

London Marathon pacemaker Steve Anders running the fastest long stage at Liverpool.

Photo: Ralph Goodyear

Dave Burchill (14:29) had the honour of **anchoring** Stretford's first Northern 12-Stage Road Relay victory, as Steve Toplass (14:06) kept Derby in second, 42 seconds down but nine clear of Salford (Gary Davies 14:14). Glenn Forster brought Sunderland in fourth with 14:02, but Mike Quinn (13:52) was fastest on the last leg for Warrington. Michael Wright (14:07) squeezed a 'below Parr' Gateshead into the first ten — Steve being the only long leg man for Gateshead to be in the top 50 times.

Malcolm Warburton

- 1, Stretford.....4:01:02
(K. Best 26:09, A. Barlow 26:02, P. Tootell 25:46, C. Bucknall 26:03, K. Rothwell 25:36, K. Harrison 25:16, S. Alexander 15:49, R. Hibbard 14:16, D. Mullings 14:13, N. O'Brien 13:47, A. Mottershead 13:35, D. Burchill 14:29)
- 2, Derby.....4:01:44
(A. Wright 26:06, A. Kean 26:51, K. Lamb 25:42, N. Lees 25:23, T. Hall 26:15, C. Woodhouse 25:08, S. D'Amico 14:34, P. Hilton 14:16, T. Fee 14:39, P. Hammond 14:04, R. Chapman 14:34, S. Toplass 14:06)
- 3, Salford.....4:01:53
(M. Neary 26:34, S. Curran 26:32, A. Leonard 25:28, G. Crowther 25:33, M. Deegan 25:46, S. Kenyon 25:31, M. Higginbottom 14:32, K. McGee 14:22, P. Dean 14:56, M. Wakefield 14:21, M. Peters 14:04, G. Davies 14:14)
- 4, Sunderland.....4:04:08
(P. Harker 26:33, I. Hagan 26:16, P. Campbell 26:11, C. Bark 26:16, D. Hill 26:15, B. Rushworth 25:19, T. Field 14:36, R. Tough 14:21, K. Boal 14:36, D. Nixon 14:48, M. Armstrong 14:55, G. Forster 14:02)
- 5, Liverpool.....4:04:20
(P. Morris 26:23, B. Currie 26:37, C. Dagnall 25:36, E. White 27:22, J. Woods 25:22, K. Capper 25:29, D. Black 14:10, S. Butler 14:27, E. Arrowsmith 14:36, D. Reilly 14:34, R. Harrison 15:11, F. Davies 14:33)
- 6, St. Helens.....4:05:51
(M. Woolrich 26:36, G. Harvey 26:25, T. Burgess 27:16, G. Helme 25:34, S. Oden 26:59, S. Anders 25:06, J. Griffiths 14:56, T. Geraghty 15:11, B. Fraser 14:43, N. Flanagan 14:31, M. Grace 14:16, K. Jacques 14:18)
- 7, Sale.....4:05:55
(E. Williams 26:38, A. O'Kell 26:20, M. Gilmartin 25:54, C. Argye 27:19, N. Peach 25:21, S. Edmunds 28:03, K. Fahey 14:31, P. Gilmartin 14:07, K. McKay 14:45, P. Warner 14:20, S. Jones 14:29, D. Taylor 14:08)
- 8, Sheffield.....4:06:59
(C. Nightingale 26:56, R. Sinclair 26:50, M. Thompson 25:52, C. Maddocks 26:05, D. Pratt 27:34, M. Plint 25:41, D. Ansell 14:06, M. Martin 15:11, K. Newton 14:01, C. Cope 14:46, N. Duggan 15:13, M. Taylor 14:44)



