

Did you know that ;

In 1985 **Claire Oliver** was the first R&Z member to gain a Yorkshire vest.

In the 1985-86 cross country season the under 15 boys team of **Andrew Pratt, Ken Harker, Tony Coulson and Stephen Starvis** finished 6th team in the Northern Counties cross country championships against many top well established clubs and as they lived in Northallerton, Leyburn, Bedale and Richmond the chances are that in most other areas of the country they would have been in four separate clubs.

In 1986 a **teachers strike** resulted in athletes from the club being stopped from competing for a place in the N Yorkshire cross country team despite the best efforts of Graeme, Bill Dodds and Alan Starvis to ensure that the team going to the English Nationals was truly representative of the county.



In 1987 **James Paul** was the first R&Z member to medal at a National championships with 3rd in the long jump at the Scottish AAA championships.

In 1988 **Martin Purvis** was 3rd in the Northern Under 20 400m hurdles.

In 1989 **Kirsty Dodds** was selected for the North of England team at cross country.

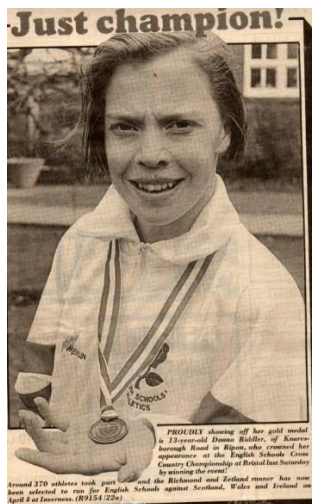
In 1989 the under 15 girls team of **Michelle Hillman, Alison Fletcher, Sophie Howard, Katie Oliver, Tracy Hillman and Claire Andrews** finished 6th in the National cross country championships at Birmingham.

In 1989 the U17 girls team of **Michelle Hillman, Alison Fletcher, Kate Connell and Sophie Howard** won the Yorkshire CC title at Wakefield.

In 1990 **Colin Purvis** was 3rd in the high jump at the AAA under 17 championships and represented the North of England in that event at an inter area match.

In 1991 the **under 15 girls R&Z** team won the trophy for the most points scored at the Yorkshire track and field championships.

In 1992 **Donna Riddler** as an under 15/junior girl won the English Schools cross country title, followed by a 3rd place in the home international helping England to win the gold medal.



She is one of only three athletes from North Yorkshire to have won an English School's cross country title.

In 1992 **Debra McIlroy** won the northern inter counties high jump with a clearance of 1.69m which broke the record which had stood for 15 years.

In 1995 **Debra McIlroy and Gareth Hastie** were selected for the Inter Regional match in high jump and shot putt respectively.

In 1996 **Bill Atkinson** won the over 60s Yorkshire cross country title as well as the NE and National titles.

In 1996 **David Powell** won the Under 20 Northern Counties decathlon title and was the first male member to gain an **English vest**, representing England at the combined events international in Belfast.

In 1996/97 **Jim Robinson** was selected to represent N Ireland in a 10k cross country event.

In 1997 **Jim Robinson** won the O50 gold medal in the NE championships and Bill Atkinson the bronze medal in the O60 category.

In 1997 at the NE Vets Championships in the O60 group **Bill Atkinson** won gold in 3 events – 300m hurdles/triple jump/ shot putt, Jim Robinson gold in the O50 1500m and John Wild gold in the O45 javelin/hammer and shot putt. He was also the NE throws champion.

In 1997 at Thirsk the **under 15 girls team** with Andrea Woodvine winning, ably supported by Helen Derbyshire and Katherine Waugh were 2nd in the Yorkshire cross country championships.

In 1997 **Helen Woodvine** became the first female to win a Yorkshire medal (silver) in the heptathlon.

In 1998 at the Yorkshire Vets track and field champs **Mike Brooks** won two golds in the O50 400m hurdles and 2000m steeplechase.

In 2000 **Nick Zissler** became the first male member to win a Yorkshire cross country title. In that year he was also 3rd in the Northern championships and 8th in the Inter Counties meeting for the Yorkshire team.

