wimpenny	2.51.20
84.	Carl Greenwood	31.35	79.	G Woodward	2.56.00
85.	Robin Skelton	31.36	91.	B Horsley	3.04.17
88.	Ian Hartman	31.45	94.	J Riley	3.05.42
93.	Pete Horne	32.04	97.	P Regan	3.05.50
10.	Trevor Redmond	33.02	103.	I Hartman	3.08.58
114.	Jes Wilkinson	33.11	104.	R Kellett	3.09.28
119.	Steve Cavell	33.24	127.	R Arrandale	3.22.42
156.	Chris Peart-Binns	36.39		D Langmead	3.33
161.	Jill Thistlethwaite	37.18		J Sheard	3.42
175.	Brian Nuttall	38.32			
189.	Irene Neville	39.55			
198.	Linda Hayles	43.11			

At Thievely Pike, Alex had a good run to win the 1st U18 prize. The following day 16 runners travelled to the Lake district to compete in the IAN HODGSON MOUNTAIN RELAY; run in 4 sections, climbing 8500' in 25 miles. The CALDER VALLEY A team finished in 13th place in 4hr 8min 34secs, the B team in 42nd place in 5hrs 8mins 37secs. Ambleside A won the race with a course record of 3hrs 30mins 30secs.

A team: Gary, R Rowlands, Jeff, Ian H, Duncan, Andy Wimpenny, Rod, Keith Munton.  
B team: Russ, Richard K, Pete R, Steve K, Steve Cavell, Mark E-P, Alistair, Alex

At Pendle, Jimmy led a group of 10 runners to the 5th checkpoint, only to find the main field running in the opposite direction!!! The first 4 CALDER VALLEY runners to count in the team competition, narrowly missed out on 1st prize by 7 points.

**\*\*\*EXTRA\*\*\*EXTRA\*\*\*MOUNT SKIP FELL RACE**

This race is now well established on our calendar, in association with the Mytholmroyd Gala on the last Saturday in August. It is a classic gala fell race (4.5m/1000'), straight up from Mytholmroyd by paths and tracks, past the Mount Skip Inn and then up through the heather to the trig point on Midgley Moor. After a short loop, the descent retraces the climb. This new route was designed by John Riley when we re-established the race in 1987. A shorter race to the Mount Skip pub only, had been held at the gala previously. The But-Law Trophy, presented to the winner, is named after Messrs Butterworth & Tetlaw, who donated it to the Gala Committee.

This year's race produced records in all categories, with the senior record now standing at 30mins dead. Ten Calder Valley seniors ran this year, Duncan coming 5th, but we lost the team prize to Holmfirth. There were 10 juniors, with Alex Bowden and Jon Smith winning the U16 and U13 prizes respectively.

If you haven't yet run this race, give it a try next year.....Rod.

THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF TALK RECENTLY ABOUT THE STATE OF THE CLUB AND SPECIFICALLY SOMETHING LOOSELY CALLED CLUB MORALE. A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE COMMENTED ABOUT THE LACK OF INVOLVEMENT AT RACES, MAINLY FRA CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS, CLUB SOCIAL DO'S AND HELP/ATTENDANCE AT OUR EVENTS. WELL, AS SOMEONE WHO IS AN AVERAGE CLUB RUNNER HERE IS MY TUPPENCE WORTH;

1. A LOT OF TRUTH HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT SUPPORTING CLUB SOCIAL EVENTS, IF PEOPLE DON'T FANCY THEM, OK, BUT LETS BE HONEST WITH THE ORGANISERS WELL IN ADVANCE SO THEY KNOW THE SITUATION.

2. TUESDAY TRAINING SESSIONS CAN BE POORLY ATTENDED BUT HAVEN'T THEY IMPROVED SINCE MID-SUMMER WHEN THESE PROBLEMS WERE TALKED ABOUT? GARY MADE THIS POINT IN HIS ARTICLE IN THE LAST RAMPAGE. RECENT ORIENTEERING SESSIONS HAVE BEEN POPULAR, IS VARIETY THE KEY?

3. HELP AT OUR RACES IS PATHETIC. THEY ARE OUR RACES, PUT ON BY OUR CLUB AS CLUB EVENTS. I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS TRUE BUT I HEARD THAT WAS BOD WAS SHORT OF HELP - THERE WAS 20 CLUB RUNNERS THAT NIGHT - IF YOU WERE ONE OF THESE, ASK YOURSELF HOW MANY RACES YOU HAVE HELPED AT THIS SUMMER'S RACES. WE PUT ON 5, SURELY WE COULD ALL HELP AT 2 OR 3? IF IT WASNT FOR SEVERAL WIVES AND GIRLFRIENDS WE REALLY WOULD BE UP SHIT CREEK.

