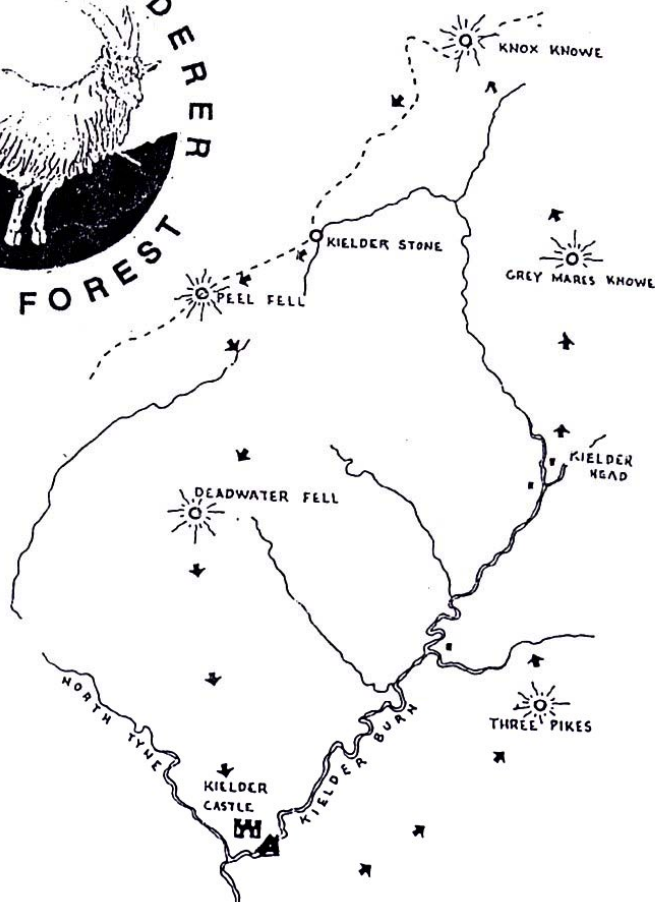


MY KIELDER **EXPERIENCE** *By John Humble*



*An Account Of The Kielder Fell Races
From 1986 To 2005*

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FOREWORD

I wrote "My Kielder Experience" in 2005 and since then it has collected dust. Lest it is put away and forgotten forever, I thought it might be interesting reading for some, perhaps those brave souls who have experienced the highs and lows of the Borderer over the years, or those wanting to acquaint themselves with the beautiful Kielder fells.

After a heart operation in 2004, my love of the Kielder fells brought me straight back racing the Borderer in 2005 and again in 2006, but after that other things got in the way, including a further heart operation in the spring of 2011.

But I have never stopped thinking about the most marvellous, fulfilling times I've had in those hills, whether it was reccyng the route myself or with dear friends, some of whom have now departed like Jim Wilkinson, Mike Fry, Angus Tait, Bill Campbell and Ruth Fletcher, or whether it was the exhilaration and excitement of race day, the smell of the heather, and the thought of relaxation in the café and grounds of Kielder Castle afterwards.

It has been an honour and a spiritual experience which will last forever. Everything is as vivid as in the early days, and I can remember so many moments, sounds and smells. The Kielder Borderer, and Yomp before it, was all part of my Kielder Experience.

John Humble, 2012

INTRODUCTION

My first experiences of the Kielder area were as late as the early 1980s, when I started exploring the hills around Kielder Head, my first jog being from Catcleugh Reservoir to Kielder Head and then back by the forest trail. I also used the area to train for my three consecutive yearly visits to the Brecon Beacons and the Black Mountains to participate in the South Wales Marathon from Llanddeusant to Capel-y-ffin.

Somehow I did not hear about the first Kielder Fell Race and Yomp in 1986. The Kielder Borderer Fell Race, Yomp and Challenge Walk were organised from 1986 by the Forestry Commission and supported by Northumbrian Water. The innovators of these races were Mike Sanderson and Bill Burlton of the Forestry Commission (now both retired.) I did however enter the Yomp on 8th August 1987. A few evenings before the race a friend of mine, Ian Douglas, drove me to Kielder Village so that we could have a look at the course: I remember he had a red Golf GTI which he tended to drive rather quickly. We drove along the forest drive from Kielder Castle, planning to climb up to the first checkpoint, Three Pikes, via the fire check just on the other side of the river from East Kielder Farm.

Ian must have been thinking of other things as he approached a small hump back bridge on that road at quite a speed. I saw it and assumed he had too, but it was too late, and the GTI climbed into the air and seemed to land on its chassis. What a shock we had. I was glad to exit the car and explore part of the race route in reverse, i.e. Three Pikes to East Kielder Farm.

We climbed the steep fire check. The ground was very wet and slippery, but we eventually reached Three Pikes where we surveyed the route of the Kielder Borderer and the Kielder Yomp, the only difference between the two being that in the Yomp the competitor carried a 20 pound pack. Both routes were 17 miles with 3,000 feet of climbing. The Challenge Walk was also the same route.

I will never forget that beautiful evening as I surveyed the countryside that would become like a magnet over the next 18 years. In the distance was Kielder Head and then almost directly north of that, Grey Mares Knowe; and after a further four checkpoints the imposing Deadwater Fell to the north-west – I could never have realised that evening as I stood with Ian Douglas that this area would become such a play area for me for racing, training and sheer enjoyment of these wonderful fells.

However, before I go on to the fell races, I must mention three men of Kielder who have had a profound influence upon me since that first Yomp in 1987.

PROFILES

MIKE SANDERSON



A competitor ascending Pillar in the 1985 race, with Mosedale and Wasdale Head beyond.
(photo/P.Hartley)

No record of the Kielder Yomp, the Challenge Walk, or the Kielder Borderer Fell Race would be complete without mention of this man, the designer of the common route of these races over the years.

The first time that I met Mike was when he weighed my 20lb pack at the Kielder Castle in 1987, before my first of many Yomps. Yet Mike Sanderson had been part of the Forestry Commission since leaving school. He is now retired, and has been in the Kielder area since around 1978–1979, with a spell of working at Byrness.

Since 1987, as well as seeing him on race day, either weighing my sack or taking my entry in the courtyard at Kielder Castle for the Kielder Borderer, or presenting me with my trophy at the end, I have gradually built up a wonderful friendship with him.

On many occasions when I visited the area, I have either bumped into him around the Castle, or on one particular occasion when I was doing a training run over the Borderer route I met him at Three Pikes marking out, I believe, if I remember correctly, the Three Pikes trail from Kielder Castle to Three Pikes.