In 2001 the Yorkshire **under 20 female team** won the national inter counties cross country title with two of the scoring team, Andrea Woodvine and Louise Jackson, from R & Z.



In 2002 **Andrew Lagan** as an under 13 boy was 3rd in the Inter counties cross country event having nearly missed the start because of a traffic jam in Nottingham which resulted in him having to run from his car to the course and then losing a shoe during the race.

In 2008 season **Fergus Roberts** as an under 13 athlete won the Yorkshire CC title, the Northern CC title, the National CC title, the Inter Counties title and



was placed 12th

in the English Schools.

Jo Adams competed in the UK trials in **2011** for the European championships, in the **2012** trials for the Olympics and in the **2013** trials for the World championships.

Wendy Nicholson prior to her retirement and **Heather and Bill Atkinson** Graded field event officials from the Club have officiated at national and international track and field matches, having worked their way through the existing system of the time.

Some notable achievements by athletes from Richmond and Zetland Harriers (R & Z)

Claire Oliver

In 1986 as an under 15 girl was the first club athlete to gain a Yorkshire vest, for cross country, and then as an under 17 girl she won the Yorkshire 300m title in 41.2 secs a time which was a County record for several years. It ranked her 3rd in the country.



Kirsty Dodds

One of the original junior members who still holds the club age record for under 15 girls at 800m set in 1986. Her time of 2min 16.5secs ranked her 12th in the country. That year she gained her Yorkshire vest for cross country. She still holds 8 out of the nine best times for 800m done by an R&Z athlete and 2 out of five of the best 1500m times. She was the first R&Z member to represent the North of England at CC.

Michelle Hillman

Yorkshire cross country champion in 1989 thus gaining her county vest as well as leading the R&Z team to victory, and part of the R & Z team which were placed 6th in the English Nationals at Birmingham in 1988. She was also placed 16th in the national rankings at 400 m hurdles in 1990.



Alison Fletcher

Gained her Yorkshire vest at cross country in 1988 and on the track at 400m hurdles in 1990. Her time placed her 11th in the national rankings. Part of the winning team at the Yorkshires in 1989. A silver medallist in the Yorkshire multi-events.

Donna Riddler

Gained her Yorkshire vest for cross country in 1991, 1992 and 1993, winning on the second occasion, and was 2nd in the North of England CC championships at Sunderland. She was the winner of the English School's title in 1992 and 2nd in the home international at Inverness. She won the under 15 Yorkshire 1500m title in 1992 and she still holds 4 of the best 8 times done by a club athlete. Her best time of 4min43 ranked her 10th in the country in 1992.



Louise Jackson

Has come through the age groups with the club and gained her Yorkshire CC vest in 2000,2001 and in 2003 as a senior. In 2001 she was a scorer for the under 20 Yorkshire team which won the National inter county title at Nottingham. In August she broke the club record for 1500m.



Helen Woodvine

The only female to have achieved over 11m in the triple jump which ranked her 1st in the Eastern Region of the N of E as an under 20.

Kim Bartram

Club record holder for the Pentathlon and Heptathlon, having passed the points totals of Alison Fletcher and Helen Woodvine. She was 3rd in the under 15 pentathlon and 3rd in the under 17 300m at the Yorkshire championships.



Jessie Roberts (right) with Ashleigh Robinson

Gained her cross country vest for Yorkshire in 2002 and 2003 having won the title in 2003 as an under 15 girl.

Scarlet Gray

Gained her Yorkshire CC vest in 2003 as an under 13.



Andrew Pratt

Gained his Yorkshire vest for cross country as an under 15 in 1986 and won the under 17 1500m title a year later. A member of the R&Z under 15 team which was 3rd in the North of England cross country championships in 1986.

Ken Harker

One of the first juniors to join the club and who still holds the under 17 age group record for both the 800m and 1500m, and is still competing. A member of the team that finished 3rd in the under 15 age group at the North of England cross country championships in 1986.



Steven Starvis

One of the first juniors who was a member of the under 15 team which finished 3rd in the North of England cross country championships in 1986. He gained his Yorkshire vest for cross country and was part of their gold medal winning team.



