

ATHLETICS

Hope takes a surprise first in 5k handicap

» **BEN Hope was the surprise fastest in Severn Athletic Club's virtual 5K Road Race Handicap.**

The 25-year-old son of Alex Hope, one of the city's best-ever middle distance runners, Hope is home working at his parents from his London job.

His previous best performance was third in the Tredworth Easter Monday 4.3 Mile Race in 2019.

He now aims at winter cross-country in Severn's challenge in Division Three of the Birmingham League.

Actual time with handicap placing in brackets: Ben Hope 17:06 (1), James Rose (V40) 17:09 (10), Chris Brown 17:13 (18), Dave Clarke (V45) 18:49 (5), Richard Frape (V40) 18:55 (12), Adrian England (V40) 19:10 (16), Dave Howells (V50) 19:18 (14), Chris Barstow (V40) 20:18 (13), Tracey Brenton (LV45) 20:56 (6), Kevin Probyn (V50) 21:33 (17), Darren Ridgley (V40) 21:40 (4), Neil Taylor (V50) 21:43 (2), Lizzie Barstow (LV35) 23:57 (11), Greg Leyshon (V70) 24:13 (15), George Scully (V70) 24:32 (7), Kieran Roberts 25:21 (8), Victor Marques (V45) 32:15 (3), John James (V70) 38:23(9).

Severn AC are resurrecting as a virtual one-off, one of Gloucester's original road races.

The Gloucester Carnival 7.5 mile Road Race will be taking place between July 27 and August 2.

Details at Severnac.com (runners must be aged 17 and over).

GOLF

Jotcham's joy

» **ROSS Golf Club welcomed 138 entrants from 33 clubs for its latest men's Seniors Singles Open.**

Ross's Paul Jotcham, who entered as a late substitute, scored 43 stableford points to beat Malcolm Parker (41) and Edward Kenny (37) both from Droitwich GC and Ridgeway's Kim-Boon Lim (37).

Home players featured strongly in the prize list headed by Peter Lawrence 42 points, Tim Fewell, Colin Gladwyn and Dave Hart (41), Chris Tweedale 39, Peter James 38 and Seniors vice-captain Nigel Gibbs on 37.

SPORT



Akeem Ennis-Brown in training for the fight with Philip Bowes

Picture: Liam Hartery

Ready for action Ennis-Brown in determined mood for title shot

BOXER Akeem Ennis-Brown says the thought of becoming Gloucester's first British and Commonwealth champion is what will spur him to victory later this year.

The 24-year-old super-lightweight trains out of Jon Pitman's Fight Factory gym after first picking up the sport as a teenager.

Since then, Ennis-Brown, who also goes by the name of Riiddy Rival, has won all 13 of his professional bouts.

It was recently announced that Ennis-Brown will be headlining an MTK show, which will see him face London's Philip Bowes for the British and Commonwealth straps on

September 1.

Victory over 36-year-old Bowes, 20-3, will see Ennis-Brown crowned the new British and Commonwealth champion and the first from Gloucester.

Whilst reflecting on his chance to make history, Ennis-Brown says he relishes the challenge.

"I love the pressure. I can't lie, I love it because if there was no pressure on anything it would be boring," he said.

"We would be making history and breaking records. That's what I've been doing my whole career so far, I am still the youngest ever English champion.

"That's the stuff that drives me

and fires me up. Some people can't rise to the occasion but I always do. "Pressure makes diamonds and it's going to make me one as well."

The Gloucester boxer was initially pencilled in to fight Bowes in November of 2019, but the bout was postponed after blood was found in Bowes' urine the day before the fight.

The fight was then again rearranged for March this year, before it was curtailed again by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Now Ennis-Brown will come face to face with Bowes in Wakefield after MTK revealed plans to host several shows behind closed doors.

While admitting it may feel a little

strange, the 24-year-old said he is not concerned by the environment in which the contest will take place.

"I look at this the same way I do anything else, fighting behind closed doors will be a new experience,"

"In a way, I'm excited to experience it but I am a little bit disappointed because I won't be able to play up to the crowd or enjoy a crowd.

"I've been asked about it a lot and I just tell people that I would fight Philip Bowes in my garden if I had to, I don't care, it doesn't faze me - I just want to get those titles.

"As long as me and him (Bowes) are in the ring I don't mind."



Robert Milkins is aiming for a ninth appearance at the World Snooker Championships at The Crucible

Milkins could face White

GLOUCESTER'S Rob Milkins could have to beat People's Champion Jimmy White if he is to reach the final stages of this year's delayed World Snooker Championships.

Milkins will have to win two qualifying matches to reach the hallowed baize of Sheffield's Crucible Theatre for the sport's blue riband event, starting on July 31.

It would be the 44-year-old's ninth appearance if he makes it.

The qualifying event runs from July 21 to 28 with 128 players competing for 16 slots at the Crucible.

Churchdown's Jack Lisowski is

already guaranteed a place as the 13th seed for the event.

Six-times Crucible runner-up White faces Russia's Ivan Karkovskii in the opening round with the winner playing Michael Georgiou of Cyprus.

Whoever comes through those two games will then face Milkins on Saturday, July 25, with the winner going into the final qualifying round to face one of Si Juahui, Ross Muir, Ashley Carty or Jimmy Robertson for a Crucible slot on Monday, July 27.

The first three qualifying rounds will be played over best of 11 frames with the final round the best of 19.