For me, Mike has become an integral part of the Kielder environment. He still lives in the area at Stannersburn near Falstone and so perfectly does he fit into the environment, in looks, habit and knowledge of it. There is no better image of Mike Sanderson than the photograph of him in the January 1986 edition of the *Fellrunner* where he is shown as “a competitor ascending Pillar” in the 1985 Ennerdale Fell Race, with Mosedale and Wasdale Head beyond. Now he is retired, he can spend more time on his lifelong pleasures of fishing, running, bee-keeping and gardening. I have visited Mike and his lovely wife Fiona at his home in Stannersburn on quite a few occasions, and he always appeared so happy and contented with his life, that it is almost infectious. There are some people in life that you meet that have this effect upon you. He is kind,

generous and very knowledgeable about the area in which he lives and which he loves. He holds no envy or aspirations whatsoever to be anyone other than Mike Sanderson, so rich and complete appears to be his life.

Added to Mike's happy countenance is a wonderful relaxed way, a way which is complimentary to fell racing, no frills, no fuss, no formality, just sheer enjoyment about running the fells, and needless to say, the Kielder Borderer route simply epitomises the man. He hates marked courses even at the beginning or at the end.

It is not surprising, therefore, that he wrote in the *Fellrunner* in 2003 after the Falstone Falcon (CS/5M/500 feet 23.08.03) as follows:

"Apologies to those who thought PM meant a continuous line of red and white tape. Granted some markers at track junctions might not have been too obvious – it will be rectified next year. However, in spite of not seeing all of the one hundred and eight pieces of tape strung out over the course, Neil Wilkinson stormed home in 38 minutes, whilst Louise Wilkinson using a bit of LK was first lady.

Even though the race was delayed for half an hour to accommodate other events, apparently there was an altercation between fell runners and trail hounds. Maybe we'll put down an aniseed trail for runners to follow next year."

This the Falstone Falcon was another race that was the innovation of Mike some years ago and it is still going strong from the quaint Falstone Show in August each year.

Mike is a purist fell racer, and long may his attitude last and pass on to others.

It is not surprising therefore, that Mike, together with his Forestry Commission counterpart Bill Burlton, came to design and adopt the Kielder Yomp, the Challenge Walk, and the Borderer Fell Race, as I have reminded so many people on many occasions. If it were not for Mike and Bill, there would be no challenging Kielder Borderer now.

Needless to say, he designed the course by standing at Three Pikes and looking towards Grey Mares Knowe and Deadwater Fell, filled in the bit in between with the highest fells in the area, and the most challenging countryside for running over imaginable. To take nothing away from Mike's ingenuity, just stand at Three Pikes and survey the surrounding fells, and "the route" just unfolds before your eyes after a brief look at the map.

Mike is a most modest man, and it was only after I saw his picture in the *Fellrunner* that I realised he had been heavily into fell racing from the 1970s. Mike, like many fell runners, started off his fell running with an enjoyment for the mountain marathons in the 1970s and 1980s. He tells me that he would wear boots and carry a 14lb pack, not like the elite Karrimorists today, with their ultra light packs. Presumably this is where he came upon the idea of a Kielder Yomp. I know he really enjoyed the Karrimor mountain marathons in the 1980s.

Gradually, his appetite for fell racing increased and he has now completed five Ennerdales, five Borrowdales, and one Wasdale, a remarkable record considering that those are the three toughest AL category races in Lakeland, and he is now a committed member of NFR and races on a regular basis, with good results in the NFR championships over the years. I doubt whether I ever remember him missing an NFR presentation evening.

He has also run the Borderer fell race on many occasions and in the inaugural event on 10th August 1986 he was first veteran 40 back in a time of 3hrs 2mins 56 secs. He tells me that his most vivid memory of the Kielder Borderer was meeting the famous Wendy Dodds at Knox Knowe Cairn in mist one year. I suppose there is nothing unusual about that, although on this occasion they came from different directions, although again that is not unusual at Knox Knowe Cairn. Mike, I believe, had come from the right direction and Wendy Dodds from somewhere else.

I hope we continue to see Mike running the Borderer for many years to come.

BILL BURLTON



Bill is 59 years of age and has just retired after spending 35 years with the Forestry Commission.

He, like Mike Sanderson, has spent a lifetime with the Forestry Commission, and I have known him for about 20 of those. Bill, essentially, has a great love of the outdoors and has completed all of the Munros and is now well on with the Corbetts. Bill was also, along with Mike, the inventor of the Kielder Yomp, Kielder Challenge Walk and Kielder Borderer. Despite this, I understand that Bill has never actually run the race but intends running it in 2005, now that he is not needed at the start or the finish of the race, or indeed in the early years, on one of the checkpoints. The race would have found it very difficult to survive without him.

Bill, in his working career, has worked at Fort William in Scotland and was transferred to the Isle of Mull. He returned to England in 1980, living in Alnwick and working in the Rothbury Forest. In 1985 he came to Kielder and has spent the last twenty years managing conservation projects and recreational facilities in the 200,000-acre Kielder Forest district. He said about arriving in Kielder: "When I arrived we didn't have any mountain bike trails, but now they can be found throughout the forest district".

He now intends in his retirement to travel to Northern Sweden to look at the flora and fauna on the edge of the Arctic Circle. He also plans to visit South Africa on a bird watching expedition. He also intends tackling the North Sea Cycle Route, a marathon expedition which goes up the east coast of Britain, across the top of Scandinavia and then down through northern Europe into Germany, approximate timescale three months.

I hope that between all of these aims, he manages to still support and run in the Kielder races in the future.

SIMON BANKS



I am fortunate to have this man as a friend; in fact it is a privilege.

I have known Simon now for at least 15 years, and I probably would not have met him had it not been for my infatuation with the Kielder landscape. He, like Mike and Bill, has had a life working with the Forestry Commission, although with Simon the difference is that he is a native of Kielder. He was in fact born in Falstone at the other end of the Kielder lake, and has worked in Kielder Forest all his life. No one knows the area better, and he has lived in Kielder village all of his working life.

In the early days of the Kielder Borderer Fell Race, Kielder Yomp and Kielder Challenge Walk, Simon would be manning a checkpoint at Knox Knowe Cairn or Kielder Stone, encouraging the competitors through, on their difficult journey. I remember him from those days, and I believe he remembers me.

Simon has always been a great and fervent sportsman, and his first love was rugby, playing at a high level for Border Park.

Eventually, Simon got the bug for fell running, and has taken part in many races now for quite a few years, his running being supplemented by his other love of biking.

He was one of the founder members of NFR and has made a huge contribution to fell racing during that time, particularly because of his involvement in the Kielder Borderer Fell Race, the Three Pikes Race, the Northumberland Fell Race (2001), and the Peel Fell Race.

You may have heard already about his involvement in these races, and I could not have managed without his help during the six years that the Three Pikes Fell Race was staged. I cannot even touch upon the workload of this man, even for that one race. He has marked out the course, taken the tape in afterwards, and cut out running tracks through the forest with his own bare hands. He has helped me with the routes over the years, the marshals, and the prize giving. You name it, he has done it, and nothing has ever been too much trouble.

