

Tinker Cup 2014

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Phil Hobbs clinches Tinker Cup Trophy

Members of Holmfirth Harriers contested the annual Tinker Cup race on Saturday 20 December 2014, the 95th running of the event since 1908 and the oldest club race in the calendar. The race attracted a good field of 80 athletes, who tackled the cold and muddy course starting from the recreation ground in Honley, crossing Long Lane, Thong Lane, New Road in Netherthong, Mark Bottoms picking-up Hill Lane and Binns Lane in Upperrthong, before returning back to Honley Cricket Club a distance of about 6.5 – 6.75 miles. The course had been modified to accommodate a land owners request, which ensured the seasoned campaigners had new challenges to face.



The race included 27 novices, tackling the race for the first time and 5 guests, who were challenging the Club's International triathlete, Mark Buckingham, who had won the race on the nine previous occasions. The race started promptly at 2pm with Buckingham moving into the lead, followed closely by 17 year-old Lewis Byram another talented junior who has represented England on the fells and competed abroad in triathlon races. A number of quality athletes were in hot pursuit of the leaders with ladies captain and fell international, Helen Berry leading the ladies in the absence of last year's winner Katie Walshaw, unable to take part due to injury. The athletes looked to be battling the wind on the outward leg and after the stream crossing at Mark Bottoms, they still had the challenge of climbing the many steps on Binns Lane after a fast stretch of the course, when the legs were fatigued.

On the return leg Buckingham had a lead of 90 seconds over Byram and he was followed by Jonny

McLean, Steve Green, Phil Hewitt and guest runner Ben Cooper. Buckingham won the race for the new course in 42.41 a 100% record of ten victories, since his first race in 2001.

Junior, Lewis Byram finished a superb runner-up and 1st novice on his debut run in 44.38, Phil Hewitt took a different route to the finish gaining valuable seconds and clinched third place in 48.39, Jonny Mclean took fourth place in 48.50, Steve Green was 5th (2nd novice) in 48.51 and Ben Cooper 6th in 49.01.



Mark Buckingham, Phil Hobbs and Helen Berry

The winner of the handicap was Phil Hobbs, who had a super run recording an actual time of 54.06, but after adjusting for his handicap of 13 mins won the prestigious Tinker Cup in 41.06. The second place on handicap went to Will Valovin actual time 64.01, handicap time 41.31 and third place to Phil Hewitt with a time of 42.09. Winner of the Ian Roberts trophy for the fastest time was Mark Buckingham and the Norman Haigh Memorial Trophy was presented to the 1st lady, Helen Berry in 11th place with an actual time of 50.02 and her handicap time of 42.32 gave her 8th place overall. Second lady was Helen Fines 23rd

overall in 53.36 and Jordan Mullinger was 3rd lady, 27th overall in 56.06. Alannah Booth niece of the late Anthony Marsh, who won the race on five consecutive occasions between 1982 and 1986, had a super run to finish 43rd overall in 60.28 and her handicap time of 34.58 was the fastest of the novice runners. Second novice was Charlie Adams 24th overall 53.55 (38.55) and George Green was 3rd novice on handicap 49.04 (40.04).



Phil Hewitt on the descent

John Buckingham

Race Results: Tinker Cup 2014 XLS

Race Photos: Flickr - Tinker Cup 2014

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