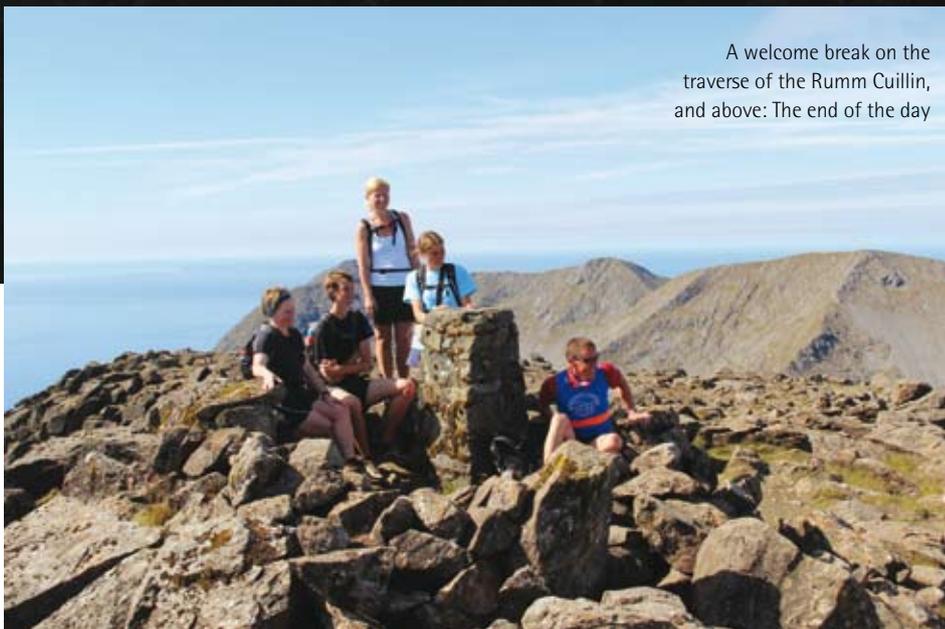


Glossopdale Harriers



A welcome break on the traverse of the Rumm Cuillin, and above: The end of the day

The 80s

The club was founded in 1982 by Steve Flynn an Irish social worker on the back of the early 80s running boom. Training out of Hadfield School, the initial take-up was for road and trail but then, with an influx of fell runners, such as Fran Lowe and Bill Buckley, the harriers were enticed into getting their shoes much muddier by training and racing over a variety of terrain with growing success on the fells. For such a small club it was remarkable that a group of talented runners such as Andy Trigg, Mike Prady, Dave Ibbetson, Adi Jones and others were able to compete with the best fell runners in the country as was shown by the club's 3rd placing in the 1989 British Fell Championships

As well as prowess in fell races, the club always liked to contest multi-stage events like the Tour of Tameside, Saddleworth 3 Day event as well as local classics such as the Glossop Fell Race, Otter 40, Three Towers, Tankys, Downfall, Edale and Chew Valley Skyline Races etc. The club was also well represented on the country in the local Manchester and SE Lancs XC Leagues as well as in the Derbyshire XC Championships where the Mens Vets had a good record and in the National also.

Later in the decade, the Harriers began to train out of Glossop Leisure Centre. The club also put on several races through the 80s e.g. Glossop

Half which was voted by Runners World as one of the best half-marathons in the country, Glossop 5 always attended by some of the finest road runners in the area and the Shelf Moor race where in 1989 British Champ elect Colin Donnelly broke the 40 minute barrier, a feat that has not yet been repeated. This was also the year when Mike Prady won an England vest racing in Die, France.

On the social side, the club put out regular witty informative eagerly anticipated newsletters, held a fancy dress Christmas Handicap from Glossop Rugby Club, and set up a very popular club championship which was keenly contested on fell, road and cross-country.

Further afield, the harriers were always well represented in events such as the KIMM, Old County Tops, and the Haworth Hobble.

The 90s

This decade saw the club making great strides on the participation, social and results side both locally and nationally with the early part of the decade being especially productive.

Trips to Scotland were very popular with a strong contingent making the long journey northwards to be regularly in evidence at both the Goat Fell race on Arran as well as at the Bens of Jura.

Training nights became more structured with a full advertised programme of summer routes, hash runs, club orienteering events as well as fun, low-key informal events such as the Dog Rock Handicap Race where everybody was expected to cross the winning line at the same time. Nev's Fell Race ran in fancy dress, bring a prize take a prize, held on the Sunday before

Christmas from the Queens in Old Glossop, was also well attended by club members and friends from local clubs

As well as the increasingly popular club championship, the club also put on the Three Trig Challenge taking in Harry Hut, Cock Hill, Higher Shelf and a mystery checkpoint. Amongst those taking part were then members Mark Seddon and John Kewley who went on to win the 1995 KIMM Elite in the Brecon Beacons.

By this time the newsletter had grown into a more magnum opus which contained a wealth of running information as well as recipes, poems and other creative offerings. The club was also putting on annual presentation evenings as the membership increased.