When I thought up the Three Pikes Fell Race, I had the difficulty of not living on the doorstep of the race. Simon did, and he took on such a large amount of work. He even made the two trophies for the race, built of stone and depicting the Three Pikes themselves. Because of the nature of this particular fell race, all the route had to be distinctly marked, and the times that I have done it with Simon we were out for hours. Having said that, those have been some of the most enjoyable hours in the company of Simon.

With me, he has, over the years, promoted the continuation of fell racing on the Kielder fells, and what a battler he is. When you are trying to promote fell racing on the Kielder fells, you have to take the knocks and not expect people to turn up in their droves to race. All kinds of excuses are used by people not to run in Kielder. With Simon, however, nothing beats him.

As well as the effort he has put in over the years, he has always been a great competitor, although I think he would acknowledge the fact that until the last few years, he has not fulfilled his true potential in the sport because of his farming commitments. He no longer needs to feed the sheep, shear them and be there night and day for lambing.

He now has more time to compete, and he has of late taken more to cycling. He is strong and determined, and his results in the Kielder five-hour Trail Quest in Kielder Forest in 2004 and 2005 bear witness to this.

Simon has for the most part been an integral part of the Kielder Experience vis-à-vis participating in races, organising races, and having training runs when he has showed me new territory and new routes. He was my partner in the A Class Karrimor Mountain Marathon held in Kielder in 1997, when his local knowledge was invaluable and his friendship second to none.

Most important of all, to me he is a friend who is always there and will never let you down. I could say quite categorically that he would never let anyone down.

His hobbies now, as well as his love of most sport, include his wood carving with a chainsaw, which he enjoys very much.

Anything I have said about Simon Banks probably does not do him justice, because he has such high standards. You have to meet him to know him. He never minces his words, he is direct, honest and he says his piece. Not only is he a stalwart of fell racing, but a stalwart to everyone who meets him in life.

As I once said at an NFR Presentation Evening, when he was an award winner in the Veteran 40 category, he thinks nothing of having a training run from Carter Bar to Kielder Village, taking in some of the most beautiful yet lonely wilderness in the northern Pennines. Nothing phases him, nothing defeats him, and he is strong as an ox both physically and mentally.

This is a way for me to acknowledge a man in front of whom I feel very humble. He has on more than one occasion driven me in his Landrover around the forest, showing me the forest tracks in that huge expanse which he knows like the back of his hand, and taking me up to that spot that I know so well at Deadwater

Fell, and on one occasion, as we did so, I was mesmerised by the vastness of that area, both forest, fell and lake. Somehow when running, I had never appreciated its majesty. It sounds a little bit silly but it reminded me of certain images that I saw in the film *Out Of Africa*.

Simon is an unsung hero of fell racing, a man passionate about his environment and always there to pass on his knowledge and experience to others.

Thank you, Simon, because without you my Kielder Experience would have been a more lonely journey.

THE KIELDER BORDERER FELL RACE, YOMP AND CHALLENGE WALK 1986–2005

THE ROUTE

Between 1986 and 1990 the race commenced on the playing fields at Butteryhaugh, just below Kielder Castle. From the playing fields, the competitors ran around the housing estate at Butteryhaugh adjacent to the Kielder Burn in a southerly direction before joining, after about quarter of a mile, the tarmac road leading around the southern side of the lake.

It was only another two hundred yards uphill before turning left into the forest, and climbing through the dense summer undergrowth to Castle Hill, and then from Castle Hill, still climbing to the fire observation tower. In the early years a direct line could be taken to the fire tower, as the plantation was in its early years, and a direct line definitely saved time if you knew about it. I tried this route in training runs in subsequent years, but it eventually became too rough and dense, and the route was eventually established along the rough path around the plantation to the observation tower.

Just beyond the fire tower is a cairn; run by it and after a velvet downhill path, the route ascends on the track towards Three Pikes. Grey's Pike only became a checkpoint in 1996. When it was not part of the route, a small sheep trod led towards the Three Pikes, hugging the forest to the north-west. There was a short climb to Three Pikes through the rough heather, or a run up the fencing line to pick up the Grey's Pike–Three Pikes path.

From Three Pikes (grid reference 666953) either retrace your steps along the path, or make a dash for the corner of the forest by running through the deep heather, which is very rutted underneath. From the corner of the forest head towards Ridge End Burn in the direction of East Kielder Farm. The fire check which leads there is steep, rough and slippery, unless you decide to veer left and run down through the trees instead. Certainly, local knowledge is needed if you are to do this.

You should arrive at a foot bridge over the burn after crossing a forest track. Then run through East Kielder Farm and contour across the fields to Kielder Head (grid reference 667480). Some competitors cross the burn early, others run all the way to Kielder Head on the bridleway across the fields, and cross the burn at Kielder Head. Check in at Kielder Head and climb up the rough forest track to Grey Mares Knowe (grid reference 667004) where the route unfolds before your eyes. You see Knox Knowe Cairn in the distance and head for it through thick heather. Climb up to Knox Knowe Cairn from the burn (you are now at one of the most remote checkpoints in any fell race in Britain). Savour the moment, check on the state of the rowan tree on its summit, and then pass on quickly to Kielder Stone, across the burn and up the dilapidated border fence. Reach Kielder Stone (grid reference 637005) and then the long climb to Peel Fell (grid reference 627998), one of the most momentous view points in Britain.

From Peel Fell, head for Deadwater Fell, the last checkpoint at grid reference 626972. Do not be tempted to divert from the fence line leading to Mid Fell. You may be tempted to cut out the circular route via Mid Fell. If you do you will not be seen for some time after others with you going on the fencing line have finished the race. Anything other than the fencing line is rough and involves a lot more climbing.

In 1990 the race commenced at the Castle Gates rather than at Butteryhaugh. From the Castle Gates, instead of running next to the houses, the runners were led along the wooded path; and at the end of that wooded path, they then turned left over the bridge over the river and then continued on the usual route. This slight diversion would have meant very little difference to the times and indeed the record. The new route was probably a little bit slower if anything.

In 1996 Mike Sanderson and Bill Burlton decided to include Grey's Pike as the first checkpoint before Three Pikes. Again, it is questionable as to whether this affected the times, and indeed in 1996 when I ran this race I checked in at Grey's Pike and then I ran back upon myself and then ran along the top of the forest rather than using the very boggy footpath along the top of the fell to Three Pikes. In retrospect, that was a bad

move as I found myself behind those people that I was with at Grey's Pike who had taken the route along the top of the fell.

The biggest divergence to the route was the inclusion of the viaduct, a marked section which took the runners along the wooded path and then over the viaduct adjacent to Bakethin Reservoir. This made a difference of around five to ten minutes on the record and I believe that the viaduct section started in 1994, the year that I won the Kielder Borderer Fell Race.

As far as records were concerned for the Walk and the Yomp, the viaduct section did not affect them as the Yomp and Challenge Walk were abandoned before the new route was inaugurated.

It can be seen therefore that it is very difficult to pinpoint exact times for these variations over the years.

