

Ian Roberts Memorial Fell Race -11th March 2012

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Perhaps it was the effect of the recent solar flares, but for the second year running, the Ian Roberts Memorial race was blessed with warm spring sunshine and virtually no wind. As well as being the second counter in the Holmfirth Harriers Fell Championship, word had also got out that the post-race spread at Marsden Cricket Club was worth the entry fee alone, so 103 runners made the start line.

The 6.5 mile race route takes the runners over Marsden Moor via the Standedge Trail and was still pretty wet underfoot. Coupled with the bogs & tussocks that can catch out the unwary, it is a tough little race. Alistair Rees from the host club was first onto the moor and was comfortably ahead of his challengers until he took a wrong turn on the Pennine Way & lost over a minute to Gavin Mulholland from Calder Valley Fell Runners. Gavin, who had cycled to the race from Stainland, managed to hold onto first place, finishing just outside the record in 48.37, with Alistair close behind in 49.19. Third place went to Jim Durrans, also from Holmfirth, who improved on last year by over 4 minutes to finish in 51.42.

For the ladies, Katie Walshaw goes from strength to strength and she simply blew the field away, slicing over 2 minutes off her own record to finish 4th overall and 1st lady in 52.03. Close behind, having represented Yorkshire at the Inter Counties championships in Birmingham the day before, was Ladies Captain Helen Berry who finished 15th overall, 2nd lady, in a time of 56.16. Calder Valley's Helen Fines had not raced this course before and was not sure what to expect, but although she professed not to enjoy the tussocks heading down Butterly Clough, still battled round to finish 18th overall, 3rd lady in 57.44.

With 31 Harriers starting the race, there was always a good chance that some of the other age category prizes would come our way. Gavin Baxter had a great run to finish 6th overall in 52.51 and helped Alistair & Jim win the team prize for Holmfirth. Andy Shaw, who seems to have recovered from his injuries, finished 10th overall, 1st MV50, in 54.53, just ahead of John Ewart, who was 11th overall, 2nd V50, in 55.32. Kath Farquhar, in her annual outing on the fells, finished 35th overall, 1st FV40 and completed the Holmfirth Ladies 1st place team, just pipping Maggie Sykes who was 38th overall, 2nd FV40, in 64.06. Christine Couch improved on last year by finishing 55th overall, 1st FV50, in 67.47, with Karen Sinkinson just behind, 60th overall, 2nd FV50, in 69.03. Finally, in his 2nd race of the weekend, Tim Cock added to his prize haul by finishing 78th overall, 1st V70, in 74.46.

The other age category prizes were shared around a number of clubs, with Steve Knowles from Pennine finishing 5th overall & 1st V40, Ben Grant from Harrogate 17th overall & 1st V60 and Barbara Haigh from Penistone FPR 86th overall & 1st FV60. Jason Broadley, Paul Bywater & Andrew Thompson from Wakefield Tri were 2nd Mens team & after a count-back, Heather Parkin, Katy Davis & Barbara Haigh from Penistone FPR just held onto 2nd Ladies team from the ladies of Stainland Lions.

The food afterwards lived up to its pre-race billing & there was more than enough cake to go round! Everyone who had helped in any way was roundly thanked & we also showed our appreciation to Marsden Cricket Club for allowing us to use their clubhouse. Thanks also to the National Trust, Natural England & Yorkshire Water for once again allowing us to race over the beautiful Marsden Moor.