- 9, Warrington.....4:07:52
(N. Rimmer 25:42, G. Settle 27:47, A. Houghton 27:25, A. Carey 26:06, D. Vernon 27:13, A. Green 25:19, G. Green 14:21, W. Thorpe 15:03, G. Ratcliffe 14:51, P. Abbott 15:03, S. Burthem 15:10, M. Quinn 13:52)
 - 10, Gateshead.....4:09:58
(R. Powell 28:00, D. Cannon 26:18, D. Stones 26:43, M. Coleby 27:23, B. Leddicot 26:56, S. Parr 25:53, G. Hargreaves 14:59, C. Roberts 14:37, W. Johnston 14:38, P. Mulhall 15:23, J. Larkin 15:01, M. Wright 14:07)
 - 11, Liverpool Pem. 4:10:24; 12, Morpeth 4:10:25; 13, Bingley 4:11:59; 14, Border 4:13:09; 15, Bolton 4:13:13; 16, Rotherham 4:13:22; 17, E. Cheshire 4:14:39; 18, Kendal 4:14:57; 19, Wirral 4:16:34; 20, Manchester 4:16:50; 21, Horwich RMI 4:16:57; 22, Hallamshire 4:17:08; 23, Altrincham 4:17:12; 24, Barrow & F 4:17:27; 25, Copeland 4:17:38; 26, Holmfirth 4:17:57; 27, Wigan 4:18:05; 28, Barnsley 4:18:13; 29, Rochdale 4:18:41; 30, Longwood 4:19:20; 31, Scton 4:19:28; 32, Leeds City 4:19:44; 33, Clayton-le-Moors 4:19:52; 34, City of Hull 4:20:28; 35, Sutton (St. H) 4:21:00; 36, Valley S 4:21:27; 37, Elswick 4:22:42; 38, Blaydon 4:23:25; 39, Preston H 4:23:43; 40, S. Liverpool 4:24:02.
- Fastest: Short stage** — C. Thackery (Hallam) 13:29; Mottershead 13:35; K. McCluskey (Cope) 13:44; O'Brien 13:47; Quinn 13:52; Newton 14:01; Forster 14:02; Hammond & Peters 14:04. **Long stage** — Anders 25:06; Woodhouse 25:08; M. McLoughlin (Liv. P) 25:15; Harrison 25:16; Rushworth & Green 25:19; Peach 25:21; Woods 25:22; Lees 25:23; Leonard & A. Taylor (Ken) 25:28; C. Moore (Bing) & Capper 25:29.

Southern: Shaftesbury Romp Home

MAN OF the moment, Steve Harris, rounded off a successful weekend's racing by proving the star attraction at the Southern 12-Stage Road Relay at Wimbledon on April 6th. Running the fourth stage for Shaftesbury, the day after his impressive AAA 10km Championship win, Harris not only outpaced Seb Coe, also on that stage, but took Steve Ovett's short course record by four seconds with a nippy 14:48 and made a substantial contribution to an excellent team effort from his club, who ran out winners after four hours of activity.

Shaftesbury it was who led after the **first frantic long stage**, Kingston Mills giving them a two seconds advantage over a trio of Gary Couch (Bas), Graham Spring (Lut) and Alan Guilder (GEC). Chelmsford's John Freeman took his team into a three seconds lead on the **second stage**, the first short one, and Shaftesbury's move down to fourth was the only time they were to be out of pole position after John Sherban's 24:34 on **leg three** left them nine seconds clear of Luton. Tony Simmons it was who had taken them into second spot, while further down gaps were already starting to lengthen considerably.

Harris's stint on **fourth** pulled Shaftesbury away to the tune of 1:40, but his wasn't the only impressive run. Taking advantage of the fact that in addition to Harris, only four others broke 16 minutes for this short leg, Seb Coe took Haringey up from 11th into third behind Luton, with a 15:09 clocking, although still 49 seconds adrift. That was almost how the frame stayed to the end of the race as sharp runs from Kirk Dumbleton (24:53), Julian Goater (24:17) and Gary Huckwell (24:56), not to mention a competent 15:48 short anchor from James Espir, ensured that Shaftesbury's winning margin lengthened to an incredible 4:17 at the finish.

Billy Dee (24:15) and Neil Tennant were the main reasons why Luton too were comfortable in second, with a 3:17 buffer, but Haringey were to fall foul of a steady improvement by Aldershot after a disappointing early race which had seen them as low as 17th on stage three. They hauled themselves back though, through solid runs from Phil Ledger (25:32), Mark Kendall (25:47) and John Hood (25:18), which left them poised a close fourth at the start of the final stage, on which they improved by one to take a hard earned set of medals at Haringey's expense.

