

# A HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUES.

## 6a. 1976-1977.

### The Second Half.

**Doncaster** topped the table as the second half of the season approached, but without the injured Brian Dunn, not many people gave much of a chance on their visit to unbeaten **Cinzano**.

Mick Dudfield, however, had agreed to rejoin the Panthers during Dunn's absence, and with Ian Day and Paul Beasley in excellent form, the visitors led 27-28 after 14 minutes. Dudfield, however, was already forced to the bench with four fouls.

At that point Jim Guymon also picked up his fourth foul, and it looked as though a shock could be on the cards.

Indeed, there was a shock - but it came from Palace coach Tom Wisman, who, according to "Basketball" magazine "... went onto court and gave umpire Kirkpatrick a piece of his mind." That was putting it mildly. "Pawprint" revealed, somewhat less diplomatically, that it wasn't just his mind he used, as Wisman "... barged the referee."

With Palace's coach dismissed to the stands, and Guymon benched on four fouls, things looked good for the visitors, but the interruption had disturbed the Panthers' concentration, and given Palace time to regroup - which was probably the astute Wisman's intention.

The home side edged back to 36-37, and in the final two minutes of the half they took advantage of the fact that Morris Wordsworth had to rest several of his starting players to go into the locker room 44-39 ahead.

Palace came out refocused, and a 19-4 spurt took them to 63-43. The visitors' confidence evaporated, and the home side cruised to a comfortable 90-63 victory that had seemed so unlikely earlier in the game.

Palace had retained their unbeaten record, and taken a huge stride towards the title - but it was to cost Wisman a three-match ban.

**Metros** had looked to be edging up the table towards a safe sixth place, but **Loughborough** showed their continued improvement as they came back from 44-40 down at the half. Jimmy Smith hit 20 of his 24 points in the second period, while Allen Bunting was "restricted" to 23, as B&K edged the result, 72-76.

The following week **Loughborough** visited **Milton Keynes**, with most observers expecting a clear-cut home victory. B&K, however, showed that their new imports had given them a competitive impetus, as they stayed close, to 42-36 at the break. Embassy, however, raised their game in the second half, to lead by 19 with six minutes to play, only for the visitors to come storming back with Kevin King (33 points) in unstoppable form, and only a tenacious holding operation snatched victory for the hosts, 83-82!

**ATS Giants** were without Steve Latham (suspended) at home to **Avenue**, but the visitors could pose few problems, and the Giants cruised to a 41-34 interval lead before racing away to win 86-57, led once again by John D. Miller.

An upset looked on the cards at Bedford, as **Vauxhall** pulled out a 52-34 lead over **Metros** after only sixteen minutes, led by Bull (21) and Dick Barrett (14). Metros came back into contention, sparked by Miller (23), and when Alan Bunting (32) really got going the visitors moved ahead, to win 83-95.

Still undismayed, **Vauxhall** travelled North to **Doncaster** at the beginning of December, and the home side continued to rue the absence of Brian Dunn. Defensively the Panthers were having problems, and reached ten team fouls while their visitors were still on just two, and they found themselves trailing 38-49.

Fortunately for the home side Wayne Metzger was firing on all cylinders at the offensive end, and contributed 24 points in the half as they came back to trail 52-55 at the break.

By five minutes from time Doncaster had edged ahead, 89-86, but then Paul Beasley fouled out (joining Keith Rae), and with Ian Redford and Wayne Metzger on four fouls and Ian Day on three the Panthers' prospects looked far from bright.

They continued to pull away again, however, to 99-90, which appeared to leave the game safe with just two minutes to play. In that time, however, Ian Day picked up his fourth foul, putting the home side on ten for the half, and in the final minute the 101-94 advantage was eroded by six points - leaving the home fans sighing with relief at the final buzzer.



Jeff Jones drives to the hoop for ATS.  
(Photo: Jim O'Kelly)

Austin and Pemberton had poured in fifty points between them in Vauxhall's valiant effort, but the Panthers' blushes were saved by Metzger's season-high of 38 ... at 81% from the field.

