

The History of the Longwood Harriers Point to Point Race

Taken from Joe Percy's book about Longwood Harriers with additions

The race was introduced in November 1939 in memory of Maurice Cartwright who gave his life saving a man from drowning in Rowley Dam (Lepton) in the summer of 1936. He and his brother Dennis dived in to save someone who was stuck in the weeds at the bottom of the dam. The man was rescued but during the attempt to bring him round, no one noticed that Maurice was missing until it was too late. Maurice lost his life after becoming entangled in the weeds and was unable to save himself.

A very close friend, Norman Hobson, a staunch member of the club (Longwood Harriers) suggested a race be organised to remember Maurice and Dennis for the way they conducted themselves in the rescue. This was agreed by the club and it was decided that the race be run in an area of Huddersfield that Maurice liked best.

Norman Hobson presented the club with a trophy (which we still use) in memory of Maurice. It was a Point to Point* race from Newsome to Farnley Tyas and back, to be competed for annually. The first one took place on Saturday November 18th 1939 and was won by F.W. Wilby in a time of 29 minutes 25 secs.

It has been held every year since and the club later added junior races. These once ran up Castle Hill, around Victoria Tower and back, until the traffic on Ashes Lane became busy and dangerous. We then moved the Junior races to an off-road loop around the Hall Bower cricket pitch on public footpaths under Castle Hill. The Point to Point is still the same as the original. Both races start from the Newsome Scout hut.

** A point to point race is where the start and finish are in the same place and there is a distant turning point which is marshalled so all runners report there. There is no set route so runners choose the quickest way to go to minimise their time. The Longwood race is from Newsome Scout Hut to Farnley Tyas turning point and back; it is run as a handicap where each runner is given a time allowance to give everyone a chance of finishing first.*

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