

Ripon Runners David Jelley and Chris Brown travelled to Switzerland to compete in what is billed as the 'Zermatt Marathon adventure' last weekend. Starting in St. Niklaus, situated in the lowest-lying mountain valley in Switzerland, and ending on Riffelberg by Gornergrat, the highest-altitude finish line in Europe at 2,585 metres above sea level, the Zermatt Marathon is the supreme alpine racing challenge. On the first 20 kilometres of the race from St. Niklaus to Zermatt, the course continues through the valley floor, mainly along the left bank of the Vispa River. The half-marathon distance will be reached at the Zermatt Bahnhofstrasse. From there, the course winds along an alpine road up to Sunnegga. The next leg of the race is via Gant, and after a stretch of flat land, competitors will reach Riffelalp at 2,222 metres high. Over the remaining kilometres there is a final elevation of almost 400 metres before reaching the finish at a height of 2,585 on Riffelberg by Gornergrat. Both David and Chris rose superbly to the challenge of this course with David finishing in 4.30.42 placing him 12th in his age group and Chris finished in 5.35.25 to make him 13th finisher in his age group.

On Sunday 5th July there were plenty of nervous runners to be found in Masham market place for the start of the challenging Burn Valley half marathon. After the blip in the weather last year when it was wet and cool the usual Burn Valley run weather had returned and it was warm and sunny to make this 'beast' of a run tougher than it already is! Although not as hilly as the Zermatt Marathon the runners have to contend with long steep hills including Breary Banks at just before the half way point. Although once they have been surmounted the views from the top of these hills are truly stunning. Ripon's Pete Chapman was first home for the team in 9th position overall in a time of 1.26.24 he was followed by Bill Forman 1.30.24, Paul Morgan 1.35.46, Gary Wilks 1.38.34, Steve Oates 1.39.10, Nick Wilson 1.39.20, Ray Raper 1.40.10, John Ward 1.42.57, Michael Hall 1.44.50, Scott Wray 1.49.05, Ray Johnstone 1.50.19, Jo Hope 1.58.23, Will l'Anson 2.00.13, Martin Hope 2.00.28, Ian Hallett 2.00.56, Ellie Pocock 2.03.20, Mel Dutka 2.04.42, Robin Kehoe 2.07.07, Jo Wallace 2.08.25, Anneke Imeson 2.12.19, John Bull 2.15.18, Fiona Prestwich 2.15.23, Michelle Needham 2.15.32, Graham Green 2.15.33, Lisa Sorby 2.15.56, Bob Mundy 2.16.58, Leah Horner 2.19.49, Helena Conlin 2.20.20, Emma Appleton 2.26.23, Sarah Haslam 2.28.48, Vicky Clayton 2.30.03, Eleanor Hartas 2.55.34.

The final race of the Harrogate District Summer Race League took place on Thursday 2nd July at Otley. This course which is just over 10k has one very long hill to contend with towards the end but then the runners are rewarded for their efforts with a downhill finish. First home for Ripon was Pete Chapman in 39.34, then Ben Imeson 40.01, Mike Appleton 40.04, Bill Forman 40.12, James Raper 41.04, Andrew Turner 42.09, Ray Raper 43.25, Lisa Quinn 47.47, John Rowley 48.20, Simon Merrin 49.02, Matthew Holt 50.51, John Grundy 50.52, Suzanne Rickard 50.54, Mike Pennock 53.18, Stella Morgan 53.31, Claire Mumford 53.39, Andy Matheson 54.04, Lester Pickard 55.02, Robin Kehoe 55.10, Mel Dutka 56.59, Helen Pickard 57.46, Michelle Needham 57.54, Lesley Willoughby 57.54, Vicky Clayton 70.20, John Stead 70.33, Eleanor Hartas 78.13.

On Sunday 28th July there were hot and humid conditions for the Rainton 10k. Andrew Turner was first Ripon Runner to finish in 39.59 he was followed by Gary Wilks 41.02, Nick Wilson 41.25, John Ward 42.44, Ray Johnstone 43.18, Chris Brown 43.23, Michael Hall 44.27, Scott Wray 46.05, Dave Nicklas 47.05, Matthew Holt 48.12, P.O'Rourke 48.34, Martin Cummins 48.47, Karen Jones 48.56, D.Cooper 49.00, Jo Wallace 49.03, Suzanne Rickard 49.14, Mel Dutka 51.26, Penny l'Anson 52.12, Stella Morgan 52.55, Lesley Willoughby 55.36, Sharon Stoker 55.56, Fiona Prestwich 56.50, Helena Conlin 58.51, Vicky Clayton 60.36, Lisa Sorby 72.42, Eleanor Hartas 73.40.

On May 10th John Rowley completed the Geneva Half marathon in a time of 1.15.20. This fantastic time placed him first in the 55-60 age group.