**Avenue's** season went from bad to dire as they travelled the short distance to **Metros** and managed a paltry 18 points in the first half, while their hosts poured in 52. Alan Bunting took the opportunity to add 35 points to his season's tally

Biggest game of the weekend was at Sale, where **Embassy** appeared to have brought the prevailing fog into the game with them as they trailed 44-36 to **ATS** at the half. Even so Milton Keynes recovered in the second half, and took the lead, but Giants fought back, led by Ken Walton, John Miller and Jeff Jones, to snatch a crucial 85-81 victory. Jones hit a game-high 22 as his team showed that they now posed the biggest threat to Cinzano.

The league leaders, in fact, were struggling at home to **Loughborough** for the first ten minutes of their game, but when Guymon (29) and Saiers (32) began to find the basket **Palace** went away to an impressive 61-48 at the break. By comparison the home side's 56 second half points could have been considered as easing up, but despite 25 points from Kevin King and 18 from Jim Smith, the visitors went down 117-87.

In the final game of the weekend, **Strongarm** must have felt well and truly under the cosh at Coventry, as **Fiat** led 44-28 at the break, but worse was to come as the home side really turned on the style in the second half to cruise home 123-64, led by Pete Jackson's 45.

It was a different matter six days later at **Avenue**, as **Fiat** found themselves held to 40-all midway through the game, but Robin Hall picked up the scoring for the visitors in the second period and they pulled away to a 67-90 victory, despite a game-high 24 from Rick Mann.

Meanwhile, at **Loughborough**, it looked as though the continued absence of Dunn was not affecting **Doncaster** too badly, as they raced into a 13-28 lead, and held on to a 37-50 interval advantage. In the second half, however, Carl Olsson began to exploit the Panthers' defensive frailties, and he led his team to a 78-73 victory, with 25 points, to put a further dent in the Yorkshire team's title challenge.

**Embassy** nearly suffered a similar fate the following day, at **Vauxhall**. Having pulled out a 25 point lead in the second half, Milton Keynes suddenly found themselves pegged back to 85-89 with two minutes remaining, but the visitors clung on to take an 87-95 victory.

Maintaining the weekend's theme, **ATS** struggled on their visit to **Metros**, who held Steve Latham to just nine points in the game. Giants led 40-55, but the home side fought back to lead by one, 70-69, with two minutes on the clock. The Giants had added determination to their skill, however, and Powell, Joes and Miller saw them home 72-75.

With the First Division clubs entering the Cup in the weekend before Christmas, there was only one League match played, as both Palace and Coventry were due to play their Cup games on the Sunday. At the end of the first minute the home side may have been wondering whether this was the right decision, as the scoreboard read **Cinzano** 0, **Team Fiat** 11, with all five Fiat players already having scored against their hosts' man-to-man defence.

A time-out enabled Palace to switch to a zone, and the Coventry scoring began to dry up, while Saiers and Guymon began to put points on the board. Within nine minutes the home side were level, and as Saiers poured in 40 points, with Guymon contributing 30, they went away to retain their unbeaten record, 103-79.

	<b>Division One @ 19 Dec. 1976</b>	<b>Pl.</b>	<b>W.</b>	<b>L.</b>	<b>Pts.</b>
1	<b>Cinzano SCP</b>	11	11	0	<b>22</b>
2	<b>ATS Giants (Manchester)</b>	11	9	2	<b>20</b>
3	<b>Wilson Panthers, Doncaster</b>	11	8	3	<b>19</b>
4	<b>Embassy All-Stars</b>	11	8	3	<b>19</b>
5	<b>Team Fiat, Coventry</b>	10	6	4	<b>16</b>
6	<b>Magnet Wicksteed Metros</b>	11	4	7	<b>15</b>
7	<b>Bowmer &amp; Kirkland L.A.S.</b>	11	3	8	<b>14</b>
8	<b>Vauxhall Motors, Bedford</b>	11	2	9	<b>13</b>
9	<b>Avenue</b>	10	2	8	<b>12</b>
10	<b>Strongarm, Durham</b>	11	1	10	<b>12</b>

At the Christmas break, that left Cinzano clear of the field, and looking odds on to retain their title.

Four teams were still in contention for the runners-up spot, with the Giants now in pole position in that chasing pack, and Fiat still off the pace.

Both Metros and Loughborough now appeared to be hauling themselves clear of the danger zone, and it appeared to be no coincidence that Strongarm, with only one American, and Avenue, with none, were rooted in the bottom three, though Vauxhall could feel that their efforts had not yet been converted into points.

