



**THE
BOXING DAY
“ROUND THE WALLS” RACE
CHESTER
1972-1996**

A Brief History by John Driscoll





Congratulations. . . the message to and from Dave Cowell and Margaret Ashcroft.

"25 TIMES ROUND THE WALLS"

(Title courtesy of Joe Shellhorn, President of CEPAC)
A BRIEF HISTORY of the CHESTER "ROUND the WALLS" RACE

Berwick has its "Running of the Walls" event; Carlisle for a few years had a race on its Racecourse. However, Chester has for 24 years had a unique event in its Boxing Day race combining the racecourse with the City Walls, even if for a few years the "Walls" section was confined to about 200 metres. It has been an event for which there are no course records as the route has shown many changes. In fact some runners would say that each year when they come along they do not know where exactly they are going to be running. On two occasions in its history, in addition to other changes, the route has had to be changed on the day due to weather conditions.

The idea for the event was a letter in 1971 from Roy Lowe, a City Councillor, to the Town Clerk of Chester suggesting that Chester should have an event to compare with the Sao Paulo "Round the Houses" race. The suggestion was passed to the City Council's Public Services and Recreation Committee (chaired by Fred Hignett) who discussed the suggestion in June 1971 (by then titled the "Round the Walls" race) deferring a decision until the end of January 1972 when they agreed to pass the idea to the Chester Sports Advisory Council. This body subsequently agreed to organise the event and to hold it on Boxing Day (1972). Keith Osborne, (very much involved with the Sports Advisory Council), writes that on taking up the idea the event was organised in conjunction with the then Chester and District Athletic Club, to give Chester a Boxing Day event, on similar lines to Edinburgh's Powderhall Sprint and the Boxing Day Charity Regattas on the Thames in London. The Boxing Day 'Pudding Eights' were also started at the same time in Chester on the River Dee and are also still held annually.

Fred Hignett, now a City Alderman, continues his interest in the sport as a Vice President of CEPAC and Keith Osborne maintains his involvement with the event through the support of the Chester Sports and Leisure Association. Browns the Jewellers through Roy Lowe had agreed in the original proposal to sponsor the event. For many years they provided the awards for the Senior Mens race and also donated a magnificent perpetual trophy engraved with scenes of Chester to be held by the men's winner.

The event and the route

The first event in 1972 (the results sheet calls it a 'Pilot event') was just for men, attracting 40 runners. The race started and finished on the racecourse and incorporated a clockwise lap of the City Walls, leaving the racecourse by the Castle Steps and returning through the archway under the Grosvenor Bridge after crossing Little Roodee car park. The event therefore made an almost complete circuit on the City Walls from the racecourse to the Castle which is just under 2 miles. Combined with the racecourse, the shortest distance for the race has been just over 3 miles (in the first year), while the longest has been 5 miles (1991-1994). The event has always provided a variety of running surfaces - the long thick grass of the racecourse (with hoof divots) which invariably made for heavy going or the inner area of the Roodee comprising much shorter grass but at times also wet and muddy, flights of steps up and down, elevated sections on the City Walls of relatively narrow width, road and for some years, canal towpath.

The second year saw the donation of the perpetual "Browns the Jewellers Trophy" and continued sponsorship which was to exist for another 17 years. Races for young athletes were introduced and also for ladies (although their event was discontinued in 1975 for a number of years because of lack of suitable changing facilities). As the numbers of entrants increased, the distance covered on the racecourse was extended to thin out the file of runners before they tackled the narrow sections of the City Walls and the numerous flights of steps, but all events started and finished at this time on the finish line of the racecourse.

Trevor Prescott, an experienced athlete from St Helens having come to live in Chester and taken part in the first race, took on the organisation of the event in the mid-70s and increased its attractiveness. A Veteran Mens race was started in 1978 to recognise the increasing number of older athletes running (and which now comprise almost 50% of the entries), initially sponsored by Anchor Motors then by Waltons of Chester. The Ladies event was re-introduced in 1979 (utilising part of the

Tote building as changing facilities) and for a number of years was sponsored by the British Athletics Supporters Club with their Chairman (Mr R Farmer of Heswall) attending for several years to present the awards. Although the Tote building disappeared in sections through the early 1980s, the ladies race has continued, with the majority turning up ready to run.

For two years, 1976 and 1977, the race was moved from December 26th to the 27th, which was also a Bank Holiday in those years, to provide an additional boost to increase entries (and presumably to give another days recovery from Christmas!). Entries did increase, but in 1977 the weather conditions produced a mud-bath down the finishing straight of the racecourse. Torrential rain during the young athletes' races, which preceded the main race and were held completely on the racecourse, fortunately had stopped before the 200+ competitors in the senior race started. However, the racecourse was very wet, so by the time all had completed the event, the approach to the racecourse finish resembled a quagmire. Needless to say, the Chester Race Company was not happy and the reluctant acceptance that existed for the use of the racecourse on Boxing Day for the running races was terminated. A partly new course was therefore required. For 1978 to 1980 inclusive the athletic club (by this time Chester and District AC had become CEPAC) had to mark out a route on the Roodee inside the horse track for the "racecourse" section of the event. Although underfoot conditions for runners were usually better and preferred by some, part of the uniqueness of the event had been lost. However this did not appear to deter the runners as entries continued to increase each year.

Behind the scenes, Roy Lowe as a Chester City Councillor was working hard to get the race back on the racecourse itself. The horse race track is leased to the Chester Race Company by the Chester City Council and with negotiations for a new lease in 1981; the opportunity was taken to insert a clause which allowed the athletic club to use the racecourse, provided some conditions were observed. This was agreed in time for the 1981 race (now organised by John Driscoll) which coincided with the year that Roy Lowe was Mayor of Chester. The athletic club had proposed starting and finishing all races on the inner part of the Roodee used in the previous three years to reduce wear on the racecourse. Although this worked well in subsequent years, the weather in 1981 intervened through deep snow several days before Christmas which after hard prolonged frost made the City Walls section completely unusable. So for the first time in its history the race was confined to the racecourse/Roodee. The snow and ice were so thick that the runners did not break through to the grass of the racecourse, despite the increased number of laps to make up the distance to close to that advertised. The weather also took a toll on those entered with only about 55% taking part (normally 90% of entrants appeared on the day).

The following year, and for another three years (to 1985) the event settled down to a stable route, except that in 1985 due to a marshalling error the ladies ran a lap short on the racecourse. Their event had been increased to the same distance as the men in 1983 although under the rules existing at the time, they had to start separately. Steve Cutler (and his Dad) and then Mike Gledhill took the entries during this period with the CEPAC Hon Sec, Anne Hall, doing the remainder of the organisation, before becoming Race Organiser in 1995 (although no longer the club secretary) and for the Silver Jubilee year ("My swan song", she says).

The last 10 years have also produced their changes to the course for the main races. The City Council, as agents managing the ancient City Walls, had become increasingly concerned with their condition in particular sections, with the result that for two years (1986 and 1987) the runners had to leave the Walls near the North Gate and use roads within the City Walls before regaining them near the cathedral. In mid-1988 came the bombshell with the City Council stating that the Walls could not be used for the event. This caused national press and television comment, with Anne Hall, appearing on 'Look North West' to state that the race would not be the same. However, after much discussion in the club on what to do, Anne said "Run the opposite way round, just outside the Walls". One hot, dry Tuesday evening in July (or was it June?) Mike Edwards and John Driscoll surveyed the suggested route, with some alternatives, and the new course was accepted. There was then more debate, this time over the title of the event – 'Around the Walls', 'Not Around the Walls', 'Not the Round the Walls' – with the latter, preferred by the Hon Sec, prevailing. So a radically new course was used although retaining the initial and final laps on the racecourse. Also, approximately 200 metres of City Wall were retained, over the Water Gate at the back of the racecourse main stand. The new course included road, pavements, canal towpath and steps - as variable as the original course and the first to be measured - by the original surveyors on a dark and wet November night (coming out at 4.3 miles). The approach to the canal towpath was to prove interesting the first time it was used in 1988 as one athlete ignored the marshal's directions in the dismal damp conditions and did not notice that a left turn was required as he went onto the tow path. He proceeded to attempt to run through the air and then on water. Fortunately he was rescued by the first aid personnel stationed at that point.

