

Northern Athletics Men's 6 Stage Road Relay Championship 2013

With an entry of 115 teams, this was certainly a popular championships especially for those in the blue of Leeds City. After their women won the 4 stage the men then completed the double and won the 6 stage, for the first time since 2011.

One amazing fact about the winning Leeds team, their consistency. Their A team all ran within 26 seconds of each other so although only Simon Deakin was in the fastest 10 times, he was 9th, all the other members of the winning team were in the top 25 fastest times.

Not surprisingly then Leeds finished 6th on that fast first lap with Morpeth 1st, Nick Swinburn, 19.55, ahead of Stockport and Bolton 3rd, with Salford 4th and Sale down in 9th, out of the 101 finishing teams.

The 2nd lap had Stockport move into the lead, ahead of Salford, Carl Hardman moved them up 2 places, with those blue vests of Leeds City up to 3rd.

Leg 3. The fastest time of the day as Anthony Ford moved Sale 4 places up to 1st with a superb time of 19.18. Leeds City again moved up, this time to 3rd whilst Stockport dropped 3 and Salford 1. Morpeth B team was 6th just behind their A team, but 1 whole minute behind and the A team still had Ian Huspith to run.

Leg 4 This is where it all happened. First of all the 2 Simon's on this leg for Sale and Leeds maintained their positions, but the gap between leaders Sale, and Leeds, was down from 30 seconds to just 8. Morpeth's Peter Newton moved his team up 2 to 3rd with the 2nd fastest time, 19.36, whilst Stockport lost 2 places and Salford 1.

Leg 5 The first 6 positions remained unchanged, but yet again the gap dropped with Sale just 2 seconds ahead of Leeds at the final changeover. Also these 2 teams were almost 2 minutes ahead of 3rd placed Morpeth.

Leg 6 Leeds had entrusted Carl Smith to get them the title, and he did not disappoint running 51 seconds faster than Sale's Gavin Hill with Ian Huspith chasing them in as he pulled up some 90 seconds on the Sale Harrier to finish 3rd. Salford, Stockport and Derby filled the next 3 positions, with Sale B 7th, Morpeth B 8th and Leeds City B 10th.

1st	Leeds City	2.01.28
2nd	Sale Harriers	2.02.17
3rd	Morpeth	2.02.31

Fastest leg

1	Anthony Ford	Sale	19.18
2	Peter Newton	Morpeth	19.36
3	Richard Wier	Derby	19.43
4	Ian Huspith	Morpeth	19.51



The medal winning teams left to right Morpeth, Leeds and Sale

Report Ken Smith
Photo Eileen Ingham