ATHLETICS SPOTLIGHT

with Malcolm Price and Wendy Gee

Boom time continues for Hardley Runners

LIKE many local clubs, Hardley Runners can trace their roots to the early years of the first big jogging boom in the early 1980s, ***writes MALCOLM PRICE.***

In 1984, a group of Fawley refinery workers met at 'The Sir John Barleycorn' pub at Cadnam to form and name the original club.

As the years have progressed membership has grown and the type of events competed in has varied and increased.

But the social aspect of the club has remained pivotal to this Waterside group's ethos.

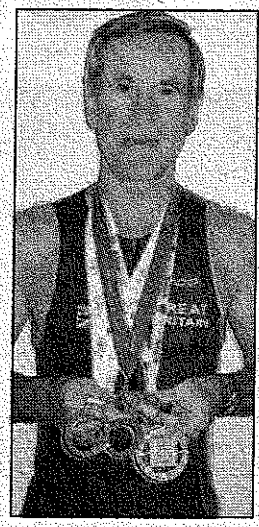
The club supports a membership in excess of 200-plus runners, appealing to men and women across all standards and ages.

This is continually being bolstered by former members who continue to support the multiple events that Hardley stage throughout the year by giving their time as helpers and race marshalls.

As founder members of the original RR10 Summer Series of races, they have been instrumental in nurturing its growth and successful transfer from a local low-key series to one of the UK's major participation running leagues.

On many occasions in recent times, they have entered the largest number of competitors in the series.

Hardley's involvement in local events also extends to the winter CC6 race series, the 2.09 Events Hampshire Cross Country League, and the Alton Sports Hampshire Road Race League.



GLOBE-TROTTER: Hardley chairman Mick Anglim.

Their greatest contribution to local running has been the salvation of the County Cross Country Championships when it became homeless in 2001.

They staged the championships around Dibden Enclosure for five consecutive years and providing an almost ideal location for such a prestigious event.

The county is returning to Dibden again next January to the benefit of all runners, but not without its problems.

Parking for almost 500 cars presents a major challenge and, along with giving competitors a safe passage across the busy A326, is the greatest headache for organisers

Alongside this sits the club's organisation of the Test Way Relay in early September.

The club hall of fame currently has two occupants in Malcolm Renyard, a highly-ranked UK veteran over the road and country and who is presently Southern vet 60 cross country champion, and club chairman Mick Anglim.

Anglim has the distinction of holding a European and World title as the Over 60 Duathlon (run/cycle) champion.

He travels across the globe in search of ever tougher events to conquer.

He is also an accomplished race cyclist.

Hardley meet at Applemore Recreation Centre and use these facilities every Tuesday and Thursday evening throughout the year for group training sessions.

Like all local running clubs, prospective members do not have to be elite athletes to be eligible. The only requirement is a true commitment to get fit. Annual subscription is only £10 single or £15 per family.

● More details from *www.hardleyrunners.co.uk*