In this decade Andy Trigg was at the top of his form and held many local race records which stood for several years. He was also to have success in the KIMM Elite and along with Adi Jones, who was 1997 V40 British Fell Champ, achieved results of which the small club could be justly proud. A variety of long distance challenges were also taken on by members including the Derwent Watersheds, BGR, Fellsman, Bullock Smithy and the Pikes Peak marathon

By the mid 90s the club was hosting eight races i.e. Glossop Gallop, Lambs Leg, Herod Farm (originally Pennine) an inaugural Women's Fell Race, Up the Nab, New Glossop Fell Race (on a changed course to the earlier Dark Peak race featured in SMOTS) and the Shelf Moor Race which was selected as an English Fell Championship Race in 1997 when won by Gavin Bland.



30th Anniversary mug by Dr H Tool



Our Beryl Marshalling Herod Farm

The 00s and 10s

In 2000 Sally Newman became English Ladies Champion and subsequently represented England. The website (www.glossopdale.org.uk) was launched in 2000, a technological innovation which has evolved to include Facebook and, in May 2012, an official blogsite. All of these changes have gradually replaced the Harriers newsletters, the last of which was produced in 2006.

The early "noughties" seem to have been a time of change as a number of the elite runners headed for pastures new. Although Glossopdale featured less prominently in the results for a few years, nevertheless we were still active in all areas – short local races, longer distances and big events such as the Mountain Marathons. We have also managed (although it was sometimes touch and go) to enter at least one team in the various relay events (FRA, Ian Hodgson and Calderdale). Mark Ollerenshaw has finished first in the Bullock Smithy event and Sandra Cooper has had some notable results in races

such as the Kinder Trog. Glossopdale won the men's team prize in the 2011 Old County Tops, an exceptional result for a small club and in the recently held Calderdale Relays, the men placed ninth overall, the previous best result being 27th. Glossopdale Women also took the team prize in the inaugural Trigger race in January 2012. Julian Minshull, Mark Ollerenshaw, former member Jasmin Paris and John Doyle from Pennine were 1st mixed team and 2nd overall in the 2012 High Peak Mountain Marathon. In May 2012, four Glossopdale women successfully completed the Cumbrian Traverse, including an encounter with Joss Naylor at the foot of Great Gable.

The club provides a supportive and encouraging environment for people to push themselves and take on new challenges. To quote Sue Clapham (after this year's HPM):

"...you are amongst the kindest and loveliest people I'm fortunate enough to have as friends. Thank you all so very much for the pre-race advice, tips and maps ... pre-race recceing in crazy weather ... good luck emails, texts.....not to



Spot the past winners

The author, Alison Holt, in the 2012 Long Mynd fellrace



mention Beryl and Carl (Buckley) who appeared out of nowhere in the clag somewhere south of Alport Low.....and John (Stephenson) who waited so patiently at the bottom of the infamous cow poo field..."

So after a dip, we seem to be having something of a renaissance at the Club, with talented newcomers performing well alongside club stalwarts. As an illustration, Tim Budd was voted "Best Newcomer" in 2011 and Nev McGraw (member since 1982) "Most Improved Runner". Bill Buckley was made a life member of the club in 2010.

In addition to the regular Tuesday and Thursday evening runs, we now have coaching sessions on Monday evenings covering aspects of speed, stamina and hillwork. Summer club runs focus on the hills and some choose to stick to the fells all year round, heading out with head and hand torches as the nights close in. The Club continues to organise two of the local races – Joe Barber Herod Farm, first race of the summer evenings and Shelf Moor, which has now featured twice as an English Championship Race.

GDH members recently experimented with foam-rolling to aid recovery. All photographic evidence of this workshop was considered too incriminating for publication; suffice to say it attracted enough participants to fill a scout hut!

A strong social side has built up over the last few years; club weekends away to the Lakes and Snowdonia and a full week in 2011 to the Islands of Eigg and Rum (complete with stunningly beautiful weather). We also celebrate Christmas with a lovely run in the snow (most years!) followed by buffet and prize-giving as well as

ad hoc get-togethers for birthdays and post-run jollities. It is also noticeable how many family memberships we have, youngsters following in their parents footsteps and couples who run and compete together and our away weekends are very much family orientated, including non-running activities.

Our 30th Anniversary Do (which will have taken place by the time the article appears) will be at Glossop Golf Club – a sit down meal for 90 followed by a ceilidh and with specially brewed "Bogtrotter" beer on tap to be supped from celebratory GDH mugs.

Looking to the future – we can confidently expect more good results and new members. We have plenty going on – the celebrations at the end of June; a week away in the remoteness of Knoydart week in July; a trip abroad planned for 2013; a women's team for the HPM in 2013 and maybe a couple of Bob Graham attempts!

Incidentally, Dinting Viaduct (the key feature of our GDH logo) is currently undergoing a multi-million pound refurbishment. How fitting it would be if Network Rail could be persuaded to re-paint this structure in the fabulous blue and orange of Glossopdale Harriers!

Exploring the Cumbrian Peaks