I believe that the inclusion of Grey's Pike and the viaduct section definitely improve the race. They make it that little bit longer and that little bit more challenging, although some would say that the race hardly needed any more of those qualities.

As far as the choice sections of the route are concerned, there are many variations; and particularly at Grey Mares Knowe, the competitors veer off in different directions. I have my own route, and I stick to it. I have also used various routes from Knox Knowe Cairn to Kielder Stone, and quite honestly I am still not convinced as to which is the quickest, despite having run the route on scores of occasions.

1986 – KIELDER FELL RACE (BORDERER) AND KIELDER YOMP

The first staging of these races was in 1986 and instead of the Kielder Borderer Fell Race being headed Kielder Borderer it was in fact headed Kielder Head England N/17M/4,000 ft. On 10th August 1986 the report in the *Fellrunner* as accounted by Mike Sanderson was as follows:

"The inaugural event, organised by the Forestry Commission, took place around the wild terrain of Kielder Head. Even with good visibility, navigation out of the marked forest sections posed a problem, the crucial leg being that between Knox Knowe Cairn and the Kielder Stone. After a tough 17 miles of bog and heather, runners returned to ample grub and beer, augmented by the dying strains of the Kielder Folk Festival Music."

1.	J. STANNARD	2.42.46.
2.	B. LOWDON	2.46.39
3.	I. WHITE	2.47.06
1.	Vet: M. SANDERSON	3.02.56
2.	Vet: R. GRAY	3.05.20
3.	Vet: S. HICKS	3.10.15

These were the main results of the Kielder Borderer Fell race and there are some recognisable names like Bruce Lowdon, now of NFR, the designer himself Mike Sanderson, NFR's Ray Gray, second veteran, and a man called Simon Hicks of Blaydon who had a remarkable series of results at the Kielder Borderer in the early years, as he did in many other local long fell races.

The Kielder Yomp that year, which I missed, was won by a Tynedale Harrier called Ken Kennon.

1987 – KIELDER FELL RACE (BORDERER) AND KIELDER YOMP

My first Yomp resulted in me getting lost after having led the race until Knox Knowe Cairn. Ian Douglas won it and I finished 5th; Bruce Lowdon of NFR won the fell race ("The Borderer") and Wendy Dodds of Clayton won the ladies race.

The report in the May 1988 edition of the *Fellrunner* recounted the fell race briefly as follows:

KIELDER FELL RACE, England
BL/17m/3000 8 August 1987

"Those bold enough to venture into territory where only wild goats had gone before were rewarded by a sparkling Kielder day. Lack of height climbed during the race was more than compensated for by roughness of terrain.

First round to plunge into the communal bath and sample the good fare provided by our hosts the Border Park Rugby Club was Bruce Lowdon. Second was Ian White hotly pursued by a trio of veterans headed by Simon Hicks."

1.	B. Lowdon, U/A	2-44-15
2.	I. White, Morpeth	2-54-15
3.	S. Hicks, Blaydon	2-55-05
4.	R. Gray, Tyne O	2-59-08
5.	M. Sanderson, U/A	3-00-47
6.	R. Scott, Morpeth	3-04-16
9.	H. Forrest, Tynedale H	3-05-25
10.	E. Watson, Heaton	3-10-31

Ladies:

1.	B. Jones, U/A	4-15-08
2.	V. Grevett, Tynedale H	4-39-00
3.	J. Hardie, Tynedale H	4-39-00

This result was a tremendous one for Bruce Lowdon, 10 minutes ahead of his next rival. Also in the top ten were NFR's Ray Gray, then of Tynedale Orienteers; Mike Sanderson, the race designer; Ray Scott of Morpeth, organiser of the Alwinton Fell Race for many years; Howard Forrest, again of NFR, twice winner of the elite Karrimor with Andrew Philipson; and NFR's own Edward Watson. I wonder how well they remember this race nearly 20 years ago? I had the pleasure of talking to Ed Watson as recently as 5th July 2005 when we raced the Saltwell Harriers Fell Race (10th edition) from near Stanhope. Ed is still as enthusiastic about his fell racing.

After my debacle of 1987, I was determined to return in 1988 and win the Yomp, and during 1988 I made more and more visits to the area, familiarised myself with the area and the route, and tried to perfect running with a 20lb pack on my back in difficult running country. From this year on, I also took on long and difficult training runs from my home in Slaley over the local fells, and found long muddy hills on which to undertake interval training with a heavy rucksack, often well in excess of the Yomp 20lb pack. Also, a lot of the fell races in which I took part were raced in the old fashioned Walsh leather fell shoes.

I really wanted to win this race, and I was determined to find the best route and run a time that would be very difficult to beat.

1988 – KIELDER FELL RACE (BORDERER) AND KIELDER YOMP

THE KIELDER BORDERER FELL RACE 6th August 1988

"In the fell race in 1988 the sun came out and the clouds stayed away along with many of the runners. With the absence of wild goats to pace the field, times were slow this year. However, a fierce battle for first place developed with S. Young just edging out Ray Scott of Morpeth" – so Mike Sanderson reported in 1988.

Results:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|---------|
| 1. | S. Young, CFRA | 2-58-45 |
| 2. | R. Scott, Morpeth | 2-59-30 |
| 3. | T. Deall, Kendal | 3-04-00 |

Ladies:

W. Dodds, Clayton	4-05-00
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THE KIELDER YOMP 6th August 1988

On 6th August 1988 I went back and won the Yomp in 3 hours 58 minutes. See below for a copy of the report in the local newspaper on 12th August 1988:

12th, 1988

Kielder 'yomp' success

If a YUPPIE is a young upwardly mobile person, then what's a YOMPER? Well, if the 3rd Kielder Folk Festival is anything to go by, the answer is a youthful, obviously masochistic person!

Mr James Ogilvie, management officer, Kielder Forest District, said: "For those in the dark, it consists of running, walking, stumbling over considerable distances with a 20lb pack on your back.

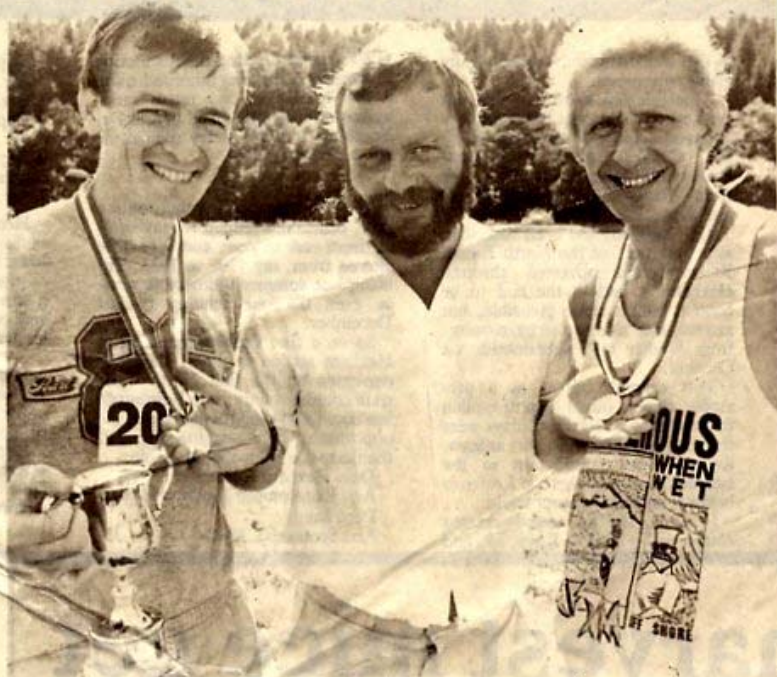
"In the case of Kielder, the 8-stage course last weekend covered a total of 17 miles. Competitors for the Yomp and the Fell Race came from far and wide. The oldest competitor was aged 59!"

