

LANCASTER PRIMROSE HARRIERS

Cross-Country Triumph

Lancaster Primrose won the Mid-Lancashire Cross-Country League championship in a hard struggle at Accrington on Saturday. They were five points behind Lancaster Harriers when the last five races of the season was started from the the Poplar W.M. Club, Accrington, about 3.40 p.m. They finished nine points ahead, a remarkable feat over a gruelling course.

Their victory meant that Lancaster Harriers, the champions for the last two seasons, were frustrated in their hopes of winning outright the Captain Meyler trophy.

The Lancaster Harriers very sportingly congratulated the winners and it was stated by W. A. Park, of the Lancaster club, who finished second in the individual season's honours, that he had never run against a better runner than R. Parker, of Lancaster Primrose, the third best individual of the season.

The course was a stern cross-country test. Between 60 and 70 turned out in the face of a cold east wind, and had at the start to mount the Coppice, a hill of about 650 feet and some 200 feet above the starting point.

The trail led over rough moorland, wound round to Baxenden, about 750 feet ordnance datum, across Manchester road again and down Priestley Clough back to the club premises in Accrington. It was an exacting run of about seven and a half miles.

The first home was Guy Kirkus, of the Clayton-le-Moors Harriers, followed by R. P. Keay, of Lancaster, with R. Parker, of Lancaster Primrose, defeating his rival, W. A. Park, of Lancaster, for the third place.

The points for the afternoon were: 1, Lancaster Primrose, 51; 2, Lancaster, 66; 3, Lancaster Freehold, 97; 4, Clayton-le-Moors Harriers, 114.

The final placings for the season were: 1, Lancaster Primrose, 284; 2, Lancaster Harriers, 293; 3, Lancaster Freehold, 491; 4, Clayton-le-Moors Harriers, 634.

The individual placings for the season were: 1, R. P. Keay (Lancaster), 11 points; 2, W. A. Park (Lancaster), 16; 3, R. Parker (Lancaster Primrose), 17. Guy Kirkus, of Clayton-le-Moors Harriers, was the first man of an unplaced team with 19 points.

The president of the league Mr. J. Higginson, a former hop, step and jump champion, said he thought they could congratulate themselves on a very successful season. There had been no monopoly by one club and it had been interesting to note the coming forward of Lancaster Primrose, who had run the Lancaster Harriers very close throughout the competition.

The trophies to the Clayton-le-Moors Harriers were presented by Mr. Wilkinsons, a vice-president of the club. They included a points cup, which went to Guy Kirkus, with a gold medal, and a gold centre medal to the runner-up, C. T. Owen. The memento cup to Kirkus, he mentioned, was presented by Mr. G. W. Wilson, of the Lancaster Harriers.

The prizes in the league competition were presented by Mr. W. Pilkington, vice-president of the Poplar W.M. Club.

Lancashire Evening Post - Friday 15 March 1935

After the Run

Let the harriers from Lancaster, fleet of foot though they be, keep away from Accrington just yet. Last Saturday three or four gorgeous motor charabancs arrived in a populous district of the town, and decanted three teams of Lancaster cross-country runners for the final of the Mid-Lancashire Cross Country Championship.

Very soon, stripped, and in their gay (and somewhat scanty attire), they were prancing about in the street to get their knees going, or else to frighten off pneumonia.

They were a pretty sight as the pack set off, some 56 of them, and the assembled children gazed in rapt admiration. On Sunday there was a sequel. Some budding cross-country secretary of tender years had organised a paper chase over the hills and far away.

With bared limbs the youngsters raced away in the cold wind, to drop out exhausted after a short spell, and catch cold. One youngster was still in bed on Thursday.

Cross-country running is not at the moment at the top of the poll for popularity among the mothers.