After the 1990 event, CEPAC received notice from the City Council that they would not be allowed to use the racecourse again. Photographs had been taken after the race which were claimed to show that the runners had worn a groove in the racecourse and compacted the ground. The City Council agreed with the Race Company that the racecourse was best left alone during its winter "sleep". The intense disappointment that another part of the original race had been removed was shared particularly by Roy Lowe who had worked so hard to get the event back on the racecourse in the early 80s. Roy felt unable to carry on as sponsor of the men's race, but the legacy of the magnificent Round the Walls Trophy exists to this day and is still presented to the winner each year.

Thus changes to the route were once again required. The Chairman of CEPAC, Alan Morris and CEPAC's Chester half-marathon course director, Chris Morgan, decided to increase the distance to a measured 5 mile, which would then let the men and ladies start together. The new route retaining the Not Round the Walls City section, used the Roodee (again, as in the late 70s) to provide the remainder of the distance. The race proved very successful on this new route and was sponsored by McCormick Architecture for 3 years at the same time as they sponsored CEPAC as a Club. In addition, due to falling entries, the young athletes races (restricted to boys) were terminated and replaced by two Fun Runs on the Roodee combining boys and girls of different ages.

However, after a couple of years problems were then beginning to arise particularly with the City section due to the increase in shopping and traffic on Boxing Day. Control of traffic is the responsibility of the police who were finding it increasingly more difficult to fund police personnel to be available on a Bank Holiday. With the possibility in 1995 of extra costs for the organisers, possible salvation was provided by the City Council who suggested using the Walls again. Notwithstanding the objections in letters to local newspapers by a retired member of the City Council Engineers Department who had been involved with maintenance of the Walls for many years, the race was due to go ahead again partly on the original route on the Walls. But for the second time in its history, the weather intervened. A fall of snow on Christmas Day followed by a hard frost again as in 1981 produced unsafe conditions on the Walls section. So the event was contained on the Roodee.

And so to this year; the 25th running of the event – and yet another change to the route. With increasing concern by the police on safety of road races, the proposed course for 1996 was to have been that intended for the previous year. However, at the request of the police to reduce the time taken by runners to cross Castle Drive near the entrance to Little Roodee Car Park, the direction around the City Walls has had to be reversed, so that the runners will traverse the Walls for the first time in the anticlockwise direction - that is weather permitting!

Some of the runners (but no riders)

The winner of the first race in 1972 was Doug Watson of Wirral AC, a well established club based at the former Lever Brothers stadium in Bebington (and used for the track scenes in the film "Chariots of Fire"). The winning time of 16 mins 30 sees suggests a distance of over three miles. The following year Dave Cowell of Manx AC became the first holder of the Browns the Jewellers trophy. Dave had several years earlier been a student at Chester College and had run round the Walls at that time before he took up athletics seriously. Along with many athletes over the years he had returned to the Chester area over the Christmas period for family reasons and decided to take part in the race, winning in a time of 19 mins 19 sees suggesting that the course had been lengthened over the previous year. When contacted to take part in the 25th race the former Isle of Man Commonwealth Games athlete recalled not wishing to take the trophy home because of its size (and value) but the replica which he could keep was the largest trophy he ever won. The ladies event was won by Margaret Ashcroft of Wallasey AC (who at that time had one of the strongest women's cross country teams in the country). Later, after moving south, Margaret (now Lockley) held, for a short time, the British ladies marathon record at the start of the running boom in the early 1980s. Winner of the under 15 boys race in 1973 was a certain Tony Blackwell - but more of him later.

In the results of these first two races are names of athletes who still compete today and who figured prominently in later races. One of these is Leo Carroll, now Secretary of Wirral AC. Leo won the senior race the next year (1974) having been fifth in the first race. He returned several years later to win the Veterans Mens race 3 times in succession and just missed out by three seconds on a fourth consecutive veteran victory. Amongst many others are Maurice Morrell also of Wirral AC and Peter Powell a Chester resident who worked at the Town Hall. Maurice is one of those versatile athletes who seem to be successful at any event he takes part in. Winner of the AAA National javelin title in 1950, he has become a very successful veteran athlete not just in the javelin, but at middle and long distances, other field events and the steeplechase where he has held several age world records. Now

over 60 he still competes regularly and although never a winner of a major prize in the Boxing Day race has on many occasions taken an age-group prize once veterans were given separate recognition. Peter Powell who became involved with CEPAC through his enjoyment of running and is well known locally in Chester for his participation in many sports, took to running Round the Walls races for fun before that became the thing to do (he did most of his training on the Roodee). Peter arranged for programme and results printing for a number of the early races as well as competing in many of the 24 events. Even when unable to take part he always visits the helpers early on Boxing Day morning to give a hand. He has threatened to run in the 25th race provided the time keeper will wait for him at the end.

In 1975, Dave Lewis of Rossendale appears as winner of the under 15 race. He later became an international at cross country and road running. Also, Tony Blackwell won the under 17 race. The senior race was won by Roger Harrison of Liverpool Harriers while Ewan Williams of Shrewsbury is recorded as the first veteran to finish. Ewan had run in all previous Round the Walls races, but this was the first in which veterans were recognised. Ewan still competes, being the first over 60 to finish in the recent Home Countries Veterans International event in Scotland

The next two years saw the move of date to the 27th and a significant increase in entries, particularly in the young age groups. In pleasant conditions, Alan Blinston of Altrincham (who had competed in the 1968 Olympic 5000 metres in Mexico City and won a bronze medal in the European Championship event in 1969) won the 1976 race, while Graham Ellis of Holmfirth in West Yorkshire used his training experience on his local hills and fells to win the mud-bath race the following year. Graham returned the following year to finish fourth. He still competes regularly, now with the added impetus of being a veteran. Tony Blackwell (as a junior and now in the colours of Wolverhampton & Bilston) was third in the 1977 race. First veteran in 1976 was again Ewan Williams, with Tec Isaacs of Wirral taking the veterans prize the following year. Ted in subsequent years won the veterans trophy on two occasions, in 1984 then again when over 50 in 1987 and is probably the most successful veteran in the Round the Walls races and will be competing in the 25th race. Again the results of the young athletes' races make interesting reading for athletic *aficionados*. In 1976 we see Gary Jones of CEPAC 7th in the under 11s, Chris Dagnall (Liverpool Harriers) third and Andy Green of Warrington AC seventh under 15. The following year, Andy Green won the under 15 race, with Mark Flint of Telford second, while Chris Dagnall was seventh in the under 17 race behind second place Paul Davies-Hale of Cannock, but ahead of Tony O'Kell (then Sale Harriers) who was 8th – all athletes who became well known when seniors, with a number still competing today.