One of the most unusual fell race competitors was Sally, an English Sheepdog — who seemed to enjoy every moment. She teamed up with her owner Wendy Dodds — well known in running circles — to complete the 17 mile course in a time of 4 hours 5 mins.

Thanks to efforts by the Kielder Tourism Development Action Programme, media coverage of the festival was good. The event even attracted a film crew from Anglia TV who were compiling a national network series about holidays in Britain.

As well as filming more active forest pursuits like running and horse riding, the camera crew turned their attention to the folk events.

During the evening, a folk concert attracted a large audience.



John Humble (left), of Slaley, stepped out in a winning way to collect the victor's medal in the 17-mile "yomp" at the Kielder Folk Festival on Saturday. He did the course, carrying a 20 lb. pack on his back in three hours and 58 minutes, and is pictured receiving the medal from Border Park Rugby Club president, Richard Blackith, and (right) the first veteran home, Tynedale harrier Ken Kennon.

KIELDER YOMP 1988 RESULTS

POSITION	NAME	TIME	CLUB	VET
1	J Humble	3.58	-	RECORD
2	I Douglas	4.08	-	
3	D Wilson	4.43	Blues	
4	M Brown	4.43	Blues	
5	C Turner	5.02	Blues	
6	H Lloyd	5.10		
7	K Kennon	5.37		V
8	B Wraith	6.12		

9	I Gibson	6.12		
10	D Tremble	6.31	Blues	
11	C Elgina	6.32		V
12	R Hart	6.32		V
13	E Maddison	7.10		
14	R Cheeseman	7.10	7.25	
15	S Coghill	7.25	7.25	
16	D Thompson	7.25		
17	J Butchart	-		

1989 – KIELDER YOMP, FELL RACE AND CHALLENGE WALK

On 12th August 1989 I went back again and won The Yomp in 3 hours 36 minutes, but knew that it could be done quicker with more sensible route choice.

On 12th September 1989, Bill Burlton, Environment Forester for Kielder Forest District, wrote to the 1989 competitors in the Yomp Fell Race and Challenge Walk:

“Herewith the results for this year’s Kielder event. Once again we were lucky with the day and this year was not too hot. The change in the Folk Festival Venue detracted from the atmosphere at the start / finish of the race, so next year we will be moving up to the Castle so that the race is part of the Festival.

There were a few organisational hitches with the change over of the event handling to the Fell Rescue Team but I will be making sure that these are ironed out for next year.
Next year’s race will be on Saturday 11th August; hope to see you then.”

Mike Sanderson wrote in the *Fellrunner* after the race in his own individual style:

“When will anyone discover the optimum route between Knox Knowe and the Kielder Stone? This year, some went high and some went low, and some went off to look for bilberries, presumably. The heather-clad moors were looking magnificent belying the treachery underfoot but G Dixon triumphed unscathed to easily beat the three hour barrier”.

KIELDER FELL RACE 12 AUGUST 1989 – RESULTS

1	G. Dixon	Morpeth Harriers	2 hrs	54	
2	R Pyatt		2	54	
3	L Stephenson V		2	54	
4	B Knox	Teviotdale Harriers	2	55	
5	I White	Morpeth "	2	57	
6	A Barnes	Morpeth "	3	08	
7	G Pyatt V50		3	08	FC
8	S Hicks V	Blaydon Harriers	3	08	
9	J Crummet V		3	10	
10	M O'Brian	Low Fell RRC	3	10	
11	R Gray V		3	15	
12	M Sanderson V		3	26	FC
13	S Gakhar V	Claremont RRC	3	32	
14	N Dyson V		3	44	
15	J Gill		3	46	
16	T Giles		3	51	
17	W Tait		3	54	

18	T Tweddle		4	01
19	P Hodgson	Moorcock RC	4	05
20	M Moss	Durham City	4	19
21	R Moor		4	19
22	S O'Niel L		4	19
23	W Campbell	Gosforth	4	40
24	R Tait		4	49
25	R Turtan	Claremont RR	5	06
26	V Grevett L	Tynedale Harriers	5	08
27	P Fisher	Swaledale	5	59
28	B Chambers V	Over 50 NVAC	6	06
29	P Dale		6	06

KIELDER YOMP 12 AUGUST 1989 – RESULTS

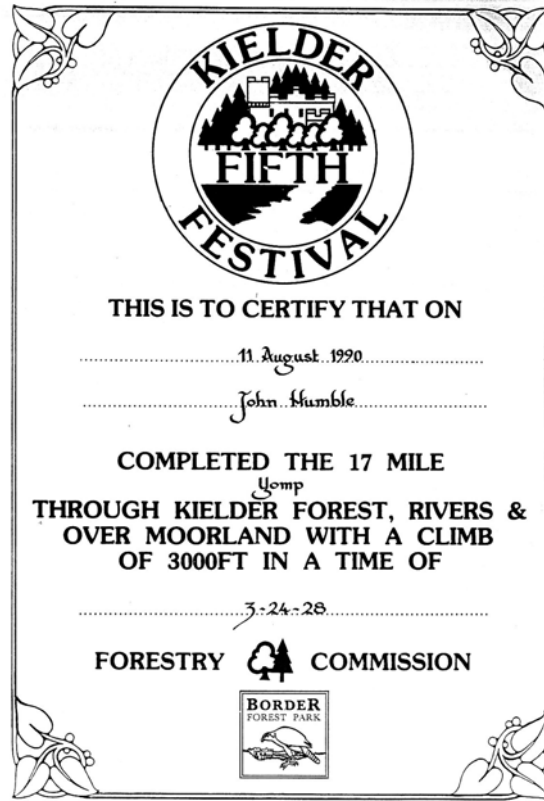
1	J Humble	Tynedale Harriers	3hrs	36	Rec
2	I Douglas	Mid Argyll A C	3	58	
3	J Stow		5	05	
4	S McKinnon		5	43	
6	C Elgenia V		5	43	
7	P Hayward	Army	5	59	
8	R Davis	"	6	23	
9	A Marriot		6	24	
10	P Clark	Army	6	29	
11	S Ward	Tynedale Harriers	7	06	
12	C Carr		7	08	
13	J Dyer L		7	08	
14	M Metcalfe		8	01	
15	H Watson	Army	8	40	
16	W Turnbull	"	8	40	
17	A Findley	"	8	40	
18	D Davis	"	8	40	