To be honest it wasn't one of the classier relays of recent years, and there was only ever going to be one winning team. Shaftesbury had by far the most superior squad, and the gaps at the finish give some indication of the lack of conflict at the top end in the

latter half of the race. That apart, there were one or two pretty good individual runs, not least the quiet 24:15 on stage 11 by Mark Rowland which took Phoenix from 30th to 26th, an inconspicuous equal fastest of the day.

Brian Smyth

- 1, Shaftesbury.....4:04:45
(K. Mills 24:30, G. Harner 16:29, J. Sherban 24:34, S. Harris 14:48, M. Puddifoot 25:28, G. Getty 16:32, K. Dumbleton 24:53, A. King 16:15, J. Goater 24:17, B. Malloes 16:15, G. Huckwell 24:56, J. Espir 15:48)
- 2, Luton.....4:09:02
(G. Spring 24:33, D. Walsh 16:25, A. Simmons 24:44, A. Stedman 16:19, A. West 25:40, M. Randall 16:32, W. Dee 24:15, A. Hobbell 17:00, N. Tennant 24:30, A. Magnall 16:39, A. Beattie 25:23, K. Irvine 17:02)
- 3, Aldershot, Farnham & District.....4:12:19
(I. Logan 25:43, M. Jones 16:24, D. Kennedy 26:05, D. Brown 16:13, P. Ledger 25:32, C. Payne 16:19, J. Jackson 25:59, S. O'Brien 16:18, M. Kendall 25:47, N. Hilder 16:28, J. Hood 25:18, M. Lawther 16:13)
- 4, Haringey.....4:12:29
(J. Leversedge 25:06, G. Ward 16:18, G. Morgan 26:19, S. Coe 15:09, A. Henderson 26:22, I. Beales 16:21, J. Brooke 25:28, M. Dilaver 16:31, S. Martin 25:47, D. Orbach 16:39, C. Moxsom 26:01, N. Saunders 16:30)
- 5, Highgate.....4:15:21
(P. Spowage 26:44, R. Watt 16:13, C. Ross 25:01, J. Stratton 16:09, S. Blaney 26:28, J. Kelly 17:01, K. Palmer 25:55, D. Austin 16:36, R. Dow 26:31, C. Bould 16:43, E. Southam 25:22, D. Shuker 16:38)
- 6, Belgrave.....4:15:38
(G. Staines 26:25, M. Sinclair 16:17, D. North 25:23, A. North 15:42, F. Ward 27:01, J. Gladwin 15:13, O. Foote 25:49, G. Tiernan 16:47, M. Hayes 26:14, R. O'Hara 17:12, M. Bizio 26:34, P. Richley 17:01)
- 7, Exeter.....4:15:48
(S. Coleman 25:32, J. Kilkelly 16:22, I. Cornford 25:42, S. Goss 17:20, J. Zaple 25:02, D. Lee 16:16, C. Abrahams 26:18, P. Moulton 17:27, R. Williams 25:26, K. Manvill 17:10, G. Seward 25:50, D. Dymond 16:23)
- 8, Herne Hill.....4:16:01
(R. Payne 25:28, D. Hayes 15:57, A. Snowdon 26:09, T. Conlon 16:46, P. Mayo 26:32, G. Jerwood 16:09, D. Glassborow 26:08, C. Ogle 16:15, B. Brown 25:43, M. Harris 17:09, A. Harran 27:01, D. Lake 16:44)
- 9, Invicta East Kent.....4:16:17
(J. Webster 25:01, M. Hicks 16:31, N. Brawn 25:15, A. Mytum 16:44, L. Collins 26:15, M. Knapp 17:02, M. Gratton 24:36, A. Olsson 17:08, A. Girling 25:36, D. Harris 17:02, J. Wigley 24:58, N. Marrison 20:09)
- 10, Thames Valley.....4:16:28
(D. Baptiste 25:07, M. Coram 15:48, C. Nelligan 25:44, A. Pretty 16:36, P. Forster 26:14, N. Fellows 16:38, D. Reeves 25:33, G. Dugdale 16:50, R. Pitthie 26:46, J. Stoodley 17:05, B. Pfeiffer 26:47, N. Bradford 17:20)