Results (Holmfirth unless stated): 1st - Gavin Mulholland (Calder Valley), 48.37; 2nd - Alistair Rees, 49.19; 3rd - Jim Durrans, 51.42; 4th & 1st lady - Katie Walshaw, 52.03; 6th - Gavin Baxter, 52.51; 10th & 1st V50 - Andy Shaw, 54.53; 11th & 2nd V50 - John Ewart, 55.32; 14th - Wayne Byram, 56.04; 15th & 2nd lady - Helen Berry, 56.16; 19th - Andy Hauser, 58.32; 21st - Graham Howatson, 59.10; 27th - Nigel Moran, 61.01; 29th - Jon Burdon, 61.20; 30th - Dave Knight, 61.27; 34th - Paul Fearn, 63.10; 35th & 1st FV40 - Kath Farquhar, 63.38; 38th & 2nd FV40, Maggie Sykes, 64.06; 39th Andrei Vais, 64.07; 40th - Phil Martin, 64.21; 41st - Andy Keast, 64.40; 51st - Ian Arnold, 66.23; 55th & 1st FV50 - Christine Couch, 67.47; 56th - Debbie Hall, 67.52; 57th - Fran Whitworth, 67.54; 60th & 2nd FV50 - Karen Sinkinson, 69.03; 63rd - Martin Seddon, 69.31; 67th - Kevin Page, 71.07; 75th - James Macdonald, 72.38; 78th & 1st V70 - Tim Cock, 74.46; 84th - Mary Shepherd, 77.50 & 87th - Sophie Barraclough, 82.10 (100 finishers).

Phil Hobbs

Results

Position	Race No.	Name	Category	Club	Time
1	376	Gavin Mulholland	MV40	CVFR	48.37
2	340	Alistair Rees	MV40	Holmfirth Harriers	49.19
3	319	James Durrans	MV40	Holmfirth Harriers	51.42
4	301	Katie Walshaw	F	Holmfirth Harriers	52.03
5	375	Steve Knowles	MV40	Pennine	52.34
6	389	Gavin Baxter	MV40	Holmfirth Harriers	52.51
7	394	Dan Stewart	MV40	U/A	52.59
8	339	Kieran Hodgson	M	FRA	53.01
9	314	Charlie McIntosh	MV40	Pudsey & Bramley	53.22
10	367	Andy Shaw	MV50	Holmfirth Harriers	54.53
11	346	John Ewart	MV50	Holmfirth Harriers	55.32
12	369	Geoffrey Gough	MV50	Clayton-le-Moors	55.43
13	341	Jason Broadley	MV40	Wakefield Tri	55.58
14	354	Wayne Byram	MV40	Holmfirth Harriers	56.04
15	312	Helen Berry	F	Holmfirth Harriers	56.16
16	352	Tristan Sheard	MV40	Stainland Lions	56.42
17	337	Ben Grant	MV60	Harrogate	57.14
18	358	Helen Fines	F	CVFR	57.44
19	344	Andy Hauser	MV50	Holmfirth Harriers	58.32
20	323	Shaun Walker	MV40	Penistone FPR	58.59
21	382	Graham Howatson	M	Holmfirth Harriers	59.10
22	400	Paul Bywater	M	Wakefield Tri	59.19
23	370	Giles Bailey	MV40	Meltham AC	59.43
24	334	John Spencer	MV40	Rotherham Harriers	60.00
25	364	Dan Marsden	M	Stainland Lions	60.26
26	371	Robert Bolton	MV40	U/A	60.48
27	383	Nigel Moran	MV40	Holmfirth Harriers	61.01
28	1	Ben Norbury	M	U/A	61.08
29	386	Jon Burdon	M	Holmfirth Harriers	61.20
30	368	David Knight	MV40	Holmfirth Harriers	61.27
31	303	Andrew Thompson	MV40	Wakefield Tri	61.28
32	374	Derek Hughes	MV50	East Cheshire Harriers	62.41
33	351	Gordon Kilroy	M	Wakefield Tri	63.10
34	315	Paul Fearn	MV50	Holmfirth Harriers	63.10
35	331	Kath Farquhar	FV40	Holmfirth Harriers	63.38
36	388	Oliver Harrison	M	Wakefield Tri	63.53
37	397	Jon Howard	MV40	Wakefield Tri	64.01
38	336	Margaret Sykes	FV40	Holmfirth Harriers	64.06
39	327	Andrei Vais	M	Holmfirth Harriers	64.07
40	357	Phil Martin	MV40	Holmfirth Harriers	64.21
41	372	Andy Keast	MV40	Holmfirth Harriers	64.40
42	343	Adrian Dixon	MV60	FRA	64.45
43	338	Becki Penrose	F	U/A	64.50
44	378	Colin Hughes	MV50	Stainland Lions	64.52
45	380	John Bassinder	MV50	Stainland Lions	64.56
46	359	Martin O'Brien	MV50	Stainland Lions	64.58
47	392	Alisdair Macdonald	MV40	uk.netrunner	64.59