KIELDER CHALLENGE WALK 12 AUGUST 1989 – RESULTS

1	L Barnes	LDWA	4hrs	55m
2	T Coleman	"	5	28
3	P Kelsey	"	6	39

1990 – KIELDER YOMP, FELL RACE AND CHALLENGE WALK

On 11th August 1990 I went back again and won The Yomp in 3 hours 24 minutes, 28 seconds (a record for the event which still stands). I have copied my certificate of that year showing my record time and treasure it dearly:



KIELDER YOMP 11 AUGUST 1990 – RESULTS

1	J Humble	3.24.28	New Record
2	D Wilson	3.35.03	
3	J Arden V40	3.46.38	
4	I Douglas	3.46.38	
5	J Wilkinson V40	3.53.36	
6	C Elgenia V50	5.01.57	
7	R Williams	5.45.25	
7	B Hughes	5.45.25	
7	P Jones	5.45.24	
11	S Maswell	8.01.42	
11	D Stephenson	8.01.42	

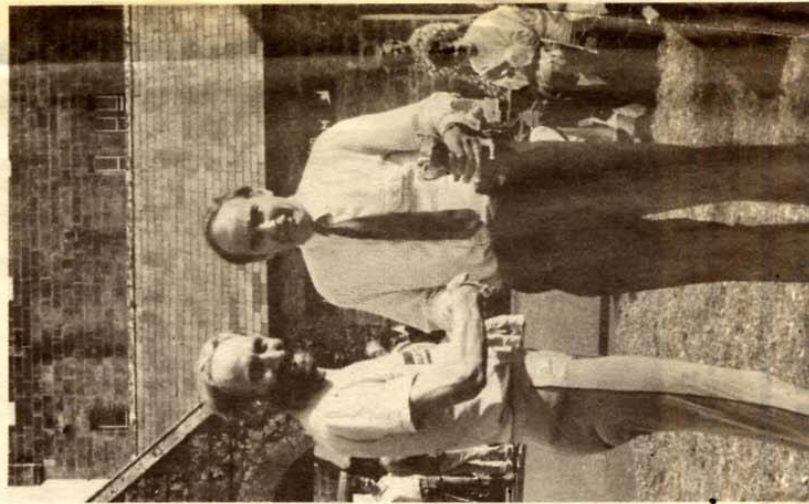
KIELDER FELL RACE 11 AUGUST 1990 – RESULTS

1	S Hicks V50	Blaydon Harriers	2.55.18
2	L Stephenson V40	Kendal A C	2.59.35
3	S Gakhar	Claremont R R	2.59.57
4	S Young	Cumberland Fell Runners	3.04.15
5	J Stow	Blaydon Harriers	3.11.38
6	R Scott V40	Morpeth Harriers	3.28.44
7	P Jameson	Claremont R R	3.28.59
8	J Thompson	F R A	3.29.32
9	J Gill	-	3.30.21
10	R Hart	-	3.54.07
11	A Whyte	Northern Navigators	4.42.50
12	B Chambers V50	Northern Vets A/C	5.11.30
13	D Thompson	-	5.11.30

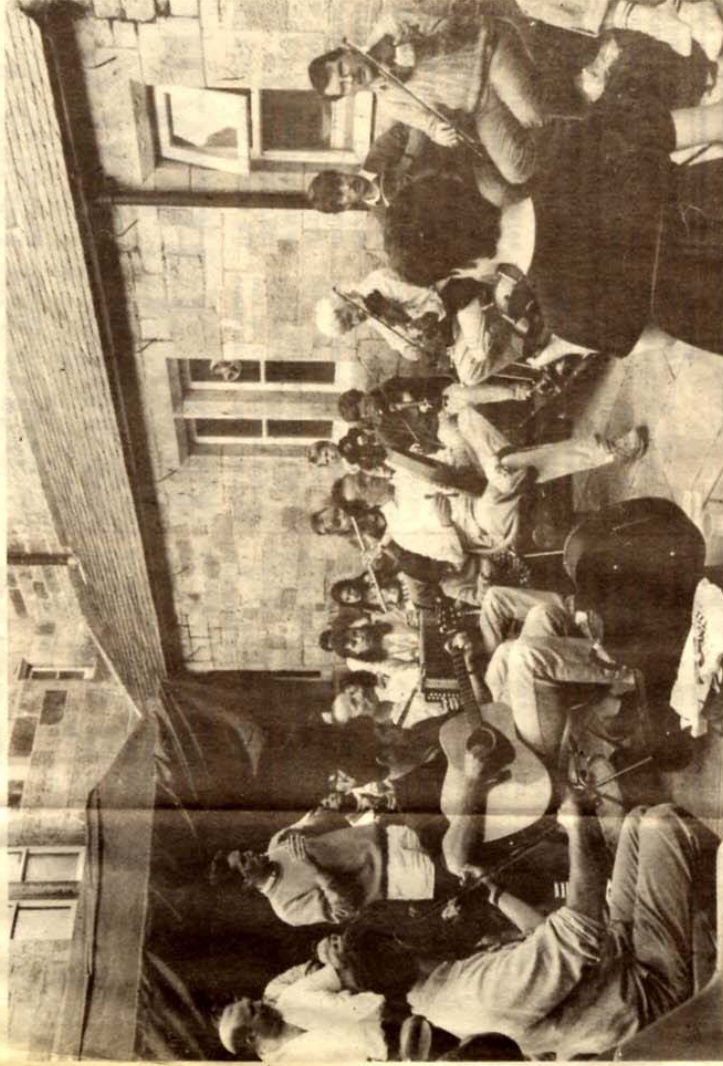
KIELDER CHALLENGE WALK 11 AUGUST 1990 – RESULTS

1	Betty Coleman	6.06.44
1	Bill Robson	6.06.44
2	Colin Mitchell	6.12.28
2	Neil McKay	6.12.28
2	Trent Coleman	6.12.28
6	M York	7.25.28
7	Peter Cromby	9.30.00
	Hilary Sive	Retired at Check Point 5
	Nita Kimber	Retired at Check Point 5
	A Newton	Retired at Check Point 6

ALL FOLK AND 'YOMP' AT KIELDER



Winner of the fell race at the event, Simon Hicks (left) receives his trophy from Forestry Commission district manager, Mr Bob MacIntosh, at Kielder Castle. Mr Hicks won in 2hrs-55mins-18secs.



The "Folkers" took to the open air to call the tune at the Kielder Folk Festival at the weekend, which proved a great success.



