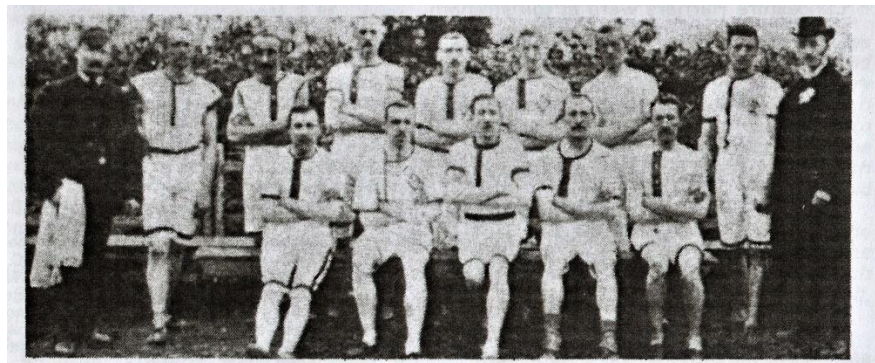


Lancashire Cross Country History Part 5

Lancashire athletes and teams were amongst the pioneers of cross country and they take us back 150 years to the beginnings of our sport. By 1882 there were a number of Lancashire clubs involved in competitive cross country and along with Yorkshire and Cheshire clubs they agreed that year to form the Northern Cross Country Association following a proposal by J.H Bowker, the secretary of a club of the time and no longer with us named 'Lancashire Harriers'. As a result in February 1883 at New Barns, Salford the first Northern Championships were held won by Tom Crellin of Liverpool Harriers (below left) with his club winning the team title.



In 1887 Salford Harriers (shown above) had won the Northern with their renown athlete E. W. Parry winning on three occasions during a period of domination by them through to the 1900's. It is good to see Salford still affiliated to the Lancashire AA today as well as us having our current Liverpool connection through Liverpool Pembroke Sefton who themselves had an early Northern senior champion in W.T.Clarke of Sefton Harriers in 1908



Salford's winning senior team of 2016



Pembroke Sefton's Michael Rimmer & Coach John Bradshaw

Our County association has its origins in 1910 when, to encourage more local competition, regional championships began so that in Lancashire, which then included Manchester and Liverpool, it would take the form of the West and East Lancashire Cross Country Associations.

The first East Lancashire championship was held at Leigh in 1911 won by Scott of Broughton Harriers but it was dominated in the following ten years by G.C.L Wallach of Bolton United Harriers (below

left) whilst the West Lancashire championship was won by Holbrook of Warrington AC with his club mate Chris Vose (below right) winning this championship and the Northern in subsequent years.



It would take two World Wars before the Lancashire Athletic Association was formed but as we will see familiar clubs will compete today just as they did all those years ago. It seems our roots are strong and healthy and will no doubt continue well into our future.

Tony Wood

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