

6547 The Fylde North AC Team at John O'Groats before leaving for Lands End

6549 The Fylde North AC Team at Norcross before leaving for John O'Groats

6551 The Running team: top row Nick Hume, Graham Davies, David Wood, middle row Chrissie O'Connor, Terry Bradshaw, Tony Airnes, Ian Close, Stuart Williams, Gary Johnson, bottom Tony Codling and Malc Sherwood.

6552 Part of the Team at Land's End: David Wood, Chrissie O'Connor, Malc Sherwood, Graham Davies, Gwen James, Tony Codling and Gary Johnson

Dated 6th May 2020

In 2004, Nine years after the Kevin Ryan Memorial Lands End to John O'Groats Relay Run, it was Tony Airnes 50th Birthday, and as part of his celebrations, he organised a second North Fylde Club Relay, but this time from John O' Groats to Lands End to raise money for Rock FM Help a Local Child Charity.

Together with Tony Airnes, were Nick Hume, and Gary Johnson, who had all run the Relay nine years previous. The new members of the running team were: Graham Davies, Tony Codling, Terry Bradshaw, David Wood, Malc Sherwood, Stewart Williams, Ian Close, with Chrissie O'Connor as reserve. The support team was Tony's wife Liz Airnes, his daughter Tracy, Andy Edwards, David Ford, who provided food and refreshments in testing conditions, Gwen James, Eileen Swallow, Mike Walsh and, Bob Fairclough, Mike Wright, with Tony Croft as home Co-ordinator.

Although a little chilly at the start, the weather was kind for the whole of the Relay. As in the LEJOG, there were two teams of five runners, in each bus, with each runner completing 10 miles, while the members of the other bus recovered, and slept. One minor problem that was discovered during the Relay, was that the individual mileometers, showed slightly different mileage, which did cause slight problems in meeting up.

There were several amusing incidents. It was a continuous Relay, and once in the early hours of the morning in Lancashire, one member of the public was shocked to see a runner in shorts and vest carrying a baton, running towards him. A bus generally stayed close to a runner, but this wasn't possible on the Forth Road Bridge, and he had to run the 2.5K on his own, whilst a few days later, running through Bristol city centre on a warm Saturday night, with merry makers lining the pavements, with glasses of alcohol in hand, meant again there was a separation for a few minutes.

After a similar encounter with the police to the one near Edinburgh nine years previous, during the LEJOG, the team arrived at Lands End in the early hours of Monday morning, four days and 15 hours after leaving John O'Groats having raised £10,000. After sleeping in the Van's until light, the crew returned to Lands End for the obligatory photographs and celebrations.



