

**CROXBY CRAWL:**  
**A FEW TWO-LAP FACTS AND FIGURES.**  
**Including “Notes on the One-Lap Course Record”.**  
**Updated & Revised May 2022**  
**By Colin Wright**

Cleethorpes Athletic Club's Croxby Crawl is now in its 39th year and support from the local running community shows no sign of abating; in fact numbers are on the up for this popular road running event run over the undulating Lincolnshire Wolds.

The first race of the 2022 season takes place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May and this will be the 161st Croxby race since the first event back in 1983.

Part of the attraction to the event is that all runner's best times are recorded on the “All Time List” and times can be compared with the “Greats of Yesteryear”. Rankings are also recorded in the various age groups. These times are maintained and updated by Steve Green and Colin Wright.

The first ever race on the Croxby circuit was staged on Saturday 26th November 1983. This was a Cleethorpes & District AC club only event over two-laps and was won by track specialist **Jon Ireland** in a creditable time of 50.45; the turnout was 32 runners with the ladies electing to run one lap which was won by **Jenny Clark**.

Interestingly only two month's earlier, Louth AC, organised a road race (Wolds Dash ) from Hubbard's Hills in the Lincolnshire Wolds and after 39 years both of these events, on the Lincolnshire Wolds, are still going strong.

The race was thrown open the following year when Grimsby Harrier **Nick Goodwin** recorded 51.26 on Easter Monday, with **Jane Knights** from the host club winning the ladies one lap race. November of the same year (1984) saw **Diana Otley** of Louth Harriers win the inaugural Ladies two-lap race recording 63.34.

The following year (1985) saw a unique double, as husband and wife **Dennis and Barbara Brown** of Grimsby Harriers, both won in course record times. Dennis Brown was the first runner to go sub 50 minutes with his 49.27 course record, with Humber Marathon winner Barbara Brown reducing the ladies course record to 60.10.

In August of 1986, **Kevin Capper**, (Liverpool Harriers) three times UK AAA 3.000m Steeple Chase Champion, set a new course record of 46.15, which still stands to this day. Kevin finished 3 minutes 34 seconds in front of runner-up **Chris Bromfield**, with **John Haines** setting the host club record of 49.53. The first and only time three runners, in the same, event have gone sub 50 minutes.

Kevin Capper's opening lap during this 46.15 course record was clocked at 22.42; only 6 seconds shy of George Reynolds one-lap course record.

The current Ladies course record was set in 1992 when **Lisa Mawer**, then running for Cleethorpes & District AC, recorded 53.55, knocking 27 seconds off **Kim Bennett's** course record.

In 1999 **William Gristwood** of Ealing, Southall and Middlesex, was the first veteran to win the two-lap event, knocking 1 minute 24 seconds off **Alf Woods'** twelve year veterans course record: in fact veterans filled the first three places.

**Vanessa Aisthorpe** holder of the W35 course record is undoubtedly the most successful runner on the Croxby Circuit, winning the two-lap event no less than 15 times, with 11 of these in a row. This sequence runs from 1993 to 1998.

**Ian Chidwick** is the only runner to have won Croxby over three decades, his first win was in 1989 and his latest set in June 2000. He is the fifth fastest on the all-time list with 48.21 (1992) and has a record six two-lap wins to his credit.

In June of 2005 **Neil Farquharson** clocked 53.51, the fastest time by an unattached runner, not previously a member of an athletics club.

Since the sequence of 2 one lap and 2 two lap's started in 1987, only Vanessa Aisthorpe in 1997 had done the Grand Slam of winning all four events in one year. This was to change in 2010 when host club **Martin Formstone** also achieved this distinction made more worthy by the fact that since 2008 an additional one lap had been added to the calendar.

The youngest winners of the two-lap event are: **John Stephenson** when on 3rd June 1987 he recorded 48.57, aged 19 years 4 months and 14 days, and Diana Otley on 25th November 1984, when she recorded 63.34 aged 18 years 5 months 4 days.

In 2009 the 100<sup>th</sup> race at Croxby attracted a record field of 168 runners. The previous record turnout was back in 1987 when 141 lined up for the start.

The record turnout for the two-lap race remained 97 from the 1987 event until July 2017 when 98 crossed the finish line. This was surpassed the following year when 102 took part, and to demonstrate the current popularity of Croxby that record was beaten when 108 took part in 2019.

The most prolific runner at Croxby is **Andrew Gristwood** who has run an amazing 102 events; in fact he has even found time to volunteer when not running! **John Hudson, Tony Dann, Dave Edwards, Steven Green** and the late **Barry Dodge** have each competed in over 50 races; whilst **Beverley Wilson** is the leading lady with 49 events completed.

### **NOTES ON THE ONE-LAP COURSE RECORD.**

The one-lap course record, which had lasted 28 years, was smashed in May 2012 by the former Olympian, **Anthony Whiteman** when he recorded 21.53 for the distance.

The former record of 22.36 was set in 1984 by RAF aircraft technician, **George Reynolds**, who ran the previous years London Marathon in 2.20.40 and in 1985 recorded 49.34 in the RAF 10 Mile Championships.

At the same time Anthony also broke **George Ely's** long established Croxby veteran record of 24.24 which was recorded way back in 1992. One suspects this record will never be beaten unless a world class 40 year old Kenyan from the Rift Valley competes at Croxby!

One month later at the Nashville Music City Carnival, USA, Anthony became the first M40 Master to go sub four minutes for the mile outdoor, when he recorded 3.58.79 Four days later he became the 800 world master record holder outdoors when he clocked 1.48.22 in Indianapolis USA. One month later he also took the World 1500 indoor title at Stretford when he stopped the clock at 3.42.02.

### **CROXBY 2022 SEASON.**

One lap is 4.44 miles, Two lap is 8.88 miles.

All races start at 7pm.

#### **2022 Croxby Dates**

Wednesday 4th May - One Lap

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Two Lap

Wednesday 6th July – Two Lap

Wednesday 3rd August – One Lap

Wednesday 31st August – One Lap

