



KING OF THE PEDS: Henry Vaughan

Giant steps

Author PAUL MARSHALL has unearthed some fascinating facts about a Chester man who became one of the nation's first sporting superstars

HENRY Vaughan was a professional pedestrian – just one of many hardy athletes who entertained huge crowds at sporting venues worldwide by walking and running ultra-long distances in pursuit of generous prize money and ornamental gold belts.

At 5ft 11.5in, the former carpenter, who was born in Chester in 1847, was described as: "fine looking, tall, well built, with dark hair and dark,

piercing eyes".

Vaughan would make sporting history when, after entering Mr Lewis's 24-hour walking match at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, London, in May 1876, he pocketed £100 for winning the heel-and-toe race with a total of 120 miles. Thousands of delirious fans saw Vaughan beat the previous 24-hour record by almost 11 miles. During his incredible performance, the exhausted Cestrian also notched up the then fastest ever 100-mile time of 18 hours 51 minutes and 35 seconds.

Vaughan would eclipse that distance by two miles on the first day of a 48-hour match against Peter Crossland, the 'Sharp Sheffield Blade', at Manchester's Pomona Palace in May of 1877, going on to win the £200 stakes money with a final tally of 191 miles.

After being forced to pull out of the Long Distance Championship of England in 1878 due to injury, world champion Daniel O'Leary, of Chicago, said of the Chester athlete: "I think Vaughan, when in condition, is the best pedestrian in England."

Vaughan competed in many other races up and down the UK before making his way over to America, where at Madison Square Garden, New York, in March 1881, he defeated O'Leary in a four-cornered event.

He then went on to train Londoner George Hazael, the first man to cover 600 miles in six days at Madison Square Garden in 1882.

Further details of Henry Vaughan's achievements can be found in Paul Marshall's *King of the Peds*, a comprehensive history of the sport. It is published by Authorhouse at £18.99 and available by visiting www.kingofthepeds.com

Alice in wonderland after win

ALICE Jennings cleared 1.60m to win the under 15 girls high jump at the Sale Manchester Indoor Open Meeting at Sport City.

The West Cheshire AC multi-eventer also clocked 9.95 seconds in her 60m heat, and added a time of 28.38 seconds in her 200m heat.

Alice McMahon clocked 26.87 seconds in her U15 girls 200m heat, and then posted 43.16 seconds in her 300m heat.

Jenni Potter posted 10.39 seconds in her 60m heat, and Olivia Montez-Brown clocked 11.16 before posting

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48.46 in her 300m and long jumping 4.16m.

Bryony Potter claimed 8.22 in her U20 and senior 60m heat, and Leah Ferrie achieved 8.31 seconds in her U17 heat and then posted 43.86 in her 300m heat.

West Cheshire AC's Carl van Schie posted a new personal best points total of 4,409 to finish third in the North of England Senior and Under 20 Indoor Combined Events Championships, and 13th overall at Sheffield.

His first day featured a 7.54 seconds 60m

sprint, a 6.24m long jump, a new best of 11.44m in the shot, and a 1.71m clearance in the high jump.

He clocked 9.41 seconds in the 60m hurdles on day two, and added a 3.75m clearance in the pole vault and a time of two minutes 52.53 seconds in the 1,000m.

Tickets are on sale for West Cheshire AC's annual presentation evening to be held at Chester Rugby Club on Friday, January 23 (7.30pm). Tickets can be obtained from officials at club nights at Cheshire Oaks High School, Ellesmere Port.



Alice Jennings