The Kielder Folk Festival's "Yomp" gets off to an early start from the grounds of Kielder Castle. Pictured (second from right) is Mr Yohn Humble, of Slakey, who finished the course in a time of 3hrs-24 mins., breaking his own record of last year by 12 seconds.



Mr MacIntosh presents J. Arden and I. Douglas with their trophies for taking third place in the Kielder Yomp in 3hrs-46mins-38secs.



Plenty of confidence at the Kielder Folk Festival from sisters Megan and Tamsin Robb, together with their mother Carol on Northumbrian pipes, brother Jamie and little Decima.

1991 – KIELDER YOMP, FELL RACE AND CHALLENGE WALK

On 10th August 1991 I went back again and won The Yomp in, yes, 4 hours, 31 minutes, 15 seconds. This particular year, it was very misty and after reaching Grey Mares Knowe (GR 667004), I made for Knox Knowe Cairn, but unfortunately, despite having reccied and raced the route on scores of occasions, I missed my line and descended into virtually unwalkable, never mind unrunnable, country.

I decided not to revert to the correct line, but descended to the burn and walked along it to “the sheepfold” at the foot of Knox Knowe Cairn. I knew that if I did it this way I could not get lost if I kept to the stream and looked out for the stone sheepfold. This I found, and ascended the uneven heather to Knox Knowe Cairn (GR 602026).

This checkpoint was in thick mist but when I arrived, there was no checkpoint marshal. Was it really Knox Knowe Cairn? I skirted around the summit and although I had some doubts, I was virtually certain I was in the right place.

It is very easy, however, to doubt oneself when faced with one of the most remote checkpoints in any fell race in Britain, in thick mist and no checkpoint marshal, and having been lost once en route already. I set my compass for Kielder Stone and descended to the burn. As I lost height, I caught glimpses of my route ahead and became more and more certain that I had in fact been at Knox Knowe Cairn.

Before I knew it, I was through the stream and climbing up the “worse for wear” Border fence to Kielder Stone, with its steep intervening gullies and uneven boggy, sometimes stony, surface.

Eventually, out of the mist, Kielder Stone (GR 637005) and the face of my very good friend, Bill Burlton from the Forestry Commission, manning that checkpoint. I told him about the last checkpoint; he radio'd back to the Castle and, indeed, we found out later that the marshal had not reached Knox Knowe Cairn.

As it was, all turned out well, and all Yompers and fell racers returned to the Castle safe and sound. After that year's race, Bill Burlton wrote to competitors on 28th August 1991 as follows:

“Despite the adverse weather conditions, there was a significant increase in entries this year. This was the first time in six years that we've had mist on the tops. I'm sure you'll agree this is difficult terrain in which to navigate, hence our insistence on the kit check at the start. We had problems in getting Knox Knowe managed – apologies if that caused any difficulty for any of the earlier competitors through the checkpoint. Next year, we hope to have orienteering style punches so an unmanned checkpoint will not matter, etc.”

KIELDER YOMP 10 AUGUST 1991 – RESULTS

1	J Humble	4.13.15	Pegasus
2	J Arden V40	5.26.39	Pegasus
3	C Elgenia V50	5.33.53	Pegasus
4	G Watson	8.17.45	
5	L Turner	8.17.45	
6	M Brown	8.17.45	
7	G Godfrey	9.25.00+	
8	M Coleman-Holland	9.25.00+	



Prize giving at the Castle in 1991 with a very small Sophie



Left of photograph Mike Sanderson



Yomp Winners 1991. The Team Left to Right Jim Arden, John Humble and C. Elgenia

KIELDER BORDERER SATURDAY 10 AUGUST 1991 – RESULTS

FELL RACE

1	R Hackett	Claremont RR	RECORD	2.49.52
2	A Tait V40	-		2.55.58
3	A Furlong	Keswick		3.06.41
4	G McMahon	Notts A C		3.28.15
5	S Elliot	Notts A C		3.31.29
6	N Dyson V40	Mandale		3.34.21
7	G Butcher	Rochdale		3.35.29
8	I White	Morpeth H		3.36.26
9	K Richardson	Swaledale R R		3.37.47

10	S Hicks V40	Blaydon	3.41.03
11	I Douglas	-	3.42.10
12	G Wilson V40	-	3.42.10
13	R Miller	Swaledale R R	3.46.31
14	T Giles	-	3.46.35
15	P Farrell V40	Dark Peak F R	3.46.35
16	K Temperton V40	Dark Peak F R	3.46.35
17	W Knox	Teviotdale	3.49.34
18	W Dodds L	Clayton le Moors	3.50.27
19	R Brotherton V40	Tynedale H	3.50.35
20	M Sanderson V50	-	3.51.50
21	P Jameson	Claremont R R	4.00.27
22	C Mulder	Claremont R R	4.16.47
23	P Whewell V40	Gosforth	4.17.00
24	J Crawford	Peterlee	4.19.29
25	R Hayes V50	-	4.19.53
26	P Elliot	Claremont R R	4.22.15
27	B Kirtley	Newton Aycliffe A C	4.35.53
28	C Hinde	Newton Aycliffe A C	4.35.53
29	N Cassidy	Tynedale	4.35.54
30	C White V40	Newton Aycliffe A C	4.35.54
31	S Topham	-	5.09.59
32	B Chambers V50	F R A	5.20.58
33	J Gill V40		5.21.03
34	J Hudson V50	Loftus A C	5.44.31

Mike Sanderson reported on the Kielder Borderer Fell Race in the *Fellrunner* afterwards:

"If you wanted to get lost in Kielderhead moor, this was the day to do it. A bilberry picker's paradise had been transformed into a navigator's nightmare, and those thinking of abandoning safety gear in favour of filling sacks with berries were confounded by a rigorous kit check – a procedure fully justified in the circumstances. Go without a compass, mate, and it's next stop Gretna Green. So from Grey Mares Knowe onward it was eyes down on the compass needle with only the whitening bones of some of last year's competitors and the yellow spires of bog asphodel to show the way. Safety in numbers seemed to be the order of the day with several runners miraculously emerging from the gloom to converge on the unmanned cairn of Knox Knowe. Even the check point marshal got lost. There was only the hum from the wind generator to guide runners to Deadwater Fell because the clag had obscured the incongruous installations hereabout. Nearer the Castle runners could home in on to the aroma of the barbecue.

Judging by the absence of bulging bum bags and purple mouths at the finish, most runners were unwilling to forfeit position and time by collecting bilberries. George Atkinson revived his flagging hound by administering a handful of these delicious berries. Whether or not forfeited by these self same fruits R. Hackett had an impressive run in heavy underfoot conditions and atrocious visibility to come within seven minutes of the existing record time. Rumours that members of both sexes were seen cavorting in the communal bath after the event remain unconfirmed."

