

Brilliant Ben beats Rowbotham record

HISTORY maker Ben Hague surged to victory in the Rowbotham's Round Rotherham International Trail event — and he did it in style.

Hague lived up to his billing as pre-race favourite by powering home in a record time.

Since the event was first held in 1983, nothing could have encapsulated it like last Saturday.

Driving away from the start at Manvers water-side with such force, Ben blitzed the opposition and such was his pace that by Treeton he almost caught the timekeepers unaware.

He was the first Harrier to win the event since Kerry Booth in 2002 and his time of 6 hours and 52 seconds smashed the 1996 course record previously held by Chris Parkes by almost 17 minutes.

The 50-mile distance was the equivalent of two marathons over countryside in six hours.

There was further jubilation when Hague also led fellow club members, Scott Williams 13th, and Richard Parker, 14th, to the team award.

Such was Ben's run, only one team ran faster, Kimberworth Striders' eight runners winning the relay section. Their team was made up of Kevin Doyle, John Hackleton, Neil Groucott, Simon Hopkins, Thomas Hardman, Phil Martin, Chris Cotton and Chris Lilley.

Completing a club double, Striders' Yellow Dayz team also won the women's relay race. Their team comprised Samantha James, Toni Robinson, Anna Hardman, Claire Chapman, Natalie Sheldon, Helen Wade, Adelle Marsden and Leanne Race.

The relay mixed title went to Handsworth Roadhogs.

A total of 187 racers, including 97 ladies, took part in the relay event across 26 teams.



Pictures by STEVE METTAM. Many more images to view at www.rotherhamadvertiser.co.uk