The changes to the course for 1978, after the mud the previous year, did not deter entrants (although the number of finishers was lower). The senior Mens race entered a period of repeat winners. Ricky Wilde from Manchester, the world indoor 3000 metres record holder, won in 1978 and 1979 with Tony Blackwell second in 1978 while still a junior, but absent in 1979. Tony returned in 1980 to seemingly "at last" (although still only 22) take the title. He repeated his win in the snow and ice of 1981 and also again in 1982, but had to be satisfied with second place the following year to Martin McLoughlin from Liverpool Pembroke, who was to repeat his victory in 1984. Tony returned yet again in 1987 (now in a Wrexham AC vest) although the programme suggested the event was being held 100 years earlier, to take the title for the fourth time, to become the most successful athlete in the event (so far).

The veteran Mens race was introduced in 1978 as a separate event although run in with the seniors. Mike Freary of Bolton, a British international, became the first winner, from Ted Isaacs and Maurice Morrell in fourth place. The following year Leo Carroll won the first of his three consecutive victories, with Wirral AC runners also finishing second and third in 1980 and 1981 through Terry Harper (winner in 1985), Ted Isaacs and Maurice Morrell. The ladies race was restarted in 1979 when Jenny Pearson (then of Telford) won as she did again in 1980, but now running for Sheffield. Sue Simpkin (of Sale Harriers), second in 1980 won in the tough conditions of 1981, when two youngsters, both with CEPAC connections at sometime in their athletic careers, Melissa Smith and Helen Kenyon, took the next two positions. Frances Mudway from the home club was fourth in 1980 and has returned most years to compete to become one of the most successful ladies in the event although never taking the title. Fifth in the 1979 race was Sally Hales (Wirral) who in 1985 set a very fast marathon time (still fifth fastest British Lady) and continues to compete, now for Macclesfield and represented Cheshire in a recent veterans inter-county road race at Flint.

Again in the results of the young athletes races during this period are athletes who figure prominently in later years as seniors. Bashir Hussain (of Stockport) second to CEPAC's Kevin Sacher in the 1979 under 15 race, then had two high placings in the under 17 race before eventually winning the senior event in 1988 and then 1990. Andy Green of Warrington was second under 17 in 1978,

then won in 1979 before moving into the senior ranks taking third place in 1985 and going on to compete internationally in road races. Mark Flint continued competing in the younger age groups before 5th in the senior race in 1980, while Gary Home of Stockport won the under 15 race in 1980, beat his team mate Bashir in the under 17 race in 1981, was third under 17 in 1982 before moving into the senior ranks, where he had a number of high placings (fourth in 1988 and 89). One successful young athlete who only made one brief appearance in the senior race was Tony Holloway from Ellesmere Port, who as an under 17 finished fourth in the national youths cross country (in Wirral AC'S colours) before dropping out of the sport only to return several years later for a short period in the colours of Wrexham AC. In the Boxing Day event Tony won the under 15 race in 1978, was second under 17 in the following year before winning that age group in 1980. Ten years later appears to be Tony's only senior appearance when he finished 14th during a time when he was beginning to win a number of road races in very fast times. Mention must be made of Mark Wells of Warrington who won the under 11 race in both 1980 and 81. In the latter year with the under 11s being the first race, he had to force a very difficult route through a thick icy crust on top of several inches of snow taking him almost two minutes longer than the previous year. Again the young athletes had the more difficult conditions.

Following Martin McLoughlin's second victory in 1984, the senior race was won by a different runner each year until 1992, when Nick O'Brien (Salford), gained his second successive victory having won his first in the vest of London Irish. Chris Dagnall of Liverpool Harriers after several years of moving through the age groups won in 1985, followed in 1986 by Cliff Speers, also from Liverpool, but living in and competing for Oxford City. 1989 saw another win for a member of successful Northern club, Salford Harriers with Mark Peters' win, splitting Bashir Hussain's two victories.

In the ladies race, international Julie Asgill (running for Stretford, now Trafford AC) was successful in 1982 and then again in 1984, but had to settle for third in 1983 and second in 1985. In 1983 the ladies event had been lengthened to the same distance as that for the men and to the later displeasure of the Womens Athletic authorities, they set off with the men. This however allowed appreciation of an outstanding performance by Carol Haigh (now Greenwood; who the previous year as an under 17 had finished second to Julie. A Holmfirth Harriers member Carol's forte of cross country and particularly fell running was just beginning to emerge and is now well known having competed internationally several times. She still competes and continues to lead the field home in many events. Her performance on Boxing Day 1983 showed that fell running helps particularly when the race is on the Walls with its many flights of steps. With 379 finishers that year, Carol was only beaten by 33 men, finishing 90 seconds ahead of second lady Jill Rothwell of Liverpool and almost two minutes ahead of Julie. International Marina Samy from Bracknell won in 1985 with Sue Bevan (formerly Parker and from Warrington) winning the following year. Sue had competed in the event for several years including winning the under 15 girls race in 1973 and 1974 and was subsequently to achieve fourth place in 1988 then second in 1989. Hazel Hargreaves, a team colleague of Sue's from Essex Ladies won in 1987 to be followed by L Webb of Liverpool Harriers. Then followed two consecutive victories in 1989 and 1990 for Welsh international Lynn Maddison from Colwyn Bay, but running in the colours of Sale Harriers.

The veteran men's race saw different winners each year up to 1990 after Leo Carroll's third victory in 1981. Jim Etchells of Barrow (in-Furness) finished three seconds in front of Leo in 1982 while Jim Jones of Wrexham won in 1983, Ted Isaacs with his first victory in 1984, followed by club colleague, Terry Harper in 1985 before Sid Hope of Crewe and Nantwich took the title in 1986. Ted Isaacs returned as an "Over 50" to win again in 1987 while in 1988 Ron Bell of Wrexham, who was at the height of his performances at world level for his veteran age group, succeeded. The decade finished with Rob Taylor of Stockport, another athlete at home on the fells, winning in 1989 and again the following year.

In 1986 CEPAC had its best result so far in the senior race with Gary Jones chasing home winner Cliff Speers to take second place. Gary had moved up through the age groups since first taking part in 1977. Gary was 7th in 1984, as a junior and again in 1988, each year he comes back to run, now not so seriously but as friendly rivalry with his brother-in-law and former CEPAC member Steve Martin. Steve first took part in 1973 with third in the under 15 race and moving through the age groups eventually finishing 19th in his first senior race in 1976. Moving to work in London he joined Haringey AC and competed for them principally over 800 and 1500 metres and also gaining his Northern Ireland vest for cross country and track. Steve's highest placing was fourth in 1982 and again in 1984. Today, like Gary he runs less seriously. At present, Gary has finished in front of Steve six out of the eight times they have run in the same Boxing Day race. In total Steve has competed 15 times in the senior race and Gary, ten times. There are many athletes who have competed in a significant number of the Round the Walls races, but none as far as we can tell, in all of them.

Round the Walls Races



- Tony Blackwell strides home. . . . to collect the Browns The Jewellers Trophy from Roy Lowe, (6258E26A)

Tony strides to fourth triumph

1987

After a gap of four years, three-time winner Tony Blackwell, of Connah's Quay, running for Wrexham AC, added another victory to his total in the 16th Round the Walls race in Chester on Boxing Day. Emerging from the bunch after the first lap of the race course, Tony

pulled away from last year's winner Cliff Speers of Oxford City over the remaining lap of the race course followed by a circuit of the City, mostly on the Walls, to finish back on the Roodee and receive the Browns The Jewellers Trophy





Start of the big one

They're off. Front runners leave the starting mark as they head for Boxing Day's grass, road and canal towpath circuit of Chester and Ellesmere Port Athletic Club's annual 'Not The Round The Walls Race'.



