

WRENCH LEAVES IT LATE

Thirty nine seniors lined up for the start of the ninth race in the Merritt & Fryers BOFRA Championship last Saturday at Cray, near Buckden. Darren Brame of Denholme set the early pace from Andy Wrench. As the runners neared the Under 12s turn, Brame and Wrench were starting to pull away from a bunch of runners, including Ted Mason, Graham Hawkins, Colin Moses, Alan Life, Colin Valentine and last years winner Patrick Boyd. Still winding up the fell passing the Under 17s turn and starting to climb the steepest part, Wrench made his bid and went past Brame, turning the summit in first place, but then the most bizarre thing happened, Wrench lost his sense of direction and carried straight on instead of bearing to his left and coming down the track, taking with him Brame, Mason, Boyd and Hawkins. By the time they had corrected themselves, Moses had gone into the lead. But with the great determination Wrench has found this season he was soon giving chase to the surprised Moses. As they passed the Under 14s turn it looked as if the misjudgement earlier on would prove costly to Wrench. As in other races this season, Wrench of Todmorden was not to be outdone and with one of his late bursts of speed he passed Moses with just 100 yards to go, to cross the line and win in a time of 23.45, Moses second 23.58, Mason hanging onto third 24.16, Boyd fourth 24.25, early leader Brame fifth 24.39, Hawkins sixth 24.43 and Life seventh 25.15. First Veteran John Hope of Bolton 25.44, second and third Veterans, both local runners from Silsden were Brett Weeden and David Hird 26.23 and 26.26. First Lady was Sue Beccansall of Todmorden in 30.15, second Carol Life 35.06, third Sue Weeden 36.30.

Under 17s winner was James Mason of Grassington 20.17, second Martin Hounslow 21.17, third Sam Hounslow 21.37. First girl Kate Rogan of Barnoldswick 23.34, second Karen Bowe 24.04, third Naomi Biddle 24.18, fourth Sally Shepherd 24.59.

Under 14s winner was Christopher Doyle of Ulverston 10.58, second Andrew Wilkin 11.18, third Luke Paget 11.59. First girl Kelli Roberts of Kendal 12.48, second Sheryl Slater 14.19, third Gemma Dean 14.32.

Under 12s winner was Caleb Wetherell of Cowling 6.35, second James Walker 6.42, third Grant Robinson 6.44. First girl Janie Oates of Kendal 7.46, second Hannah Paget 7.50, third Katie Robinson 9.20.

Under 9s winner Jonathan Walker of Keswick 2.25, second Harry Croft 2.18, third Jack Thompson 2.46. First girl Emma Thompson 3.00, second Samantha Parker 3.47, third Rebecca Thompson 3.49.