The final third of the season got under way in the New Year, but it was a somewhat scrappy resumption, as the quarter final Pool matches of the Cup began to intrude at the end of January, and there were just twelve games in the three weekends before then.

**Cinzano** hosted **Vauxhall** in the first game of 1977, and they carried on where they left off, storming into a 27-6 lead! Fortunately for the visitors, Kenny Pemberton was in blistering form, and he helped to keep the margin steady, to 60-40 at the break. However, when Pemberton picked up a Technical Foul midway through the second half, and fouled out of the game, they had no-one who could match his 32 points, and Palace romped to a 118-75 victory. Guymon made his mark again, with 38 points, aided by Saiers with 22.

The big game of the first weekend, though, was the visit to Adwick of **ATS Giants**, to take on **Doncaster Panthers**, in a game which would clearly have a bearing on who stayed in touch with the leaders.

The home side were still without Brian Dunn, but Paul Beasley was in sparkling form, controlling much of the home side's attacking play, and after a scoreless first couple of minutes the lead swung back and forth, to 30-29 after thirteen minutes. At the break the Giants, for whom Steve Latham was doing a sterling job on the defensive boards against Wayne Metzger, but finding himself equally well policed on the offensive end, had edged out to a 39-43 lead.

The visitors pulled away to 41-47 early in the second period, and when veteran Keith Rae fouled out for the Panthers after just six minutes the game seemed to be slipping away. Ian Day, however, raised his game, and with seven minutes remaining the scores were once again level. Doncaster could never quite get their noses in front, however, and as their final shot of the game missed its target, the Giants held on, 78-80.

Beasley and Metzger shared top-scoring honours, with 21 apiece, with Day on 18, but Jeff Jones (20), Ken Walton (18) and John Miller (17) had steered their side to a crucial victory.

Fouls rather than points were the talking point at Coventry, as **Fiat** and **Metros** committed 70 offences between them, and took 104 free-throws! Fiat appeared to be cruising, at 53-38, but an all-round team performance by Avenue (led by Rick Mann with 21 points) hauled them level at 64 each. The visitors, though, could find no answer to Darnell Harrell, who helped himself to 42 points, and despite four Fiat players fouling out the home side pulled away again to win 92-77.

The following week the **Giants** went on a scoring spree at home to **Vauxhall**, with Jeff Jones contributing 32. Kenny Pemberton matched Jones point for point, but his team-mates could only muster 43 between them as the Manchester team romped to a 112-75 victory.

**Loughborough** made the trip to Newton Aycliffe and pushed **Strongarm** deeper into trouble, with an 86-111 victory. Bob Park (29) and Brian Ayre (22) continued to show good form, but Carl Olsson and Jimmy Smith (22 apiece) were backed up by Pete Siddall and Kevin King, each with 16.

**Avenue** surprised everybody (including, probably, themselves) as they led 16-24 at **Embassy**, but the home side's strength eventually told as the visitors staged a second half collapse for a 77-56 final score.

Alan Bunting led **Metros** with another 37 point haul, at **Fiat**, and only a point separated the teams at 48-47 at the break, but the Coventry team kept their cool, for a 95-87 victory.

The third weekend of 1977 saw the League title virtually decided, as **ATS** visited **Cinzano**. Palace made their usual lightning-fast start, to build a 49-37 lead by the interval, but Guymon and Saiers had scored all but eight of their points, and the visitors refocused during the break.

Steve Latham, in particular, came out strongly in the second half, and the Giants steadily eroded the home side's lead, and with four minutes remaining they edged ahead. Paul Philp then stepped up for Palace, as they went back in front by a point, and then, as Ken Walton, Dick Powell and John Miller all fouled out, the Giants faded. Manchester had three players over twenty points - Miller (27), Jones (22) and Latham (21), but 39 from Guymon, 27 from Saiers and 14 from Philp had seen Cinzano home 90-86.

With their nearest rivals now on three defeats, Cinzano were within touching distance of becoming the first team to retain the First Division title.

A thrilling game at Loughborough showed that **B&K** really had raised their standards, as they led **Fiat** 39-37 at the mid-point. Steve Assinder sparked the visitors' second half recovery, though, and they scraped through 74-82.