Winner of the men's senior race was Alan Woods from Neston seen here nearing the end of Boxing Day's race as he pulls ahead of Ian Grime from Essex Beagles



- Hot Dog! Brian Hastings's dog takes him for a Boxing Day run as the Chester and Ellesmere Port AC member takes part in the Not Round the Walls event. (C4869L34).



Stockport's Bashir Hussain leads the field as the men's race runners leave the Roodee for the 4.3 mile run round the city. (4.1.91)

Repeat performance from Bashir

Young athletes of the late 80s have also made their mark at senior level. Ian Grime, one of a number of Oldham and Royton athletes (particularly ladies) who came over regularly for several years to Chester on Boxing Day with considerable success, won the under 15 race in 1985, was fifth as a Junior in the Senior race in 1988, dropped back to 9th the following year, then re-appeared in 1995 to finish second in Essex and Newham Beagles colours. Another Oldham runner, D Ireland has had a number of top ten placings in the senior event since being sixth as a junior in 1985, including second in 1991. Steve Hope of Crewe, son of the veteran men's winner that year won the under 15 race in 1986 and is now performing well at senior level with Tipton Harriers. Former club compatriot, Mike Proudlove, won the under 17 race the same year then on moving into the senior ranks was second in 1989, 6th in 1990 (both years as a junior) and has followed up with a win (in 1993), another second and two third places, an athlete to be watched as he continues to perform at high level for his new club, City of Stoke AC.

Participation by families has become a feature of the event. The father and son Howarth's of Leigh have taken part many times, with father Derrick one of the leading (older) veterans, while son John has achieved top ten placings in the senior race after several good performances in the younger age groups. The Wright family from Chelmsford have taken part many times, with father achieving fifth place in the veteran's race in 1986.

To complete this history of the participants in the Boxing Day event we move into the 1990s. Nick O'Brien as previously mentioned won the senior race twice in succession to be succeeded by Mike Proudlove, then Jamie Lewis (Swansea Harriers) in 1994 originally from Chester but now living, working and competing for Ireland. The winner of the 24th race in the snow and ice of 1995, 20 year old Alan Woods running for Wirral AC (but now with Liverpool Pembroke Sefton) provides hope for the future as probably the youngest winner of the event in a sport which is seeing fewer persons in their 20s becoming involved.

The "young pretender" is returning, but will he win the twenty fifth event?

At veteran level the sport continues to expand, as now at least 50% of the runners are in this age range. Adding their names to the veterans trophy have been D Soden of South Liverpool in 1991, Colin Demet of Salford the following year and then John Fidler of CEPAC in 1993 and again in 1995 (after gaining an English vest for the veterans Home Countries cross country event a few weeks earlier). Graham Ratcliffe of Warrington in 1994 split John Fidler's wins

Following Lynn Maddison's victories, Suzanne Rigg who represented GB in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic marathon, won the ladies race in 1991, followed the next year by another international athlete Bev Nicholson (now Hartigan), originally from Crewe, but then as now running for Tipton. Emma Davies of Deeside provided a local victory in 1993, followed by Julie Heath of Sale in 1994. Julie Boscoe running for Wirral AC won in 1995.

The competitors in the young athletes' races (now fun runs) in the 1990s particularly the later years have yet to make their mark at senior level. An exception is Ian Pierce of Wrexham who was first under 13 in 1988, first under 15 in 1990, second under 17 in 1991, and then 7th in the senior event in 1993 and 8th (but now in Tipton's colours) the following year.

Appended are a number of tables of statistical information on aspects of the event. The entry and finishers information mirrors the dramatic increase in numbers taking part in running in the early 1980s with the decrease back to more consistent participation in the 1990s. Also will be noted that from the early 90s, entries on the day became acceptable, despite the problems it causes for race organisers, with the result that a much higher portion of entrants participate. The demise in young athlete participation from the early 1980s is unfortunately observed in other sectors of athletics and other sports, particularly in the 1990s.

Looking through these results a number of names have not been mentioned in this review of the past 24 years. One notable omission is that of Scottish international, Glen Grant who took part on at least five occasions with top ten placings, achieving second once but never the coveted first place. Another is Malcolm Plant who had three successive second placings, the first behind his team colleague Ricky Wilde, and then two behind Tony Blackwell.

The helpers

As with any event, there are many people behind the scenes who contribute to its success - the police, the St John's Ambulance, the City Council and Race Company personnel who effect access to buildings and parts of the course, the marshals, the providers of refreshments and those who deal with the paper work. One group of people are the Officials who are the experienced people to take times and record numbers and operate the finish funnel to ensure results are accurate and of course to start the races. In this, Joe Shellhorn, now the CEPAC President, has for over 20 years obtained the services of a band of willing Officials who come along each Boxing Day to help. In fact Joe as an experienced Official himself and Cheshire County Officials Secretary says it is his easiest event with people requesting to come along. Officials from local Clubs such as Wirral, Warrington and Liverpool Pembroke have regularly visited Chester on Boxing Day to assist the Officials from CEPAC. Our thanks go to Trevor Lloyd, Jim Quayle, John Butler (Liverpool), Eric Sexton, Doug Hanna (Wallasey/Wirral), Frank Stringer, Doug Hughes (Oswestry), H Finnegan, George Edwards and Brian Lambert (Warrington), Derek Nicholson, Ruth Shellhorn and Charles Bradley (CEPAC), the inseparable Liverpool Pembroke trio of Gordon Evans, Duncan Brown and Bertie Knowles and many others who have given their help to make the event a success over the years.

The future

It is to be hoped that the event has in its first 25 years met the hopes and wishes of its originators, Roy Lowe and the Chester Sports Advisory Council, to provide a special event for the City of Chester. Chester and Ellesmere Port Athletic Club (CEPAC) and their predecessor have acted as the organiser and it is very much one of our high profile events. Looking into the future can be hazardous, but with the interest that currently exists despite almost annual problems with the route, it is to be hoped that the event will continue to be held each Boxing Day. Is it too much to hope that in 25 years time, when possibly another person will bring the history up to date, that the race will still exist - and maybe, just maybe, I can come along to see it?

Acknowledgements;

To a number of people who have kindly read drafts, provided corrections, comments and additional information to this history.

In memoriam

Inevitably when looking through results sheets and programmes over a twenty-four year spread, there are names of people who are no longer around, some, sadly before their time. Amongst those are Jack Haslam (of Bolton) through a tragic accident, Vanessa Chappell of Stockport cruelly killed in 1994 and a young lad who had taken part in the under 11 race in 1977 and found life too much a year ago.

The statements and comments remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of CEPAC. Inevitably only a small number of all of those taking part or otherwise involved with the event over the years have been mentioned in what is essentially a personal view based on over 20 years association with the event. I apologise to any who feel they should have been mentioned, but have not - ALL of you have been part of the Boxing Day event.