Martin Purvis

In 1988 achieved a 3rd place in the under 17 400m hurdles event at the North of England championships, as well as being Yorkshire champion in the event as an under 17 and under 20. In 1998 he was placed 3rd in the Scottish National championships as a senior.

Colin Purvis

The first and only 2m high jumper that the club has produced, his PB being 2.00m achieved in 1990. He was Yorkshire high jump winner as an under 17, under 20 and senior and winner of the North of England title as an under 17, and was placed 3rd in the AAAs national championships as an under 17.



Matthew Pritchard

An early junior member who still holds the club under 15 age group records for both the 800m and 3000m with times of 2min05.96 and 9min44.4 respectively, both set in 1987.



Tim Crane

Current holder of the club under 17 age group record for the 200m (23.2secs) achieved in 1987.

James Paul

He still holds the club under 17 age group records for both the long jump and triple jump as well as the under 15 record for triple jump achieved in 1988 and 1986 respectively.

Adam Barker

An early junior member of the club nicknamed "speedy" he still holds the under 17 age group record for the 100m, achieved in 1988 and the under 15 long jump record of 5.69m achieved in 1986. He thought the 200m was the equivalent of a marathon.



Steve Evans

Club record holder for both the 100m and 200m in the senior men's category.

Neil Evans

Club record holder of the under 13 200m and 400m events set in 1986 and of the under 15 400m set in 1988.



Gareth Hastie

Holder of the under 15 boys club shot putt record set in 1993. He was Yorkshire shot putt champion as an under 15 and 17 in 1993 and 1995 respectively.



Shane Murphy (left)

Gained his Yorkshire cross country vest in 2001..

Nick Zissler

Gained his cross country vest for Yorkshire as an under 15 in 2000 and was 12th in the North of England championships. Also Yorkshire 1500m champion. His 800m and 1500m times ranked him 6th and 7th in the UK.

Tony Coulson (2nd from right)

One of the first juniors who still holds the under 17 1500m steeplechase age group record achieved in 1988 and a member of the team that finished 3rd in the North of England cross country championships in 1986.



David Powell

The only male athlete to achieve national recognition when he was selected to represent England in the Decathlon in 1996. He holds age group records for under 15 80m hurdles, hammer and pentathlon, under 17 400m, 100m hurdles, discus, octathlon and decathlon and senior records for long jump, pole vault, discus, javelin, shot and decathlon.

Helen Darbyshire

Gained her Yorkshire vest for cross country as an under 15 in 2000.



Ashleigh Robinson (see Jessica Roberts picture)

Gained her Yorkshire vest at cross country in 2002.

James Wardman

Gained his Yorkshire cross country vests in 1993,1994,1995,1996,1998 and 1999 and was Yorkshire 1500m champion in 1995 as an under 15 boy.



Scott Wardman

Gained his Yorkshire cross country vests twice in the under 17 age group in 1999 and 2000.

All those mentioned on the previous pages also represented North Yorkshire at the English Schools championships in either cross country or track and field.



6th under 15 girls team at the English Nationals at Birmingham in 1988 were Michelle Hillman, Sophie Howard, Alison Fletcher and Katie Oliver ably backed up by Tracey Hillman and Claire Andrews. The best position by a club team in a National event.

Rebecca Blackwell

Gained her Yorkshire vest for long jump as an under 15 in 1991 and still holds the club age record of 5.11m.



Caroline Arnold

Gained her Yorkshire vest in 1991 as an under 17 and still holds the club age group record of 5.09m in the long jump.

Emma Martin-Law

Gained her Yorkshire vest as an under 15 for high jump in 1993.



Vikki Taylor

Still holds the top times for 100m, 200m and 400m by a club athlete and like her sister never missed a training session apart from a period with an ankle injury which if one medic had had his way would have put her out of the sport. Fortunately a second opinion changed that and she continued in the sport for a few years after moving south.



Peter Akers

His club record for the 75m hurdles set in 2000 put him into the national rankings for that year.



