

## CLUB RACES *cont.*



*Shona Myers in the Onepoto Swamp, 2000*

other son Norm, a Calliope great, swallow up runner after runner as he charged through from the back mark. "He can't win the first race. He's not allowed to." Only front marker Dick Taylor stood between Ambler and victory. Taylor had lost an arm at Crete and this obviously affected his running. But he hung on to win, much to the relief of the Shield donor. That first race was held over three laps from Birkenhead School.

Subsequent races have been held on a great variety of courses. The Riding Club course at Sunset Road, Tank Farm, Barrys Point Domain, and from 1986 the Onepoto Basin are just some. The Ambler Shield is a great event. Anyone can win and positions can change dramatically fast. And there have been intriguing races. Ron Wareham for instance had won in 1950 and 1951 and was determined to make it a hat-trick. He had perfected (he thought) a way to get across fences. He dived headfirst under the bottom rung, usually with success. However in the 1952 event the top of his shorts got caught on barbed wire. It is as well he hadn't tried to go feet first. Wareham ran the rest of the race clutching at his shorts, and still won! No-one else has won the event more than once in a row so Wareham's effort was a superb one.

In 1957 T Taylor, a 15-year-old in his first race, was successful and the following year a first year junior G Duck won. Other harriers to have succeeded from front

marks include Franz Shaw in 1972, Rick Gaudin in 1980, Hugh Jonkers in 1986, Roy Bennett in 1988, and Lise Davis in 2002. All magnificent victories demonstrating a keen sense of pace judgement and tenacious determination. To see a harrier both win the race and take fastest time is also a great sight. Among the Calliope runners who have achieved this are Ray Ambler in 1949, Ron Wareham in 1952, Trevor Cowley in 1953, Keith Stone in 1967, Peter Jonkers in 1991, John Beale in 1994, Paul Rourke in 2000 and Edwin Henshaw in 2001.

The full list of Ambler Shield winners is:

1947	R Taylor	1979	D Trow
1948	R Wadham	1980	R Gaudin
1949	R Ambler	1981	G Bott
1950	R Wareham	1982	G Anderson
1951	R Wareham	1983	D McIntosh
1952	R Wareham	1984	M Dean
1953	T Cowley	1985	W Harnell
1954	K Earnshaw	1986	H Jonkers
1955	G Hick	1987	R Weatherley
1956	G Clayton	1988	R Bennett
1957	T Taylor	1989	R Strachan
1958	G Duck	1990	M Lawrence
1959	J Henderson	1991	P Jonkers
1960	I Studd	1992	H Jonkers
1961	M Black	1993	G Pilkington
1962	L Vincent	1994	J Beale
1963	L Darroch	1995	C Holz
1964	D Alloway	1996	K Kent
1965	P Forbes	1997	L Coles
1966	C Harvey	1998	B Logan
1967	K Stone	1999	C Wheeler
1968	F Smedley	2000	P Rourke
1969	A Prendergast	2001	E Henshaw
1970	K Stone	2002	L Davis
1971	M Parker	2003	A Collinge
1972	F Shaw	2004	N Watson
1973	D Tremain		
1974	D Townsend		
1975	J Thomson		
1976	G Bassett		
1977	G Anderson		
1978	D Townsend		

### CLAYWORTH PAIRS

A popular and somewhat unusual





# CLUB RACES *cont.*

event is the Clayworth Pairs. Mr Clayworth, a prominent ex-English harrier who took a keen interest in the club, in 1954 presented a silver cup for competition by "handicap pairs". For many years the pairs ran together, the stronger runner encouraging on the other. In 1973 and on many subsequent occasions the pairs ran in opposite directions around the course, met, then turned and ran back to the start. On other occasions one of the pair would run first to be followed by the second. Many courses, both road and cross-country, have been used.

Winners of the first event in 1954 were B Williams and D Lisk. Calliope harrier with most successes is Lloyd Darroch who was a member of four winning teams between 1959 and 1963. Next is Hugh Jonkers, in three winning teams between 1997 and 2000. A sampling of winning teams follows:

1956	G Clayton, L Hayson
1961	N McIntyre, L Darroch
1966	K Harvey, K Stone
1971	R Stevenson, R Weatherley



*Ron Wareham with the Ambler Shield 1950*

1975	D Townsend, H Fisher
1981	R Gaudin, R Thornton
1988	M Richardson, G Carlisle
1991	M Fuller, A Matheson
1994	J Cantell, D McPike
1999	E Henshaw, H Jonkers
2002	R Barker, J Rhodes
2004	S Fairley, R Purdie

## KING AND QUEEN OF THE MOUNTAIN

This race for hill climbers was introduced to the Calliope Harrier Club programme in 1994. As part of their pack runs harriers often had to climb the steep hill from the Colonial Sugar Refinery grounds back to Highbury and so on to the clubrooms. Lance Smith, coach to a group of runners, also often had them running up and down the hill as part of their preparation. Calliope, then, was well aware of Colonial Road and its steepness. The suggestion was made "why not have an end of season race up it?" So the event came into being. It is popular, the main reason being it is over quickly! To make all work hard it is run on a handicap basis but the winners are those who run fastest times. The winners to date are:

### KING

1994	P. Rourke	4.32
1995	P. Gallop	4.26
1996	P. Gallop	4.27
1997	P. Gallop	4.45
1998	P. Rourke	4.37
1999	K. Robert	
2000	E. Henshaw	
2001	E. Henshaw	4.46
2002	N. Hargis	5.04
2003	K. Kent	5.41
2004	S. Fairley	5.52

### QUEEN

1994	R. Strachan	6.57
1995	R. Kent	7.04
1996	-	-
1997	C. Smith	5.08
1998	Y. Jarvis	6.19
1999	Y. Jarvis	
2000	R. Kent	
2001	J. Clark	5.58
2002	T. Murfitt	7.12
2003	R. Kent	7.15
2004	S. Robbins	7.34