

A Brief History of the Inter Club Road Grand Prix Series 1985 – 2019

A Potted History

The Inter Club Road Grand Prix Series, from what I can determine, came about in 1985 when 3 Clubs held a Triangular Series of races. The background to the series must have come from the "Continental 5" which was held every two weeks during the summer months from the Continental Pub on the corner of South Meadow Lane and Riverside adjacent to Avenham Park in Preston and possibly commenced in 1979. There were 10 races in all with a Handicap to end with and it seems that up to 36 runners took part.

In 1985 Chorley AC, Preston Harries and Springfields AC (based at BNFL Salwick) each hosted a race. The first leg was at Chorley on 30th May with 56 runners and the winner was Ken Moss (Chorley AC) with Chorley AC 1st Team.

The second leg was on 31st July on the Continental Course at Preston and again Ken Moss finished 1st but with Preston H taking the Team based on 10 to count (as it still is today).

The third and final leg of the Triangular Series was the Continental Course in Reverse on 3rd September which was won by John Nuttall (Preston H) with 55 finishing and Preston taking the team on the night. The Overall Series winners were Preston H with Springfield Second 3rd Chorley Third.

It was from these small beginnings that the Inter Club grew and grew to what it has become today and has attracted some of the finest runners from the competing clubs. In 1985 John Nuttall won the 3000m at the English Schools' Athletic Championships in a championship record and placed third that same year at the European Athletics Junior Championships so future runners had a lot to live up to!

Over time there have been changes to some of the Clubs taking part in the Series due to Clubs folding (Springfield), Clubs merging (NFAC & B&F AC to form BWF AC) and new Clubs being formed (Thornton Cleveleys RC). In the 1990s when there were 7 Clubs for a few years one club stood down from hosting on a rota basis but when TCRC joined it was agreed to have 7 races in the Series.

The number of runners participating has increased over the years and it is interesting looking back and read that in 2003 (163 finished the NF AC Race) there were concerns expressed that the number of runners was approaching the Police limits. By 2014 228 runners finished the first IC at Blackpool, in 2016 it was up to 304, whereas in 2019 455 runners completed the Blackpool IC. It is this increase in competitors that is now causing the Race Organisers some concern, as it has a knock-on impact to the Health & Safety of the athletes and the public, car parking, toilet facilities and catering.

The buffet after the race has become a very welcome tradition but for a couple of years it was agreed to stop it due to pressure on the smaller clubs to cater for growing numbers. However, it was reinstated and now all clubs rely on their members efforts rather than asking a Pub to provide.

Throughout the years the number of Award Categories has increased to take into account the growing number of Masters' Athletes and the welcome increase in Women's running. In the first year it was 10 to count for the Overall team Award, in 1986 a Vets Category with 4 to count was introduced, which became 5 in 1993 when the Ladies Award was introduced with 4 to count. The Masters 50 Award was introduced in 2005 with the Masters 60 Award the following year recognising the longevity of athletes. Finally, in 2017 a Ladies Masters Category was introduced as the numbers were again increasing. The Men's Individual Shield was presented by the family of Glyn Carradice (NF AC) following his early death in 2003. The Ladies Individual Cup, was originally for the main Team Award but after languishing in a Trophy Shop for over a year, and a new shield purchased, was re-found and designated to the Ladies!

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Key Figures in the Inter Club

Notional Chairs:

2002 – 2020 Nick Hume
???? - 2001 Brian Turner

Treasurers:

2003 – 2020 Nick Hume
???? – 2002 Joyce Orritt

Results Compilers:

2017 – 2020 Greg Oulton
2010 – 2016 Alan Hudson
2004 - 2019 Tony Croft
???? – 2003 Mike Coppin

Summary of Clubs Joining / Leaving the Series

1985 Chorley AC, Preston Harriers & AC, Springfields AC
1988 Chorley AC, Preston Harriers AC, Springfields AC, Wesham Road Runners
1992 Chorley AC, North Fylde AC, Preston Harriers & AC, Springfields AC, Wesham Road Runners
1993 Chorley AC, North Fylde AC, Preston Harriers & AC, Red Rose Road Runners, Springfields AC, Wesham Road Runners
1995 Chorley AC, North Fylde AC, Preston Harriers & AC, Red Rose Road Runners, Wesham Road Runners
2000 Chorley AC, Lytham St Annes Road Runners, North Fylde AC, Preston Harriers & AC, Red Rose Road Runners, Wesham Road Runners
2003 Blackpool & Fylde AC, Chorley AC, Lytham St Annes Road Runners, North Fylde AC, Preston Harriers & AC, Red Rose Road Runners, Wesham Road Runners
2007 Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde AC, Chorley AC, Lytham St Annes Road Runners, Preston Harriers & AC, Red Rose Road Runners, Wesham Road Runners
2015 Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde AC, Chorley AC, Lytham St Annes Road Runners, Preston Harriers & AC, Red Rose Road Runners, Thornton Cleveleys Road Runners, Wesham Road Runners

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The Awards Winners 1985 - 2019

Open Category – 10 to Count

Year	Team Award: The Inter Club Open Trophy	Overall Individual & Club: The Inter Club Grand Prix Glyn Carradice Memorial Trophy
1985	Preston Harriers	
1986	Preston Harriers	
1987	Preston Harriers	
1988	Preston Harriers	
1989	Springfields AC / Preston Harriers	
1990	Preston Harriers	
1991	Chorley AC	
1992	North Fylde AC	
1993	Preston Harriers	
1994	Preston Harriers	
1995	Preston Harriers	
1996	Preston Harriers	
1997	Preston Harriers	
1998	Preston Harriers	
1999	North Fylde AC	
2000	North Fylde AC	
2001	North Fylde AC	
2002	Preston Harriers	
2003	North Fylde AC	
2004	Wesham Road Runners	J Prowse B & F AC
2005	North Fylde AC	S Hallas PH