Sam Stanislaus

As an under 15 was 2nd in the triple jump and 4th in the pentathlon at the North of England indoor championships in 2002. He was Yorkshire high jump champion in the same year and was 3rd in the triple jump at the AAAs nationals

Philip Fitzpatrick

Gained his Yorkshire cross country vest in 2001 and 2003. In the 2003 inter counties he was part of the bronze medal winning Yorkshire team. He was placed 3rd in the under 15 boys 800m at the Yorkshire championships in 2002. Represented N. Yorkshire at the English Schools' CC championships.



Sophie Howard (3rd from right)

Gained her Yorkshire vest at cross country in 1987 and was part of the winning team at the Yorkshires in 1989.



Debra McIlroy

Don't look for her among endurance events but what a talent. As an under 13 girl she high jumped 1.44m and threw the javelin 21.42m ranking her 12th and 10th in the country respectively in 1990. She gained her Yorkshire vest for 75m hurdles, high jump and javelin and in 1992, 1993 and 1994 was nationally ranked 3rd, 12th and 7th at high jump. In 1992 she broke the inter counties under 15 high jump record which had stood for 15 years and her height of 1.69m is still the record. A good multi-eventer until the 800m! She was 2nd in the high jump as an under 15 at the National WAAA Championships at Crystal Palace

Barbara Ann Sygmata

Gained Yorkshire vests at both cross country and on the track at 800m as an under 15 in 1994.



Rachel Place(left)

Gained her Yorkshire vest for the 100m as an under 15 and had it not been for a serious knee injury resulting from netball could have progressed. One of the few club athletes to have broken 13 secs for the 100m.

Denise Taylor

Gained her Yorkshire vest for 300m in 1993 and still has three of the best times by a club athlete for the 100m, 200m and 300m. Rarely if ever missed a training session winter and summer for the 5 years she was a member ie Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.



Andrea Woodvine

Holds the club record for the 3000m and gained her Yorkshire vest for CC in 1998 when she won the county title, as well as in 1999,2000 and 2001. In 2001 she was a scorer for the under 20 Yorkshire team which won the National inter county title. She also gained county vests on the track in 1998 and 1999. This year she won the Yorkshire 3000m title and was 4th in the 3000m at the National under 23 championships.

Vicky Gill

Gained her Yorkshire vest in 1998 and 1999 as an under 15 and 17 in the shot putt.



Dan Brooks

Competed in the World double decathlon championships at Hexham in 2001, winning the junior title and setting a new national record in the process. Represented N.Yorkshire at the English Schools' at both track and cross country.

Fiona Atkinson/Hughes

A worker and not a talker and an asset to the club, she was the first junior athlete having been a member since September 1983 and since then has competed regularly during the summer and winter, as well as serving on the committee, coaching and managing both track and field and cross country teams. A Life Member.



Shaun Purkiss-McEndoo

A founder member of the club and vice-president who although an endurance based athlete has turned his hand to various events in order to help team results. He was the individual winner of the NYSD cross country league in the 1988-89 season and featured in the R&Z team which won that league in 1987-88. He has held the club marathon record since 1991 with a time of 2hr27min17secs.

Jim Robinson

He joined the club in 1988 and is an endurance based athlete whose talent was recognised when he was awarded a Northern Ireland vest in the home countries veterans cross country event in 1996. A Life Member.



Bill Atkinson (with guess who)

Coming into the sport relatively late in life he was the cross country champion in the National Veterans over 60 championships in 1996, as well as being active in local cross country and track and field leagues. He is now a field event official.

John Wild

He joined the club in 1994 and turned his hand to the throwing events, in which he has excelled in the veteran age groups at local, area, county and national level.



Brian Dupree, Pete Golding (left), Nick Preston, Trevor Mortlock, Greg Sutherland, Dave Higson, Jason Bythell, Karl Povey

Some of the many HM Forces members who have come and gone over the years and who helped to establish the club and keep it to the fore, particularly in cross country events.

Around 1000 female and male members have been involved with the club since its formation, some of whom stayed longer than others, so there are many others who have supported and competed for the club with distinction in local cross country leagues such as the NYSD and the various track and field leagues – too many to name individually. Without their help, team awards and promotion in league matches would not have been possible.

(compiled by Graeme Nicholson)
September 2003