No such problems at **Avenue**, for **Doncaster**, where the visitors made light of the continued absence of Brian Dunn as they raced into an 18-40 lead. This was quickly extended to 38-68 in the second half, at which point coach Wordsworth chose to give his bench players some valuable court time, allowing Avenue to flatter themselves with a final scoreline of 60-78.

Palace's victory the night before became doubly significant on the Sunday, when **Metros** staged a remarkable recovery at home to **Milton Keynes**. Embassy had raced away to a 6-19 lead that suggested that the game would be a formality, but despite Alan Bunting being held to just six points in the first half, John Miller and Pete Turner inspired the home side to a 44-40 interval lead.

Embassy did edge back in front in the second half, but by this time Bunting had found his form, and he finished with a game-high 25 as Metros battled to an 84-81 victory - ensuring a fourth league defeat for the All-Stars that ruled them out of the title race, with only five games to play.

At the other end of the table there was an equally important result at Bedford, with **Vauxhall** and **Strongarm** both desperate for survival-points.

An evenly matched first half had the home side ahead 48-44, but Durham faded badly in the second period, and Vauxhall had the better of the shoot-out, taking a 117-102 victory to give them breathing space. Austin had a game-high 31 for the hosts, closely followed by Overton's 30 for Strongarm; Pemberton added 23.

After a week's break in the League action, for the first round of the Cup quarter finals, there was a rare midweek match, as **Avenue** travelled to **Crystal Palace**, where the hosts were boasting that they planned to break the League's record high-score of 147. Perhaps that boast stung the visitors into even greater resistance than usual, and there were certainly some red faces among the Palace players and officials as Avenue led 14-16. That situation was hardly likely to last, but Cinzano's eventual 82-51 victory was hardly the stuff of legend, let alone records. The home side's embarrassment may well have been eased by the knowledge that they were now just one win away from retaining the title.

At the weekend, the Cup break seemed to have revived **Stongarm** as they visited **ATS** and stayed in touch for most of the first half, to trail just 35-39. Their hopes were illusory, however, as Jones (31) and Miller (23) began to pile on the points, and the Giants ran out easy winners, 115-73.

**Embassy** kept their hopes of a top two finish alive, at home to **Fiat**, as they paced themselves to a 41-36 half-time lead and then opened up for a 91-77 victory that left Coventry struggling to make the top four. Meanwhile, **Doncaster** welcomed Brian Dunn back to league action, at home to **Metros**, and the Panthers stayed in touch in the top four as they edged home 87-80.

Looking to build on their victory over Stongarm, **Vauxhall** played host to **Loughborough** with hopes of pulling further clear of the relegation zone. Smith (30) and King (20) had other ideas, though, as B&K continued to chase the top five, and the visitors ran out 79-91 winners, despite 29 points from Kenny Pemberton.

Another week's break for the Cup, and then **ATS** visited the much-improved **B&K** at Loughborough. Pete Siddall and Jimmy Smith, who both finished with 32, were in good form for the home side, and an upset looked on the cards as they led 38-21. John D. Miller led the Giants' revival, though, on his way to a game-high 33, and they levelled the game at 46, from where the visitors went away to an 81-106 victory with Jones (27) and Latham (26) contributing well.

At Newton Aycliffe, **Strongarm** faced up to **Avenue**, knowing that the losers would have little chance of escaping the relegation positions. The home side's cause hit trouble within eight minutes - the time it took top-scorer Bob Park to rack up four fouls - and from then on the visitors were always in control. Leading 40-51 at the half, Avenue had seven players in double figures by the end as they recorded their high-score for the season with a rare "ton" in the 69-107 victory.

The big game of the week was at Romford, where Metros were still in their "temporary" home, awaiting the completion of the new Central YMCA facility.

Both of **Metros'** away games (in league and Cup) at **Cinzano** had been close-fought affairs, but any thoughts that they may delay Palace's seemingly inevitable march to the title were dispelled early in the match, as the visitors stormed to a 31-52 halftime lead.

For once Alan Bunting, who hit 27 more points on his way to becoming the season's top scorer, was outshone, as Jimmie Guymon nailed 34 for Cinzano, as they took a comfortable 67-110 victory - and clinched the League crown, with three matches to spare.

This confirmed Palace's domination of the early years of the League (and there was more to come yet!), as they celebrated their third League Championship (Embassy and Avenue, the only other winners, had just one apiece), and became the first team to retain the title.