John Driscoll
December 1996

APPENDICES

The numbers

| | Finishers | | | | (Total | Finishers | | | |
|------|-----------|------|--------|-------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|------------|
| | Men | Vets | Ladies | Total | Entries) | Under 17 | Under 15 | Under 13 | Under 11 |
| 1972 | 40 | | | 40 | | | | | |
| 1973 | 36 | | 9 | 45 | 104 | 5 | 13 | | |
| 1974 | ? | | | | | | | | |
| 1975 | 83 | | | 83 | | 18 | 32 | 40 | |
| 1976 | 153 | | | 153 | 233 | 33 | 51 | 52 | 42 |
| 1977 | 203 | | | 203 | 330 | 32 | 51 | 49 | 45 |
| 1978 | 137 | 42 | | 179 | 316 | 21 | 28 | 28 | 15 |
| 1979 | 166 | 55 | 33 | 254 | 314 | 14 | 25 | 33 | 23 |
| 1980 | 183 | 56 | 35 | 274 | 299 | 23 | 29 | 40 | 21 |
| 1981 | 181 | 68 | 30 | 279 | 504 | 26 | 21 | 24 | 17 |
| 1982 | 270 | 95 | 50 | 415 | 516 | 23 | 25 | 37 | 25 |
| 1983 | 236 | 99 | 44 | 379 | 460 | 13 | 30 | 34 | 18 |
| 1984 | 221 | 91 | 45 | 357 | 474 | 18 | 14 | 21 | 17 |
| 1985 | 176 | 76 | 31 | 283 | 356 | 15 | 14 | 19 | 11 |
| 1986 | 163 | 82 | 50 | 295 | 378 | 5 | 13 | 5 | 15 |
| 1987 | 149 | 86 | 38 | 273 | 312 | 12 | 8 | 12 | 12 |
| 1988 | 111 | 67 | 47 | 225 | 288 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| 1989 | 133 | 89 | 38 | 260 | 316 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 10 |
| 1990 | 99 | 71 | 37 | 207 | 253 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 7 |
| 1991 | 157 | 88 | 40 | 285 | 320 | 7 | | 28 | (Fun Runs) |
| 1992 | 108 | 79 | 35 | 222 | 250 | 12 | | 32 | |
| 1993 | 134 | 74 | 26 | 234 | 252 | 8 | | 29 | |
| 1994 | 134 | 79 | 33 | 246 | 267 | 10 | | 31 | |
| 1995 | 96 | 75 | 32 | 203 | 246 | 13 | | 28 | |

Leading runners
(based on top 10 positions over the years)

Senior Men

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Tony Blackwell (W&B/Wrexham) | 65 |
| Mike Proudlove (City of Stoke) | 50 |
| Glen Grant (Army) | 38 |
| Chris Dagnall (Liverpool H) | 37 |
| D Ireland (Oldham/Trafford) | 36 |
| M Plant (Manchester) | 31 |
| Bashir Hussain (Stockport) | 30 |
| Nick O'Brien (Salford) | 28 |
| Kevin McGee (Salford) | 27 |
| R Morris (Winsford) | 26 |
| Mark Peters (Salford/Bingley) | 25 |
| Graham Ellis (Holmfirth) | 24 |
| Steve Martin (CEPAC/Haringey) | 24 |
| Simon Henshaw (Deeside) | 23 |
| Cliff Speers (Oxford City) | 23 |
| Jamie Lewis (Swansea/Dublin) | 22 |
| Leo Carroll (Wirral) | 20 |
| Ian Grime (Oldham/Newham &EB) | 20 |
| Martin McLoughlin (Liv Pemb) | 20 |
| Ricky Wild (Manchester) | 20 |

Veteran Men (from 1978)

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Ted Isaacs (Wirral) | 84 |
| Maurice Morrell (Wirral) | 51 |
| John Fidler (CEPAC) | 43 |
| Leo Carroll (Wirral) | 39 |
| Terry Harper (Wirral) | 35 |
| P Walker (Wrexham) | 32 |
| P Lomas (Stockport) | 30 |
| George Lawson (Manchester) | 30 |
| Roger Wood (Frodsham/Helsby) | 30 |
| Ron Bell (Wrexham) | 23 |
| Arthur Eagan (Wrexham) | 23 |
| Bob Merrell (Salford) | 22 |
| Dave Barnes (Wirral) | 20 |
| Rob Taylor (Stockport) | 20 |
| J Wright (Chelmsford) | 20 |

Ladies (from 1979)

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Sue Parker/Bevan (Warr/Essex L) | 42 |
| Julie Asgill (Trafford) | 37 |
| Frances Mudway (CEPAC) | 33 |
| Lynn Maddison (Sale/Trafford) | 29 |
| J Casey (Oldham) | 27 |
| Cath Shelley (Altrincham/Achilles) | 27 |
| A Rankin (Oldham) | 22 |
| Helen Kenyon (CEPAC/Stretford) | 22 |
| J Bamforth (Oldham) | 20 |
| Ann Cartwright (Helsby/Wrexham) | 20 |
| Jenny Pearson (Telford/Sheffield) | 20 |

Results (First 5, also first Junior man (J), Under 17 lady (Int), and Vet age Groups)