4. HAVING SAID ALL THAT, I DONT THINK THE SITUATION IS ALL THAT THAT BAD. SOCIALLY, THE ATMOSPHERE IS STILL SUPERB. CVFR IS STILL THE FRIENDLIEST CLUB I'VE BEEN IN. ALSO, WHATS ALL THIS CRAP ABOUT NO CLUB RUNNERS TURNING UP AT RACES? IF YOU LOOK AT THE LAST 2 RAMPAGES AND COUNT UP THE ATTENDANCE AT ALL THE RACES MENTIONED THE FOLLOWING FACTS APPEAR;

- WIDDOP : 20
- MYTHOLMROYD : 21 ( +3 AT WASDALE ON SAME DAY )
- STOODLEY : 16
- WEEKEND OF 21/22ST MAY ( 3 RACES ) : 13
- WEEKEND OF BEN/ B. EDGE : 17
- SEVERAL RACES WITH 8/9/10 RUNNERS.

NOW, ADD IN THOSE WITH LONG TERM INJURY OR FAMILY/JOB COMMITMENTS - SAY ABOUT 5 AT ANY ONE TIME AND I THINK WE DO OK. NO, GARY, YOU'VE DROPPED A BOLLOCK HERE. WHAT YOU REALLY MEAN IS THAT NOT MANY GO TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP RACES YOU GO TO. SEEING THAT OF THE 6 RACES YOU ARE MENTIONED IN ONE WAS IN WALES, ONE WAS IN SCOTLAND AND THE OTHER WAS THE WASDALE THEN ITS HARDLY SUPRISING. UNLESS YOU ARE IN THE ELITE THEN I SEE NO POINT IN GOING TO SCOTLAND FOR A 1.5 MILE RACE. I THINK A LOT OF US RACE EACH OTHER RATHER THAN THE REST OF THE FIELD AND WHY NOT?, AT MY LEVEL I WON'T KNOW 95% OF THE RUNNERS AROUND ME. SO WHY SHOULD I GO TO WASDALE WHEN I KNOW ALISTAIR, RICHARD, PETE ETC WILL BE AT MYTHOLMROYD ? I BELIEVE THAT THOSE SPECIFIC COMMENTS ARE ILL-INFORMED AND WILL CAUSE MORE BAD FEELINGS RATHER THAN MOTIVATE.

FINALLY, WHY DO YOU HAVE TO RACE OR IMPROVE ALL THE TIME TO BE ETHICALLY PURE ? I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT CVFR IS ABOUT FELLRUNNING IN ALL IT'S FORMS NOT JUST RACING. FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT'S WRONG WITH GIVING UP RACING FOR A YEAR TO DO THE BOB GRAHAM ?

GRAEME



A SHORT HISTORY  
of  
FELL RACING  
by  
the late  
CHRISTOPHER BACON RASHER

(This article first appeared in the Lords Day Observer in 1977. Chris Bacon Rasher, as everyone knows, won the only gold medal ever won by a British athlete in the 2000 mile steeplechase in 1931, narrowly beating the much fancied John Dismal, now a hoary-enteer.)

“Great things are done when men and mountains meet;”  
“This is not done by jostling in the street.”

*William Blake*

As I was jogging around the Lyceum Ballroom, Norwich, with Mick Snort a couple of years back, when the Norwich runner was Fell Runner of the Year, he asked me why I didn't trot along and interview some of the real old timers in Fell Racing and get stuck into some of the history of the Great Sport. It struck me as a good wheeze. Having interviewed Harry Parker, Deaf Norman and Andy Stallion 'on location' as well as 'Super-Snort' in the same week, I was ready for some more leisurely pursuit. "You mean old vets like Harry Blinkerstrot, Hoss Naylor, Stan Rickshaw, the Take-away Offal Man, people like that?" I gasped. "Oh, no!" sneered Snort. "Get amongst the real Old Timers", and he went on to give me a couple of addresses. One of them was Dismal's so I ignored that, and went for the other, a Mr. Fred Codgerson, Emeritus Professor of Comparative Jogging in the Robert Graham University, Cockermonth. Also, as I was to discover, no mean historian, and I am greatly indebted to him for the revelations he afforded me over tea and Kendal mint cake in the 'Stud and Waffle'.

Fell, or Fjell or Fjelle or Phel Racing is not an indigenous sport. Like venereal disease it was brought to this country by sailors. Well to be precise by the Vikings (not VD, Fjelle Racing). The Vikings were keen on two activities, Orienteering on a big scale and raping on any scale. It was when they learned to combine the two, pegging out a maiden at each checkpoint, that they became really competitive, and eventually invincible. It also made the sport popular with the ladies, who despite their passive role, soon got into the spirit of the thing. But as the fields got, like the present 2-day Karricot Marathon, too big, even they got too much of a good thing and insisted on their menfolk taking to the boats every weekend and calling out an old Viking saying, which roughly translated means, "Make Love Elsewhere!" They saw them off to the islands to the West. Because of the nature of the countryside they found in what became Northumbria and Cumbria the ideal sports ground, and that is why, swore Fred, the ladies of Cumbria can, to this day, not look a rasher of Danish bacon in the eye without smiling.