**Wilson Panthers** visited **Milton Keynes** for the second time in three weeks, having narrowly lost their Cup Pool game there in late January.

The visitors started well, building a 16-24 lead by the mid-point of the first half, and still led 24-31 by the time Embassy reached the 10-foul penalty, with five minutes to the break.

Sprogis, though, chose this point to find his range, and as his team-mates stepped up the pressure on the defensive end, a three-minute burst took the home side ahead, with ten unanswered points.

The visitors hit back at once, taking a narrow 36-37 interval lead, but knowing that their hosts had regained their composure.

The sides remained close throughout the second period, and despite losing Keith Rae on five fouls, with seven minutes to play, the Panthers still led, 67-68, when Jerry Walker also left the match, following a body-check on Bryan Dunn.

The visitors looked set to repeat their home victory over the All-Stars, but Dave Shelley and Peter Sprogis stepped up, and their shooting put the home side back ahead 71-70. As the Panthers' scoring dried up, Embassy hit the final five points of the game, which not only gave them victory but ensured that if the teams tied at the end of the season they would have the advantage on count-back.

**Team Fiat** kept their hopes of a top-four finish alive as they played host to **Vauxhall**, who were missing Kenny Pemberton. Frank Bull stepped up for the visitors, to lead his team with 25, but Darnell Harrell (33) was on fire for Coventry, as they won a first-half shoot-out 55-44 and stretched away to win 111-87.

Although the title was already decided, the next four places were still to be determined over the final week of the season, and **Cinzano** would still have a say as they welcomed their old rivals **Embassy**. Nor was there any let-up from the Champions, as they reinforced their domination over the season with a 96-83 victory.

**Strongarm**, already confirmed in the relegation position, put up a brave fight for their final game, at home to **Metros**, before going down 88-98, but the same could not be said of **Avenue**, who found themselves facing the prospect of a play-off to stay in the Division, as they crashed 67-109 to a rampant **B&K Loughborough**.

**Team Fiat** travelled to Adwick, knowing that a simple victory would take them into the top four. **Doncaster** had won by one at Coventry, but Fiat had a superior overall points difference, and so even a single-point victory would be enough to take the Midlands team above their hosts.

Fiat were spurred on by having so narrowly missed out the week before on qualifying for the Cup semi finals, but the home side were buoyed by having scraped through against all the odds, and they seemed comfortable at the end of a closely-contested first half, leading 51-42.

Fiat stayed in touch to 61-54, but with Ian Day in fine form the Panthers pulled further away to 72-58, and seemed to have the game in the bag. Both teams, however, were encountering foul trouble, and Harrell for Fiat and Rae and Hawkswell for Panthers all picked up their fourth fouls as the score crept to 87-76 with three minutes remaining.

Then came an incident which nearly turned the game. Paul Beasley was held down by an opponent as he attempted to jump to tip in a shot, and when he retaliated he found himself dismissed.

In a scrappy end to the game, Metzger and Assinder both picked up their fourth fouls, and Ian Day recorded his fourth and fifth in quick succession, with seconds to play, but the Panthers had done enough earlier in the quarter, and they clung on to a 95-92 victory.

#### Division One Final Table, 1976-1977

	Pl.	W.	L.	For	Agt.	Pts.	
1 <b>Cinzano SCP</b>	18	18	0	1869	1351	<b>36</b>	
2 <b>ATS Giants (Manchester)</b>	18	15	3	1598	1414	<b>33</b>	
3 <b>Embassy All-Stars</b>	18	12	6	1605	1398	<b>30</b>	
4 <b>Wilson Panthers, Doncaster</b>	18	12	6	1552	1487	<b>30</b>	
5 <b>Team Fiat, Coventry</b>	18	10	8	1669	1528	<b>28</b>	
6 <b>Bowmer &amp; Kirkland L.A.S.</b>	18	8	10	1476	1523	<b>26</b>	
7 <b>Magnet Wicksteed Metros</b>	18	7	11	1506	1521	<b>25</b>	
8 <b>Vauxhall Motors, Bedford</b>	18	4	14	1479	1680	<b>22</b>	
9 <b>Avenue</b>	18	3	15	1207	1553	<b>21</b>	To play-off against 2 <sup>nd</sup> in D2
10 <b>Strongarm, Durham</b>	18	1	17	1439	1945	<b>19</b>	Relegated & Withdrew

**Cinzano** recorded the first unblemished League season, to retain the title; their last domestic defeat had been at Embassy on 15 February 1976, and they had won all 22 games since then.

