

Jones then Allen lead the way home

Shropshire's British International runner Amanda Allen stormed to victory in Telford Athletic Club's Christmas 10 kilometre road race around the Telford Town Park.

The event, which attracted a quality field, saw Allen, from Bridgnorth and representing Telford Harriers, repeat last year's victory while improving her course record to 33.44, almost six minutes faster than her nearest rival.

Allen, one of the leading women in the country, will now line up in the Shropshire Cross Country Championships in January.

Nick Jones from Tipton Harriers, another GB International, won the men's race in 30.33, some 42 seconds outside Chris Davies's course record from last year.

Jones was always in the leading group that also contained Telford AC's Steve Neill, who ran well to eventually finish second in 30.51.

Another international athlete Darriuos Burrows, from Birchfield Harriers, was third, while former Shrewsbury AC runner Nick Smith, now representing Leeds, was fourth.

Leading

Former Telford Marathon winner Simon Lund was fifth, with Telford AC's Tom Bailey setting a new personal best of 33.37 in sixth.

Other local leading finishers were: 11 Callum Eden Telford AC 35.01, 15 Paul Ward Wrekin Road Runners 35.26, 16 Kevin Banyard Bridgnorth AC 35.29, 17 Rick Hailey Telford AC 35.50 (1st Vet 45), 29 Paul Cross Telford AC 37.57 (2nd Vet 50), 34 Paul Williams Wrekin Road Runners 39.21, 45 Paul Williams Telford AC 40.21, 50 Jamie Davies Telford AC 40.46

Women
5 Debbie Thomas Shropshire Shufflers 41.21 (1st Lady Vet 40), 7 Sian Davies Telford AC 42.31 8 Susan Candy Shropshire Shufflers 42.48 (2nd Lady Vet 35), 9 Cheralyn Evans Telford AC 43.30 (2nd Lady Vet 40), 11 Grace Hough Shrewsbury AC 44.28 (1 Lady Vet 50).

● All local runners over 16 are reminded that Telford AC will be organising a New Years Day 5 kilometre Road Race from Hortonwood 33, at 12.00. Entries on the day only.

Games' fear of Moorcroft

UK Athletics chief executive David Moorcroft believes it will be years before Britain is ready to bid for the IAAF World Athletics Championships again.

The shambolic failure to develop a suitable venue at Picketts Lock, North London, cost Britain the right to host the 2005 event and Moorcroft said: "I imagine the IAAF would not take Britain seriously until we have a stadium and I think that would be true for the European Championships as well."

Angling News round-up

River plunge can't dampen Phil's spirits

The pre-Christmas contests took place in cold conditions and most still-water events involved an ice-breaking exercise prior to fishing.

But few competitors would have been quite as cold as Telford's Phil Williams, who deserves an endurance medal for fishing on for four hours after falling into the Severn at Shrewsbury in freezing conditions.

MALCOLM KELLY
reporting

Phil, who is grouped with Fosters Tipton was fishing Sunday's Fur & Feather match when he pitched, head first into the river but decided it was the best peg he had drawn for some time, and so fished on.

The match winner was John Buttery (Little Dawley) who drew the peg below last week's winner, and worked with waggler and stick to take chub and dace, well out at the top of the County ground (peg 12).

Persistence

John finished the match with 13-9-0, nearly 2¹/₂ lbs clear of Bob Jones (Crewe). Bob also drew a County Ground peg 33 by the canoe ramp, and caught roach, dace and chub for 11-3-0.

Williams persistence paid off with the best weight from the Quarry 8-11-0, which put him into third place.

There are opens on the Quarry on Saturday and Monday, this week, contact Sundorne Tackle to check on ticket availability on 01743 361804.

Nige Clarke (RAF) had a good weekend at Boldings pools, taking second place on Saturday behind Ed Turner (OB) and top spot on Sunday.

Ed won on Saturday with 24-10-0 from Hawthorn pool peg 1 using corn and pole to take carp to 4lbs at 10 metres, but was pushed all the way to the finish by Clarke, who caught a similar stamp of fish, close to the island at Hawthorn 5, for 23-10-8.

Third, and best on the Sycamore pool was Bill Kemp (NWT) with 20-3-0.

Despite Sunday's hard frost Nige Clarke upped the ante on the Beech pool, and almost trebled Saturday's weight when he opted for waggler tactics at Beech 8, and made a 63-3-0 haul of carp to 6lbs.

Phil Rhodes (NWT) net-

ted 32-7-0 at Hawthorn 5 for second, finishing well ahead of Dave Lloyd (OB) on 15-4-0 and Mel Kelly (NWT) with 14-0-0.

Colin Barnes made the breakthrough to top place at Holmer Lake after several near misses when he scaled a level 10lbs on the dam wall. Two hybrids of 2lbs boosted his roach catch, taken on long pole and maggot.

Brian Ashley lost some decent fish on a snag at peg 29 before using some heavy gear to remove the snag (a dog fouling sign). Brian then went on to take 9-6-0 of roach on the feeder for second place, ahead of Pete Moss on 3-4-0 in third.

Dispelled

The ice at the car park and of Randlay Pool was too thick to break easily so the open was moved to the far end of the pool where the ice was much thinner.

Thoughts that bites were going to be hard to come by were soon dispelled and everyone caught small roach, with some better stamp roach, as well as skimmers also showed up.

Steve Roberts topped the list with 7-13-4, holding off Mick Musgrave who was close behind on 7-9-8.

Les Pritchard came back from a two year lay off from match fishing to take third with 6-14-4.

Oswestry's Roy Machin won the Count Trout fishery's Pensioners competition with 14 fish to 6lbs on a nomad to pick up the £100 top prize.

Second was Keith Drury of Essington with eight fish on a fritz.

There is an open on Holmer lake tomorrow, £8 all in. Draw 9am.

Bonus peg pays extra £100. Contact Stan Harris on 01952 590605.



Telford Athletic Club runners are to the fore at the start of the club's Christmas 10 kilometre road race around the Telford Town Park



Great Britain international Nick Jones, from Tipton Harriers, won the men's race in 30.33



Telford Athletic Club's Steve Neill ran well to eventually finish second in a time of 30.51