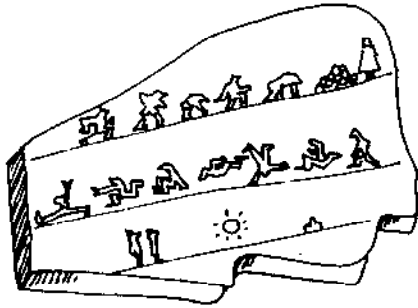
Suspecting some chronological defect in Codgerson's narrative. I asked what about Boadicoea. "She was more of a Woad Runner" curtly countered he. He was right of course, and I felt I should not interrupt again for a bit.

A biblical scholar it appeared had found many references to the challenge of the mountains. Only a mistake by a lady scribe part deafened by her husband's practising the tabor, prevented students from recognising what the prophet had



*A Scandinavian orienteer approaches a checkpoint (early drawing).*

really said: "I shall lift up my thighs to the hills." And which weary participant in any Vaux Try On does not feel for the ancient writer athlete: "By the waters of Babylon I sat down and wept."? (The word in Hebrew for 'knackered' was erased by St. Thomas Aquinas.) And imagine Moses, doing his time trial up Mount Sinai, only to find at the checkpoint some graffiti on a stone giving ten somewhat impertinent hints for better performance, suggesting that if the runner ceased to commit adultery, and stopped coveting his neighbour's ass, he might improve no end. Luckily for him he took the advice and won a lifetime's supply of fresh milk and honey from the Milk Marketing Horde for him and his family when they won the Trans-Red Sea International Event some years later. Or was that his son, Abe?



*The reverse side of the Rosetta Stone.*

The losers in that one, the Ancient Egyptians, had their own very special event, Professor Codgerson had discovered when he took a closer look at some hitherto unnoticed hieroglyphics **on the back** of the Rosetta Stone. Some relative of Tutem Khamen had had his slaves row him off on the package tour taking in Horton in Tibblesdale about 2000 BC, where he was so impressed by what he saw that he persuaded the boy king to have three great stone mountains erected out in the desert (that, until Codgerson, had puzzled historians for decades) for racing up and down. So that his Royal Nibs could always win he had designed ingenious tunnels **through** them. Thus he was secretly spared

considerable effort. Caught at it by an Assyrian referee one day, they shut him in. Guessing what had happened, he wrapped himself in his sleeping bag and nodded off. Ironically they piled all his old prizes and trophies round him, sealed him off and gave up the Three Pyramids Race forever. (Hence the saying 'Fellistine').

The big events in the Med in ancient times were the Three Towers (Babel, Leaning and Eiffel) and Volcano Bagging, popular with the Phoenicians. During eruptions you got the fast and spectacular Half-Etna.

You had to go east to Greece for real organised sport. The Greeks were into Democracy, i.e. sorts of Trades Unions. You had to be a Trojan to build pantomime horses, an Athenian to erect Parthenons, a Spartan to own a supermarket, and if you wanted to run up Mount Olympus you had to be, crazy, yes, but also an Olympian. The best Olympian was Phi Knippy Knees. Phi Knippy Knees won the marathon cross country to Athens but it killed him. Strangely it is the **officials** Union, the Fell Officers, which is best remembered. Aristotle, Socrates, Homer and Plato were all Great Fell Officers. So was Dodgy Knees.

The Romans (was there no end to Fred's erudition?) took their sport, like the modern British only more so, vicariously. When Romans reached for their Tigers they didn't put them on their feet! No, they liked to watch **Christians** run best. There were field events at the Coliseum and the score at the close of play usually read 'Lions CXXVIII, Christians NIL'. The best recorded race (see 'Spartacus') was the Appian Way. At first all you had to do was jog down it in three days. According to the Guinness Book of Deuteronomy nobody managed it, so, when it became tedious, someone conceived the idea of setting Christian athletes carrying wooden crosses on their backs off at a brisk trot and, shortly afterwards, some lions. The winner was the one who stuck his cross in furthest away before the lions got to him. The ones who got the furthest, said Fred, most often, and therefore survived long enough to write espistles before they finally got theirs were



*Site of the 3 Pyramids race*



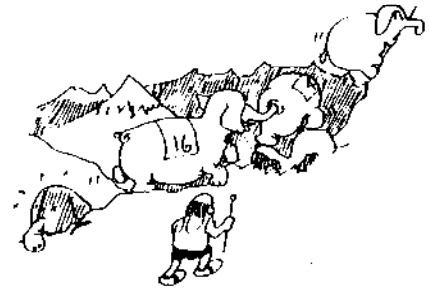
A Phoenician wins the Half-Etna

called Apostles. Apostle of the year in about 35 A.D. was Paul. What an athlete! Struck blind on the Damascus Fun Run he went on to great heights. His crucifixion was a great loss to Fell Racing. (I tried to check this in 'Corinthians' but the Sports Pages seemed to be missing.)