| Year | Men | | Veteran Men | | Ladies | |
|------|---------------------------------|-----|------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------|--|
| 1972 | 1 D Watson (Wirral) 16:30 | | | | | |
| | 2 D Brennan (Warrington) 16:42 | | | | | |
| | 3 T Harper (Wirral) 16:43 | | | | | |
| | 4 J McLoughlin (Sutton) 16:47 | | | | | |
| | 5 L Carroll (Wirral) 16:49 | | | | | |
| 1973 | 1 D Cowell (Manx) 19:19 | | | | M Ashcroft (Wallasey) 18:53 | |
| | 2 J Carroll (Pilkingtons) 19:31 | | | | D Coward (Stretford) 19:47 | |
| | 3 R Morris (Winsford) 19:38 | | | | S Lloyd (Wallasey) 21:11 | |
| | 4 T Farrell (Liverpool) 19:57 | | | | M Caldwell (Wallasey) 21:41 | |
| | 5 S Lawrence (Pilks) 20:00 | | | | A McKay (Wallasey) 21:41 | |
| 1974 | 1 L Carroll (Wirral) 20:14 | | | | | |
| | 2 R Morris (Winsford) 20:22 | | | | | |
| | 3 G Grant (Cambridge H) 20:29 | | | | | |
| | 4 T Harper (Wirral) 20:33 | | | | | |
| | 5 B Thompson (Warr) 20:57 | | | | | |
| 1975 | 1 R Harrison (Liv H) 17:51 | | V40 E Williams (Shrew) 18:26 | | | |
| | 2 J Robertshaw (Newport) 17:56 | | V50 K Hall (Wirral) | | | |
| | 3 M Oldham (Manchester) 17:59 | | | | | |
| | 4 A Morley (Bury) 18:01 | | | | | |
| | 5 R Harrison (ASVAC) 18:02 | | | | | |
| 1976 | 1 A Blinston (Alt) 20:27 | | E Williams (Shrew) 21:49 | | | |
| | 2 G Grant (Army) 20:29 | | M Morrell (Wirral) 22:08 | | | |
| | 3 G Harvey (Staffs Moor) 20:32 | | R Billington (Wrex) 22:56 | | | |
| | 4 G Ellis (Holm) 20:38 | O50 | K Hall (Wirr) 24:20 | | | |
| | 5 F Bell (Cleddau) 20:44 | | N Jones (Warr) 24:29 | | | |
| 1977 | 1 G Ellis (Holmfirth) 21:26 | | E Isaacs (Wirral) 23:57 | | | |
| | 2 D Driver (Coventry G) 21:31 | | W Ratcliffe (Warr) 24:07 | | | |
| | 3 A Blackwell (W&B) J 21:37 | | L Hyland (Southport) 25:05 | | | |
| | 4 P Shaw (Manchester) 21:41 | | N Jones (Warr) 25:51 | | | |
| | 5 G Smith (Liv H) 21:43 | | J Rose (Frodsham) 25:53 | | | |
| | | V45 | D Howarth (Leigh) 26:15 | | | |
| | | V50 | A Thompson (Warr) 29:41 | | | |
| 1978 | 1 R Wide (Manchester) 21:01 | | M Freary (Bolton) 21:42 | | | |
| | 2 A Blackwell (W&B) J 21:22 | | E Isaacs (Wirral) 23:26 | | | |
| | 3 L Reilly (Sale) 21:43 | V45 | M Murphy (Sutton) 23:55 | | | |
| | 4 G Ellis (Holmfirth) 21:53 | V45 | M Morrell (Wirral) 24:00 | | | |
| | 5 R Harrison (ASVAC) 22:02 | | A Bourne (Newcastle) 24:27 | | | |
| | | V50 | M Bancroft (Wirral) 26:32 | | | |
| | | V60 | N Ashcroft (Sutton) 29:02 | | | |
| 1979 | 1 R Wilde (Manchester) 21:05 | | L Carroll (Wirral) 22:39 | | J Pearson (Telford) 14:30 | |
| | 2 M Plant (Manchester) 21:14 | V45 | M Murphy (Sutton) 23:41 | | S Gaskell (Longwood) 14:51 | |
| | 3 P Baker (Shaftesbury) 21:16 | | A Lennon (Wirral) 23:42 | | G Pile (Manchester) 15:22 | |
| | 4 J Woods (Liverpool H) 21:29 | V45 | M Morrell (Wirral) 23:49 | | R Livingston (Liverpool H) 15:38 | |
| | 5 G Grant (Army) 21:38 | V45 | R Billington (Wrex) 24:25 | | S Hales (Wirral) 15:42 | |
| | | V50 | M Bancroft (Wirral) 26:22 | Int | H Watts (E Ches) 15:57 | |
| | M Tunstall (Wirral) J 22:02 | V60 | P Powell (u/a) 36:48 | V35 | A Williams (u/a) 19:09 | |
| 1980 | 1 A Blackwell (W&B) 21:09 | | L Carroll (Wirral) 22:36 | | J Pearson (Sheffield) 13:54 | |
| | 2 M Plant (Manchester) 21:17 | | T Harper (Wirral) 22:51 | | S Simpkin (Sale) 14:12 | |
| | 3 D Messum (W&B) 21:32 | | E Isaacs (Wirral) 23:49 | | J Lewtas (Camb Univ) 14:14 | |
| | 4 G Grant (Army) 21:38 | V45 | M Murphy (Sutton) 23:52 | | F Mudway (CEPAC) 14:51 | |
| | 5 M Flint (RAF Cosford) 21:45 | V45 | M Morrell (Wirral) 24:02 | Int | L Davies (East Ches) 14:58 | |
| | | V50 | D Howarth (Leigh) 24:38 | | | |
| | C Dagnall (Liv H) J 21:54 | V60 | P Powell (u/a) 33:03 | V35 | J Aitchison (Wigan) 16:58 | |
| 1981 | 1 A Blackwell (W&B) 23:50 | | L Carroll (Wirral) 25:32 | | S Simpkin (Sale) 15:21 | |
| | 2 M Plant (Manchester) 23:53 | | E Isaacs (Wirral) 25:45 | Int | M Smith (Halifax) 15:32 | |
| | 3 G Grant (Cambridge H) 24:00 | V45 | M Morrell (Wirral) 26:32 | Int | H Kenyon (u/a) 15:37 | |
| | 4 G Richards (Wirral) 24:12 | | G Lawson (Manchester) 26:33 | | A Taylor (Sale) 15:39 | |
| | 5 S Martin (Haringey) 24:25 | | V Williams (CEPAC) 28:06 | Int | L Vose (Sutton) 15:53 | |
| | | V50 | D Howarth (Leigh) 28:30 | | | |
| | R Walmsley (MIT) J 24:27 | V60 | W Simpson (u/a) 40:17 | V | J Aitcheson (Wigan) 18:34 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---------------------------|-------|----------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------|
| 1982 | 1 | A Blackwell (W&B) | 22:07 | J Etchells (Barrow) | 23:31 | J Asgill (Stretford) | 13:12 |
| | 2 | R Shorrock (Blackburn) | 22:16 | L Carroll (Wirral) | 23:34 | Int C Haigh (Holmfirth) | 13:44 |
| | 3 | E Arrowsmith (Liv H) | 22:39 | T Harper (Wirral) | 24:05 | H Kenyon (Stretford) | 13:50 |
| | 4 | S Martin (Haringey) | 22:42 | V45 E Williams (Shrew) | 24:28 | V J Lockhead (ASVAC) | 14:08 |
| | 5 | M Quinn (Warrington) (J) | 22:42 | V45 E Isaacs (Wirral) | 24:56 | Sha Astley (Blackpool &F) | 14:14 |
| | | | | V50 J Haslam (Bolton) | 27:29 | | |
| | | | | V60 W Simpson (u/a) | 37:12 | | |
| 1983 | 1 | M McLoughlin (Liv Pem) | 21:53 | J Jones (Wrexham) | 24:26 | C Haigh (Holmfirth) | 24:39 |
| | 2 | A Blackwell (W&B) | 22:13 | V45 E Isaacs (Wirral) | 24:34 | J Rothwell (Liverpool H) | 26:08 |
| | 3 | N Peach (Sale H) | 22:38 | T Harper (Wirral) | 24:51 | J Asgill (Stretford) | 26:26 |
| | 4 | P Bowler (Staffs Moor) | 22:41 | V50 M Morrell (Wirral) | 25:09 | D Thompson (Stretford) | 26:48 |
| | 5 | R Shorrock (Blackburn) | 22:44 | G Lawson (Manchester) | 25:15 | S Crehan (Button) | 26:59 |
| | | D Robinson (E Ches) (J) | 22:58 | V60 K Hall (Wirral) | 29:46 | Int G Shannon (Wirral) | 29:43 |
| 1984 | 1 | M McLoughlin (Liv Pem) | 22:06 | V45 E Isaacs (Wirral) | 24:57 | J Asgill (Stretford) | 26:52 |
| | 2 | C Dagnall (Liverpool H) | 22:19 | J Jones (Wrexham) | 25:00 | S Catford (Thirsk & Sow) | 27:16 |
| | 3 | K Moss (Chorley) | 22:42 | D Shallcross (Wirral) | 25:23 | S Kerambrum (W&B) | 27:25 |
| | 4 | S Martin (Haringey) | 22:52 | A Keller (Manchester) | 25:26 | V F Mudway (CEPAC) | 27:30 |
| | 5 | K McGee (Salford) | 22:57 | V50 M Morrell (Wirral) | 25:34 | H Kenyon (Stretford) | 28:07 |
| | | G Jones (CEPAC) (J) | 23:46 | V60 E Mountford (N Vets) | 31:36 | Int L Austin (Cannock) | 31:02 |
| 1985 | 1 | C Dagnall (Liverpool H) | 22:28 | V45 T Harper (Wirral) | 25:10 | M Samy (Bracknell) | 19:35 |
| | 2 | A Taylor (Kendal) | 22:38 | V45 P Lomas (Altrincham) | 25:40 | J Asgill (Stretford) | 20:26 |
| | 3 | A Green (Warrington) | 22:45 | V45 E Isaacs (Wirral) | 25:45 | S Parker (Warr/Army) | 20:32 |
| | 4 | L Reilly (Stamford & D) | 22:49 | G Lawson (Manchester) | 25:55 | M Smith (CEPAC) | 20:58 |
| | 5 | G Davies (Salford) | 23:02 | A Eagan (Wrexham) | 25:56 | C Shelly (Alt/Camb Univ) | 21:12 |
| | | | | V50 M Morrell (Wirral) | 26:00 | Int F Smith (CEPAC) | 24:25 |
| | | D Ireland (Oldham) (J) | 23:04 | V60 E Mountford (N Vets) | 32:48 | V V Brennan (Wirral) | 23:53 |
| 1986 | 1 | C Speers (Oxford City) | 22:33 | S Hope (Crewe & N) | V45 24:38 | S Bevan (Army) | 27:16 |
| | 2 | G Jones (CEPAC) | 22:38 | V45 D Attwell (Altrincham) | 25:05 | Int S Davies (Sutton) | 27:51 |
| | 3 | C Dagnall (Liverpool H) | 22:41 | A Day (Wirral) | V45 25:31 | G Nicholson (Whitby H) | 28:28 |
| | 4 | A O'Hill (Sale H) | 23:01 | A Eagan (Wrexham) | 25:48 | C Shelley (Camb Univ) | 28:52 |
| | 5 | K Moss (Chorley) | 23:03 | J Wright (Chelmsford) | 26:06 | L Kennedy (Wallasey) | 28:59 |
| | | G Blackwell (Wrex) (J) | 24:01 | V50 M Morrell (Wirral) | 26:16 | | |
| | | | | V60 E Mountford (N Vets) | 32:49 | V F Mudway (CEPAC) | 29:22 |
| 1987 | 1 | A Blackwell (Wrexham) | 22:40 | V50 E Isaacs (Wirral) | 24:54 | H Hargreaves (Essex Lady) | 26:53 |
| | 2 | C Speers (Oxford City) | 23:06 | T Jackson (Stockport) | 25:27 | J Newton (Stockport) | 29:24 |
| | 3 | A O'Kell (Sale H) | 23:17 | A Eagan (Wrexham) | 25:28 | A Cowen (Warrington) | 30:33 |
| | 4 | H Dixon (Gloucester) | 23:19 | V45 A Day (Wirral) | 25:41 | G Heuter (Stockport) | 30:44 |
| | 5 | P Martin (Staffs Moor) | 23:19 | V50 M Morrell (Wirral) | 25:52 | V V Brennan (Wirral) | 30:47 |
| | | | | V55 R Orford (CEPAC) | 32:23 | Int B Sweeney (Sth Ches) | 36:17 |
| | | C Boulton (CEPAC) (J) | 24:51 | V60 E Mountford (N Vets) | 33:26 | | |
| 1988 | 1 | B Hussain (Stockport) | 21:02 | R Bell (Wrexham) | 22:09 | L Webb (Liverpool H) | 25:11 |
| | 2 | G Harvey (Wrexham) | 21:06 | D Barnes (Wirral) | 22:12 | J Casey (Oldham & Roy) | 25:19 |
| | 3 | D Ireland (Oldham/R) | 21:13 | J Fidler (Riv Runners) | 22:38 | Int A Rankin (Oldham) | 25:31 |
| | 4 | G Home (Sale H) | 21:19 | J Phelan (Blackheath) | 23:23 | S Bevan (Essex Ladies) | 25:47 |
| | 5 | I Grime (Oldham/R) (J) | 21:29 | P Spaire | 23:42 | Int J Bamforth (Oldham) | 26:02 |
| | | | | V45 J Larkin (Epic H) | 24:55 | | |
| | | | | V50 R Fletcher (CEPAC) | 25:24 | V M Chippendale (Stock) | 27:59 |
| | | | | V55 M Morrell (Wirral) | 26:36 | | |
| | | | | V60 W Knowles (N Vets) | 31:32 | | |
| 1989 | 1 | M Peters (Salford) | 20:22 | R Taylor (Stockport) | 22:05 | L Maddison (Sale H) | 24:04 |
| | 2 | M Proudlove (Crewe/N) | 20:29 | D Barnes (Wirral) | 22:06 | S Bevan (Essex Ladies) | 24:22 |
| | 3 | D Ireland (Oldham/R) | 20:35 | D Lindesay (Wirral) | 22:13 | J Casey (Oldham/R) | 24:32 |
| | 4 | G Home (Stockport) | 20:40 | E Isaacs (Wirral) | 22:54 | A Rankin (Oldham/R) | 24:44 |
| | 5 | B Hussain (Stockport) | 20:47 | V50 J Sweeney (Stockport) | 22:55 | E Freer (Oldham/R) | 24:56 |
| | | | | V45 J Larkin (Flint) | 24:02 | Int J Bamforth (Oldham) | 25:40 |
| | | I Grime (Oldham) J | 21:13 | V55 M Morrell (Wirral) | 24:41 | V F Mudway (CEPAC) | 26:21 |
| | | | | V60 R Davies (Altrincham) | 29:20 | | |
| 1990 | 1 | B Hussain (Stockport) | 20:50 | R Taylor (Stockport) | 23:13 | L Maddison (Sale H) | 25:06 |
| | 2 | J Hartigan (Tipton) | 20:55 | P Walker (Wrexham) | 23:15 | J Bamforth (Oldham/R) | 25:21 |
| | 3 | N O'Brien (Stretford) | 21:03 | R Merrell (Salford) | 23:41 | J Casey (Oldham/R) | 25:31 |
| | 4 | R Jones (Cumbernauld) | 21:23 | D Roderick (Deeside) | 23:56 | A Rankin (Oldham/R) | 25:51 |
| | 5 | M Peters (Salford) | 21:26 | R Robson (Prestatyn) | 24:20 | D Freeman (N London) | 26:43 |
| | | M Proudlove (Crewe/N) (J) | 21:29 | V45 K Robson (Wirral) | 24:41 | | |
| | | | | V50 E Isaacs (Wirral) | 25:23 | V S Lloyd (Penny Lane) | 27:34 |
| | | | | V55 M Morrell (Wirral) | 26:15 | | |
| | | | | V60 T Prescott (CEPAC) | 28:34 | | |