Equally impressive was the rise of **ATS Giants**, who achieved their best-ever finish, with just three defeats, showing that it paid dividends to add two quality Americans to an already solid domestic contingent.

**Embassy** thus slipped out of the top two for the first time, and they only clung on to third place on countback against **Doncaster**, whose aspirations had been dented by the loss of Dunn for crucial mid-season months.

**Fiat** thus dropped out of the top four, despite an impressive line-up, with **Loughborough** coming good in the second half of the season to finish in sixth, just one victory ahead of **Metros**.

Promoted **Vauxhall** had struggled near the foot of the table throughout the season, but had held some of the more highly rated teams close, and managed to retain their top division status for another season, finishing just one victory above the danger zone.

The increasing competitiveness of the League was clearly shown by **Avenue**. Little changed from the team which had won the inaugural League title just four years before, they now found themselves facing a play-off against the second-placed second division team, in order to retain their status. They would be the last team to bravely stick to the principle of using only domestic players.

**Strongarm** also suffered from a failure to recruit adequately from overseas (Bob Overton, for part of the season, was their sole import), and they faced automatic relegation, having won just a single game.

In the event playing in Division Two, after a season of struggle had already drained them financially, proved too great a risk, and they were to withdraw from the League before the restart.

## LEADING SCORERS, 1976-1977

Overseas players in red.

	Player	Team	Points	Games	p.p.g.
1	<b>Alan BUNTING</b>	Metros	539	18	<b>29.9</b>
2	<b>Jimmy GUYMON</b>	C. Palace	500	18	<b>27.8</b>
3	<b>Darnell HARRELL</b>	Fiat Coventry	494	18	<b>27.4</b>
4	<b>Kenny PEMBERTON</b>	Vauxhall	403	17	<b>23.7</b>
5	<b>Earl HOGUE</b>	Embassy	402	18	<b>22.3</b>
6	<b>Mark SAIERS</b>	C. Palace	392	18	<b>21.8</b>
7	<b>Wayne METZGER</b>	Doncaster	387	18	<b>21.5</b>
8	<b>Jeff JONES</b>	Manchester	362	18	<b>20.1</b>
9	<b>Jerry WALKER</b>	Embassy	357	18	<b>19.8</b>
10	<b>John MILLER</b>	Manchester	356	17	<b>20.9</b>
11	<b>Bob PARK</b>	Strongarm	355	18	<b>19.7</b>
12	<b>Peter SPROGIS</b>	Embassy	333	17	<b>19.6</b>
13	<b>Ian DAY</b>	Doncaster	332	18	<b>18.4</b>
14	<b>Steve LATHAM</b>	Manchester	319	17	<b>18.8</b>
15	<b>Brian AYRE</b>	Strongarm	312	18	<b>17.3</b>
16	<b>Carl OLSSON</b>	Loughborough	308	18	<b>17.1</b>
17	<b>Paul PHILP</b>	C. Palace	295	17	<b>17.4</b>
18	<b>Pete JACKSON</b>	Fiat, Coventry	280	18	<b>15.6</b>
19	<b>Sherman AUSTIN</b>	Vauxhall	266	18	<b>14.8</b>
20	<b>Dave MILLER</b>	Metros	265	18	<b>14.7</b>

The growing influence, and increasing numbers, of American players was clearly shown as, for the first time, no English player featured in the top ten scorers.

The next seven, however, were all English, with a good mixture of veterans (Sprogis, Latham and Olsson) and younger players (Park, Day, and Philp).

These statistics had an added pertinence at a time when the debate over the permitted number of foreign players per team was continuing to cause heated exchanges between supporters and opponents.

In fact EBBA's National Executive Committee had considered the situation, towards the end of the season, and had ruled that two foreign players would continue to be permitted "... for at least the next two seasons."

Few, I suspect, imagined at the time that the debate would still be just as acrimonious (if not even more so), and just as far from being resolved, over thirty years later!



Darnell Harrell shows the form which took him to third place in the scorers' table, as he takes on Jerry Walker, with Earl Hogue (#14) and Dave Shelley (#6) struggling to catch up.  
(Photo F G Thompson)

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