Other spectacular discoveries in recent years came as a result of Thor Heyerdhal's 'Kon Piki' expedition. He proved that Christopher Columbus was a rotten orienteer. Missing India by 180° he tried to alter his map. 'West Indies' he wrote. Well he didn't fool Thor or Fred. By no means.

Fred Codgerson is himself quite a Fell Officer. It was no surprise to him at all to hear that when Thor Heyerdhal excavated those strange monolithic men on Easter Island they were wearing Walsh's Ripples. Made in Bolton.

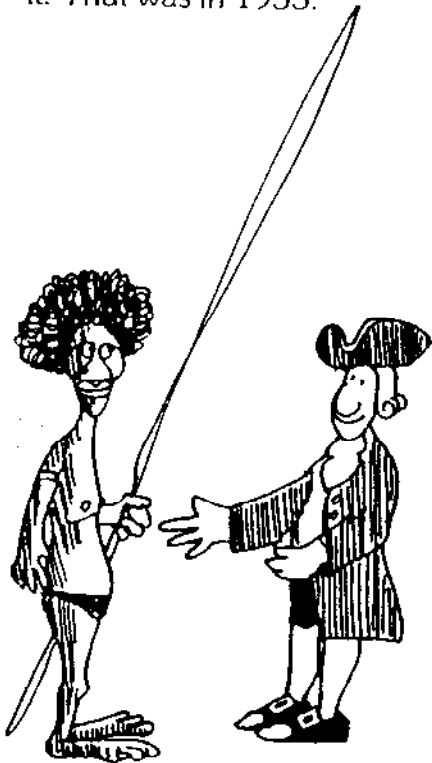
But I digress. More recently the public demanded massive mountain races inspired by Attila the Run (Welsh Champion centuries ago), Hannibal and his Alpine Elephant Race (what price Hoss Naylor in that event?) and the Asian version of the Blisco Dash, the Everest Dash. This was first won by a Tibetan; second was a New Zealander; John Hunt failed to finish the course, but in true British tradition was knighted for it. That was in 1953.



Hannibal

Fred sighed and sipped his tea. Ever since then British Fell Racing has been going down and down (or was it up and down, he said?).

Who, in 4000 years time, would remember Mick Snort, Deaf Norman, Harry Porker? Or even Chris Bacon Rasher, Gold Medal and Scar, I wondered. I slipped out and jogged quietly home to Surrey, muttering "Forsan et haec olim meminisse iuvabit!"



Captain Cook greets Abe O'Ridgy Knees



Since then fell running has been going down.

Points Champonship

Name	No of Races		
Gary Webb	9	270	
Duncan Thompson	8	231	
Brian Horsley	7	190	OD
Keith Munton	7	190	
Peter Regan	7	159	
Richard Kellett	6	153	
Trevor Redmond	7	147	
Bob Horne	5	121	
Jeff Winder	4	119	
Jill Thistlethwaite	6	113	
Malcolm Holmes	4	113	
Richard Crossland	4	111	6.5m
Bob Sutcliffe	4	111	
Steven Cayell	5	108	
Graham Spencer	5	107	BM
Christopher Peart-Binns	4	107	
Peter Horne	4	101	
Ian Harthman	4	96	
J. Wilkinson	4	96	
Graeme Woodward	4	96	
Russell Arrandale	4	78	
Carl Greenwood	3	76	
Alistair Sowden	3	68	
Steve Skelton	2	56	
Tim Gauntlett	2	50	
John Riley	2	48	
Robin Skelton	2	47	
David Shepherd	2	40	
George Ridgway	2	37	
Dominic Rivron	2	33	
Alex Bowden	1	29	
Richard Rowlands	1	29	
Simon Pierce	1	28	
Roger Nuttall	2	27	
Mike Fleetwood	1	25	
Simon Towler	1	24	
Mark Anderton	1	23	
Chris Jones	1	23	
Mark Bramall-Pimlott	1	22	
Jimmy Sheard	1	22	
John Smith	1	19	
N Brown	1	18	

DECEMBER

Sun 10th Calderdale Way Relay

Sat 16th Boulsworth Hill

DATE	RACE	CAT	DIST	HT	ENTRY
NOVEMBER					
Sat 11th	Shepherds Skyline	BS	6m	1150'	OD
Sun 19th	Rombalds Moor	BS	5m	800'	OD
Sun 26th	Winter Hill	AM	11m	2700'	PE