48	326Steve Frith	MV50	U/A	65.24
49	333Graham Dyson	MV40	CVFR	66.10
50	321Stewart Yates	MV50	Denby Dale Travellers	66.13
51	309Ian Arnold	MV50	Holmfirth Harriers	66.23
52	329John Foulds	MV50	FRA	66.31
53	393Jack Macdonald	M	U/A	66.44
54	381Mhairi-Clare Lyons	FV40	Stainland Lions	67.41
55	310Christine Couch	FV50	Holmfirth Harriers	67.47
56	348Debbie Hall	F	Holmfirth Harriers	67.52
57	395Fran Whitworth	FV40	Holmfirth Harriers	67.54
58	308Brook Chambers	M	Stainland Lions	68.00
59	361Stephen Kenworthy	MV40	U/A	68.20
60	396Karen Sinkinson	FV50	Holmfirth Harriers	69.03
61	328Michael Baldwin	MV60	Denby Dale Travellers	69.18
62	377Blair Garrett	M	CVFR	69.28
63	399Martin Seddon	MV60	Holmfirth Harriers	69.31
64	317Heather Parkin	F	Penistone FPR	69.39
65	311Mark Preston	MV40	Stainland Lions	70.17
66	363Colin Pink	MV40	Wakefield Tri	70.47
67	345Kevin Page	MV40	Holmfirth Harriers	71.07
68	342Paul Patrick	MV40	Stainland Lions	71.21
69	355Mark Cartwright	MV40	Radcliffe AC	71.25
70	362William Murgatroyd	MV50	U/A	71.31
71	2Paul Davies	M	U/A	71.32
72	356Patrick Heptinstall	MV40	Wakefield Tri	71.55
73	373Sue Heap	FV40	Meltham AC	72.17
74	350Stephen Fraser	MV40	Peak Bog Men	72.30
75	330James Macdonald	MV40	Holmfirth Harriers	72.38
76	385David Hennessy	MV40	Wakefield Tri	73.47
77	384Darren Brown	MV40	U/A	74.08
78	318Tim Cock	MV70	Holmfirth Harriers	74.46
79	387Nick Payton	MV40	Wakefield Tri	75.55
80	332Mike Harrison	MV50	Meltham AC	76.08
81	360Paul Beverley	M	Stainland Lions	76.51
82	353Richard Sharp	MV40	Peak Bog Men	77.48
83	320Dean Feetham	MV40	Wakefield Tri	77.49
84	322Mary Shepherd	F	Holmfirth Harriers	77.50
85	379Katy Davis	F	Penistone FPR	78.08
86	316Barbara Haigh	FV60	Penistone FPR	79.32
87	304Sophie Barraclough	FV40	Holmfirth Harriers	82.10
88	306Steve Boyer	MV40	Stainland Lions	82.23
89	307Moira Alderson	FV40	Stainland Lions	85.16
90	305Jonathan Taylor	M	Stainland Lions	86.32
91	398Eva Slade	F	Wakefield Tri	88.15
92	3Lisa Richardson	F	Stainland Lions	92.37
93	390Andrea Kaye	FV40	Wakefield Tri	92.41
94	391Pauline Turner	FV40	Wakefield Tri	93.15
95	325Ray McArthur	MV60	Meltham AC	97.05
96	324Fiona McArthur	FV60	Meltham AC	97.08

97	313Brian Crowther	MV70	Stainland Lions	97.43
98	335Diane Spencer	FV40	Rotherham Harriers	99.20
99	366Jackie Barker	FV50	Stainland Lions	99.35
100	365Rachel Whiteley	F	Stainland Lions	115.23
101	302Roger Bradley	MV60	Holmfirth Harriers	DNF
102	347Richard Milne	MV60	Esk Valley Fell Club	DNF
103	349Andy Whitworth	MV40	Meltham AC	DNF

Photos (Norman Berry)

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