

Relay Results

Wythenshawe Park Manchester was the location for this years Northern Athletics Spring Road Relays relays, and for once the weather was spring like. After a foggy start the sun broke through and for most of the afternoon conditions were ideal for racing on the flat and fast course, arranged by Sale's Dave Rodgers

Women's 6 x 4.8 k.Race.

It was in Heaton Park in 2005 that Chester Le Street last failed to win this Northern Athletics Championship road relay, so would they achieve the remarkable 5 wins in a row. Well when Mike Bateman, the Morpeth team manager, saw the Chester le Street team sheet, he had no doubts they would. He describe their team as "Consistent ", and he was not far wrong, with 5 out of the 6 girls winning their individual legs. Their canny team manager yet again got it correct, with just the first leg girl coming in 5th, and even she still managed to join 4 other of her team in the top 10 fastest times of the day. They are an terrific team who demonstrate superb team values that all other clubs should aspire too.

In the runners up spot was Hallamshire Harriers, who were almost as consistent as Chester Le Street, with 4 second places in the team.



On that initial first fast leg, Julia Russell brought the team in 1st place, with the 4th fastest time of the day, and they fell away slightly on leg 2, before unleashing Hatti Dean on leg 3. Hatti recovered 8 places with the amazing time of 16.08, some 29 seconds faster than anyone else, catching everyone but Chester Le Street.

In the bronze medal position were Liverpool Harriers, who were just 2 seconds ahead of Trafford in what was the closest finish of the race. Liverpool, unlike the first 2 teams had been anything but consistent. There leg finishing

positions were 7th, 13th, 12th, 12th, 6th and finally 3rd, so again the team manager about right. It was no surprise that it was Jenny Clague on leg 3, pulled back 6 places and ran the fastest time of her team.

In 5th came Rotherham, led by Jenny Blizard, and in 6th place Holmfirth.

Host club Sale were 7th, with Rachel Deegan on leg 5, eagerly watched by dad Mike, who had just run leg 2 for the Salford B men's team.

Results.

1st Chester Le Street 1,41.12

2nd Hallamshire Harriers 1.49.45.

3rd Liverpool Harriers 1.51,32

Fastest Leg Hatti Dean Hallamshire 16.08. [Full Women's 6 Stage Results](#)

Men's 12 Stage, 6 x 4.8k, 6 x 7.4k.

Leeds started this winning run at that snowy Catterick course in 2008. They retained their championship at Stockport last year and it would be a hat trick of wins if they won today. To be fair to their team manager, he at least brought the trophy back, but not for long was it away from those blue track suits.

Normal service was resumed after leg 1. where Simon Deakin finished in 3rd place behind the 2 fastest times of the day, Mike Buckingham, Holmfirth 21.58, and Patrick Martin, Sunderland, 22.00. So not such a bad effort. However Simon was the only member of that 12 man Leeds team who did not finish 1st in his leg. Amazing consistency, that put their team almost 5 minutes ahead at the finish, yet they only had 2 athletes in both the fastest long, and short leg. top ten times.

Host club Sale finished in the silver medal position, without ever challenging the Leeds team ahead of them, Gareth Raven producing their fastest long leg time.

Another struggle that raged throughout the whole race was between a resurgent Salford team, and the usual strong Morpeth contingent. It took Andi Jones on leg 2 to produce the 4th fastest long leg time which hauled Salford into 2nd position, whilst the flying Nick McCormick put Morpeth back into 2nd place on leg 6, with the fastest short leg time by some 36 seconds. Add the fact that Liverpool were never too far behind and that final medal position was undecided until the last one of the 12 legs.

Salford were first away, but it was the blue vest of Morpeth that first appeared back on the track, with the red of Salford was just behind. The final medal position went to Morpeth, by just 10 seconds, but Salford with their blend of youth and experience, showed how much they have rebuilt their team.

Liverpool were 5th Derby 6th, Hallomshire 7th and Trafford 8th.

Result. [Men's 12 Stage Results](#)

1st Leeds City 3.50.17

2nd Sale Harriers Manchester 3.55.14

3rd Morpeth Harriers 3.55.25.



Fastest short leg Nick McCormick 13.43

Fastest long leg Mark Buckingham Holmfirth 21.58



Peter Riley of Leigh

Hattie Dean fastest leg



Host club Sale collected silver medals in the men's event



1st three teams in 6 women's stage

Report Ken Smith,

Photos [Harry Shakeshaft](#) & Eileen Ingham

Congratulations on your club qualifying for the ERRA National Road Relays which will be held at Sutton Park, Birmingham on 17th April.

Attached is information that you will require to enter the event. This year they are hoping to receive all entries online and will only accept postal entries under exceptional circumstances. Details are in the attached file. (Women's entry info is also included)

I would appreciate you letting me know whether or not your club will be taking up this entry as if not then the place will be offered to the next placed club.

I look forward to your reply at your earliest convenience.

NB: Leeds City and Salford Harriers have 2 qualifying teams.

regards

Judith

Invited teams:

Leeds City A	Horwich RMI	Salford Harriers B
Sale Harriers	Blackburn Harriers	Rotherham AC
Morpeth Harriers	Altrincham DAC	Barrow & Furness Striders
Salford Harriers A	Leeds City B	Wigan Phoenix
Liverpool Harriers	Preston Harriers	Southport Waterloo
Derby AC	Holmfirth Harriers	Wirral AC
Hallamshire Harriers	Kingston upon Hull AC	Heanor RC
Trafford AC	Sunderland Harriers	York Acorn
Gateshead Harriers	E Cheshire & Tameside	Leigh Harriers

1st Reserve Ilkley Harriers