| | | | | | | |
|--------|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|----------------------------|-------|
| 1991 1 | N O'Brien (London Irish) | 25:09 | D Soden (Sth Liverpool) | 27:13 | S Rigg (Sale H) | 28:41 |
| 2 | D Ireland (Stretford) | 25:29 | R Wood (Helsby) | 27:25 | L Maddison(Sale H) | 29:21 |
| 3 | M Proudlove (Crewe/N) | 25:38 | P Walker (Wrexham) | 27:35 | D Brockley (E Ches) | 31:40 |
| 4 | P Cadwallader (Sefton) | 25:42 | R Bell (Wrexham) V45 | 27:40 | V35 A Cartwright (Prest) | 32:06 |
| 5 | C Boulton (Lancaster U) | 26:08 | J Fidler (CEPAC) | 27:54 | V35 L Hardley (Wrexham) | 32:26 |
| | | | V50 E Isaacs (Wirral) | 29:33 | Int J Manning (W Heath) | 39:20 |
| | | | V55 R Fletcher (CEPAC) | 30:23 | V40 L O'Connor (u/a) | 40:05 |
| | | | V60 R Orford (CEPAC) | 34:51 | | |
| 1992 1 | N O'Brien (Salford) | 24:37 | C Demet (Spectrum) | 26:41 | B Nicholson (Tipton) | 29:17 |
| 2 | M Peters (Salford) | 24:38 | R Wood (Helsby) | 27:26 | J Lasenby (Essex Ladies) | 29:54 |
| 3 | J Lewis (Swansea) | 24:47 | R Merrell (Salford) | 27:46 | D Brockley (E Ches) | 29:59 |
| 4 | P Fearnley (Warr) | 25:15 | P Walker (Wrexham) | 27:50 | S Bentley (C of Stoke) | 30:47 |
| 5 | R Keeney (Telford) | 25:18 | P Weatherhead (Wirral) | 28:18 | K Butler (Datchet) | 32:25 |
| | | | V45 N Pratten (Wirral) | 30:32 | Int J Manning (W Heath) | 41:21 |
| | | | V50 J Thomas (CEPAC) | 30:42 | V35 G Heuter (Stockport) | 32:48 |
| | | | V55 E Isaacs (Wirral) | 29:09 | V40 F Mudway (CEPAC) | 32:58 |
| | | | V60 R Orford (CEPAC) | 36:37 | | |
| | | | V65 W Lee (Warrington) | 40:35 | | |
| 1993 1 | M Proudlove (Portsm'th) | 26:21 | V45 J Fidler (CEPAC) | 27:27 | E Davies (Deeside) | 32:49 |
| 2 | S Henshaw (Deeside) | 26:28 | M Foschi (Wirral) | 27:37 | J Bale (Deeside) | 34:12 |
| 3 | M Cawood (Mersey T) | 26:36 | D Gaynor (Liv Pemb) | 28:17 | S Brennan (Mersey Tri) | 35:32 |
| 4 | A Edge (Wrexham) | 26:52 | R Wood (Helsby) | 28:29 | A Bond (Wrexham) | 36:22 |
| 5 | I Wetherall (Warr) | 27:00 | V45 R Bell (Wrexham) | 28:50 | V40 V Brennan (Mersey T) | 37:41 |
| | | | V50 N Pratten (Wirral) | 30:32 | | |
| | | | V55 R Fletcher (CEPAC) | 31:11 | V45 B Cummings (u/a) | 42:06 |
| | | | V60 M Morrell (Wirral) | 30:27 | V50 L Clague (Tattenhall) | 41:58 |
| 1994 1 | J Lewis (Swansea) | 24:34 | G Ratcliffe (Warrington) | 26:23 | J Heath (Sale H) | 31:30 |
| 2 | M Proudlove (Portsm'th) | 24:56 | J Fidler (CEPAC) V45 | 27:04 | L Wilkinson (Norfolk Olym) | 32:21 |
| 3 | C Jones (Eryri) | 25:04 | V45 P Walker (Wrexham) | 27:59 | E Davies (Deeside) | 32:34 |
| 4 | D Rankin (Oldham/R) | 25:08 | T Oakes (Warrington) | 28:11 | J Boscoe (Pensby) | 32:47 |
| 5 | S Henshaw (Deeside) | 25:10 | R Merrell (Salford) | 28:15 | V35 A Cartwright (Wrex) | 33:05 |
| | | | V50 E Davies (Eryri) | 29:57 | V40 S Owen (Tattenhall) | 35:25 |
| | | | V55 E Isaacs (Wirral) | 29:54 | V45 F Mudway (CEPAC) | 34:34 |
| | | | V60 M Morrell (Wirral) | 30:49 | V50 J Porter (Biddulph) | 42:04 |
| 1995 1 | A Woods (Wirral) | 23:20 | J Fidler (CEPAC) V45 | 25:05 | J Boscoe (Wirral) | 30:25 |
| | I Grime (Newham & EB) | 23:51 | D Jackson (Telford) | 25:28 | H Griffiths (Wrexham) | 30:27 |
| | M Proudlove (u/a) | 24:26 | D Gaynor (Liv Pemb) | 25:46 | V35 J Thorn (Vale Royal) | 30:53 |
| | I Wetherall (Sale H) | 24:35 | R Wood (Helsby) | 25:57 | V35 V Musgrove (Wrex) | 31:04 |
| | J Howarth (Leigh) | 24:43 | P Maher (Vale Royal) | 26:26 | V40 A Woodrow (Wilm) | 31:50 |
| | | | V50 N Pratten (Wirral) | 28:51 | | |
| | | | V55 J Meredith (u/a) | 29:00 | V45 S Owen (Tattenhall) | 34:06 |
| | | | V60 M Morrell (Wirral) | 30:16 | V50 M Meredith (Prest) | 33:53 |
| | | | V65 D Howarth (Leigh) | 31:44 | | |