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2006	Preston Harriers	A Sutton	PH
2007	Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde AC	A Ford	BWF AC
2008	Preston Harriers	J Prowse	BWF AC
2009	Preston Harriers	S Robinson	BWF AC
2010	Preston Harriers	G Pennington	PH
2011	Preston Harriers	S Robinson	BWF AC
2012	Preston Harriers	R Affleck	PH
2013	Preston Harriers	R Affleck	PH
2014	Preston Harriers	R Affleck	PH
2015	Preston Harriers	R Danson	WRR
2016	Preston Harriers	R Danson	WRR
2017	Preston Harriers	R Danson	WRR
2018	Preston Harriers	R Danson	WRR
2019	Preston Harriers	R Danson	WRR

Vets Category – initially 5 to Count but now 6

Year	Team Award:	Overall Individual
	The Inter Club 1st Vets Team Trophy	
1986	Chorley AC	
1987	Chorley AC	
1988	Chorley AC	
1989	Chorley AC	
1990	Preston Harriers	
1991	Chorley AC	
1992	North Fylde AC	

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1993	Preston Harriers		
1994	Preston Harriers		
1995	Preston Harriers		
1996	Preston Harriers		
1997	North Fylde AC		
1998	North Fylde AC		
1999	Wesham Road Runners		
2000	North Fylde AC		
2001	North Fylde AC		
2002	North Fylde AC		
2003	North Fylde AC		
2004	Wesham Road Runners		
2005	North Fylde AC		
2006	North Fylde AC		
2007	Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde AC		
2008	Preston Harriers		
2009	Preston Harriers		
2010	Preston Harriers		
2011	Preston Harriers		
2012	Preston Harriers		
2013	Preston Harriers		
2014	Preston Harriers		
2015	Preston Harriers	R Affleck	PH
2016	Preston Harriers	R Affleck	PH
2017	Preston Harriers	R Affleck	PH
2018	Preston Harriers	R Affleck	PH

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2019	Preston Harriers	
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Vets 50 Category – 4 to Count

Year	Team Award: The Inter Club Grand Prix V50 Team Trophy	Overall Individual	
2005	Wesham Road Runners		
2006	Wesham Road Runners		
2007	Wesham Road Runners		
2008	Wesham Road Runners		
2009	Wesham Road Runners		
2010	Wesham Road Runners		
2011	Wesham Road Runners		
2012	Wesham Road Runners		
2013	Preston Harriers		
2014	Red Rose Road Runners		
2015	Red Rose Road Runners	J Wright	BWF AC
2016	Red Rose Road Runners	J Wright	BWF AC
2017	Red Rose Road Runners	P Leybourne	BWF AC
2018	Preston Harriers	P Leybourne	BWF AC
2019	Preston Harriers		

Vets 60 Category – 3 to Count

Year	Team Award: The Wesham Trophy Inter Club Series V60 Team	Overall Individual	
2006	Wesham Road Runners		

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2007	Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde AC		
2008	Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde AC		
2009	Red Rose Road Runners		
2010	Wesham Road Runners		
2011	Wesham Road Runners		
2012	Wesham Road Runners		
2013	Wesham Road Runners		
2014	Wesham Road Runners		
2015	Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde AC	J Collier	WRR
2016	Red Rose Road Runners	K Addison	RRRR
2017	Red Rose Road Runners	J Swarbrick	RRRR
2018	Red Rose Road Runners	D Jolly	CAC
2019	Wesham Road Runners		

Ladies Category – 5 to Count

The Inter Club Series Ladies Trophy Presented by North Fylde AC

Year	Team Award: The Inter Club Series Ladies Trophy Presented by North Fylde AC	Overall Individual: The Preston Harriers RW Roberts Memorial Trophy
1993	Red Rose Road Runners	
1994	North Fylde AC	
1995	North Fylde AC	
1996	North Fylde AC	
1997	North Fylde AC	
1998	Preston Harriers & Red Rose Road Runners	
1999	North Fylde AC	

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2000	North Fylde AC		
2001	North Fylde AC		
2002	Preston Harriers		
2003	Blackpool & Fylde AC		
2004	North Fylde AC		
2005	North Fylde AC	G Titterington	B & F AC
2006	Blackpool & Fylde AC	C Betmead	NFAC
2007	Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde AC	C Betmead	BWF AC
2008	Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde AC	G Unsworth	BWF AC
2009	Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde AC	L Abbott	PH
2010	Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde AC	J Goorney	WRR
2011	Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde AC	C Betmead	BWF AC
2012	Preston Harriers	G Adams	PH
2013	Wesham Road Runners	J Goorney	WRR
2014	Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde AC	J Goorney	LSA RR
2015	Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde AC	E Japp	BWF AC
2016	Wesham Road Runners	J Goorney	LSA RR
2017	Lytham St Annes Road Runners	C Carrdus	LSA RR
2018	Lytham St Annes Road Runners	T Robinson	WRR
2019	Lytham St Annes Road Runners	L Abbott	LSA RR

Ladies F40 Vets Category – 5 to Count

Year	Team Award: Inter Club Series Lady Vets Champions	Overall Individual	
2017	Wesham Road Runners	C Carrdus	LSA RR
2018	Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde AC	T Robinson	WRR

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2019	Lytham St Annes Road Runners	
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