YOUNG ATHLETES

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1973: U15Boys: A Blackwell (Ch) | U15 Girls: S Parker (War) | U17 Boys: V Edwards (Wrex) | Under 17 Girls: S Holmes (War) |
| 1974: U15 Boys: I Adams (Sutt) | U15 Girls: S Parker (War) | U17 Boys: I Williams (Wrex) | Under 17 Girls: J Lawrence (Pilks) |
| 1975: | U13B: P Hicken (War) | U15 Boys: D Lewis (Ross) | U17B: A Blackwell (u/a) |
| 1976: U11B: J Green (Bing) | U13B: P Wynn (Pilks) | U15B: V Taylor (Blackp&F) | U17B: E Bowen (Stret) |
| 1977: U11 B: G Sharp (Spen) | U13B: R Green (War) | U15B: A Green (War) | U17B: M Hodson (Manch) |
| 1978: U11B: M Creswell (Liv) | U13B: P Waterson (Wir) | U15B: T Holloway (E.Port) | U17B: C Dagnall (Liv) |
| 1979: U11B: C Walker (Liv) | U13B: J Robinson (Wir) | U15B: K Sacher (CEPAC) | U17B: A Green (War) |
| 1980: U11B: M Wells (War) | U13B: P Causey (Wig) | U15B: G Horne (Stock) | U17B: A Holloway (u/a) |
| 1981: U11B: M Wells (War) | U13B: M Davies (Wir) | U15B: P Riley (LivPemb) | U17B: D Kelly (LivPemb) |
| 1982: U11B: D O'Donovan (Milt K) | U13B: J Hughes (E Port) | U15B: K Prince (Halt) | U17B: J Goodwin (Wir) |
| 1983: U11B: P Hargrave (War) | U13B: D Hardy (Longw) | U15B: R Jones (Wir) | U17B: P Riley (LivPemb) |
| 1984: U11B: P Hargrave (War) | U13B: N Lomas (Alt) | U15B: G Nutall (Wal) | U17B: C Teague (LivH) |
| 1985: U11B: I Harding (War) | U13B: D Thompson (Old&R) | U15B: I Grime (Old&R) | U17B: C Murphy (OldSR) |
| 1986: U11B: I Harding (War) | U13B: K Cull (Wheath) | U15B: S Hope (Crewe/N) | U17B: M Proudlove (Crewe/N) |
| 1987: U11B: C Coxon (Oswestry) | U13B: I Pierce (Wrex) | U15B: P Cuthbert (Wal) | U17B: M Bramwell(C Bay) |
| 1988: U11B: I Williams (Wrex) | U13B: J Staneke (Wir) | U15B: J Buckley (Wir) | U17B: D Thompson (Old&R) |
| 1989: U11B: L Boulton (StaffsM) | U13B: D Lamb (War) | U15B: D Hopson (War) | U17B: D Thompson (Old&R) |
| 1990: U11B: J Brown (Dees) | U13B: S Illingworth (War) | U15B: I Pierce (Wrex) | U17B: P Pattison (Old&R) |
| 1991: | U13Fun Run: S Mason (Wir) | U17Fun Run: R Stewart (Wir) | |
| 1992: | U13Fun Run: S Wray (Oswestry) | U17Fun Run: S Mason (Wir) | |
| 1993: | U13Fun Run: J Talbot (Newcastle) | U17Fun Run: S Mason (Wir) | |
| 1994: | U13Fun Run: I Bateman (CEPAC) | U17Fun Run: A Vaughan (Eryri) | |
| 1995: | U13Fun Run: C Heath (Wir) | U17Fun Run: R Jones (Wir) | |

CONGRATULATIONS

to the

Round the Walls Race



on it's 25th Anniversary

Good luck to all the runners - 1996

This programme has been sponsored by



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