CHALLENGE WALK RESULTS

1	P Johnson	6.26.00
2	J Johnson	6.26.00
3	G Coltman	6.35.56
4	L Holister	6.36.02
5	F Barker	6.36.02
6	G Reavley	7.15.40
7	J Hall	7.29.44
8	C Mitchell	7.29.44
9	M York	7.29.44
10	M McKay	7.29.44
11	A Broadbent	7.30.30
12	R Taylor	7.35.22
13	E Richards	7.36.54
14	T Farrell	7.36.54
15	P Crombie	7.37.44
16	A Carruthers	7.39.04
17	K Brown	7.39.04
18	E Maddison	7.58.00
19	D Boyd	7.58.00
20	E Edwards	7.58.00
21	S Large	8.04.46
23	B Large	8.04.46
24	M Saarna	8.04.46
25	O Saarna	8.04.46
26	C Taylor	8.04.46
27	P Foreman	8.13.18
28	F Elliot	8.19.28
29	T Williams	8.19.28

30	D Armstrong	8.19.28
31	J Thompson	8.20.52
32	M Collins	8.20.52
33	B Davy	8.39.44
34	M Brown	8.43.11
35	P Gadd	8.42.11
36	D Alder	9.00.00+
37	M Beattie	"
38	C Coombes	"
39	S Drummond	"
40	D Kirsopp	"
41	A Lowe	"
42	M Potts	"

1992 – KIELDER YOMP, FELL RACE AND CHALLENGE WALK

KIELDER YOMP 8 AUGUST 1992 – RESULTS

1	J Humble	V40	Tynedale	3.35.15
2	J Arden	V40	Blackhill	4.34.55
3	C Elgenia	V50		5.17.01
4	Craig Turner		Tynedale	5.27.26
5	Graeme Watson		Tynedale	5.27.26
6	Stephen Haswell			9.20.55
7	Duncan Stephenson			9.21.02

CHALLENGE WALK RESULTS

1	Lawrence Heslop	5.08.28
2	Gary Coltman	5.16.23
3	Peter Johnson	5.29.17
4	David Cooper	5.36.14
5	P Embleton	5.36.14
6	John Cooper	5.49.49
7	Gordon Reavley	5.51.53
8	Stephen Topham	5.58.20
9	George Sproat	6.33.18
10	Kate Mole	6.47.01
11	Neil McKay	6.51.38
12	Colin Mitchell	6.51.38
13	Margaret Patterson	6.52.30
14	Andrew Carruthers	7.06.39
15	Keith Brown	7.06.39
16	Richard Cavner	7.22.50
17	Peter Reed	7.22.50
18	George Elliot	7.39.56
19	Marjorie Wilkinson	7.39.56
20	Norman Carrick	8.07.35
21	Norman Younger	8.07.35

22	Malcolm Brown	8.20.07
23	Peter Gadd	8.20.07
24	Kathleen Proudlock	8.26.28
25	Linda Shields	8.26.35
26	Peter Allan	8.48.25
27	David Hampson	8.48.25

FELL RACE 8 AUGUST 1992 – RESULTS

1	Richard Hackett	Claremont RECORD	2.35.15
2	A Furlong	-	2.54.10
3	A Tait	V40 Tynedale	2.59.23
4	C Hinde	Newton Aycliffe	3.02.56
5	John Rae	CFRA	3.13.19
6	Simon Gakhur	Claremont	3.14.16
7	Les Stephenson	V40 Kendal	3.17.50
8	Mark Wood	Mercia	3.17.55
9	Tom Peters	V40 A.V. Lycurus	3.26.39
10	Stewart Beatty	V40 Tynedale	3.32.12
11	K Richardson	V40 Swaledale	3.33.09
12	Tony Sharpe	V40 Denby Dale	3.33.25
13	Stephen Robinson	V40 Denby Dale	3.33.25
14	Jeff Thompson	North Shields	3.34.51
15	Barrie Kirtley	Newton Aycliffe	3.41.12
16	Ron Ingram	Blackhill	3.42.43
17	P Carmichael		3.42.49
18	R Hayes	V50 Morpeth	3.42.56
19	D Walton	V40 Baildon	3.43.13
20	D Bell	Morpeth	3.44.41
21	Mike Sanderson	V50	3.44.55
22	Andy Travis	V40 Barrow	3.50.02
23	John Potts	V40 Blackhill	3.50.31
24	Iain Sharples	Claremont	3.50.50
25	J Tomlin	V40 Morpeth	3.51.05

26	John Gill	V40		3.58.11
27	Gill Mennim	Lady		4.07.20
28	C Thompson			4.31.05
29	Len Ward	V40	Durham City	4.46.45
30	Barry Chambers	V50		5.51.42

In 1992, I ran my last Yomp, running it in 3:35:15. Richard Hackett won the Fell Race in a record time for the old course in 2:35:15, Gill Mennim won the ladies race, and Lawrence Heslop (organiser of the Chevy Chase), won the Challenge Walk. 1992 was the last staging of the Yomp and Challenge Walk. They were abandoned for various reasons. From now on it was just the Borderer Fell Race, of which Mike Sanderson reported in the *Fellrunner* in 1992:

"Runners scared off by the weather forecast might regret their decision. The Kielder Borderer produced its unique brand of cool damp but clear conditions, ideal in fact for a fast time as Richard Hackett demonstrated in destroying the old record.

On the heathery ascent to the Kielder Stone, runners averting their eyes from the ground might have been able to observe a herd of wild goats. These beasts, denizens of this remote moor for centuries, are adept at showing off their contouring skills when disturbed.

Encouraged by last year's report, the communal bath was overflowing. Unfortunately before the first lady arrived, the water turned much the same colour as parts of the hill the runners had negotiated earlier.

Refreshed by this turgid water, competitors could consume the free barbecue provided and relax to the sounds of the festival."



The fell race starts from the entrance to Kielder Castle as the eventual winner, Richard Hackett (No. 35) checks his watch.



Trophy winners at the event were, back left to right, Ian Sharples, Simon Gakhar and Richard Hackett (team winners of the Claremont trophy) Tony Furlong (FC Fell Race), and John Humble (Yomp); front, Gill Mennim (Ladies' Fell Race) and Angus Tait (first Veteran Over 40).



Above: Prize giving at the Castle in 1992. The nucleus of NFR 5 years before its formation.
Left to right: Ray Hayes, Angus Tait, "do not know", John Humble, Jim Arden, Jim Tomlin, and David Bell.



Above: John Humble receiving his trophy from Mike Sanderson and Bill Burlton for winning the Yomp, at Kielder Castle on 8th August 1992.

THE KIELDER BORDERER FELL RACE 17th July 1993

In 1990 the races commenced at the Castle and not (as since 1986) on the playing fields adjacent to Butteryhaugh Estate in Kielder Village. This was to add to the atmosphere substantially, particularly at the end of the race, when crowds assembled in the Castle Grounds at the end of the Folk Festival. Also in the early years, the races were on the previous day to the Festival, as well as at a different venue.

There were also changes in the route over the years, perhaps the ones having the most impact on time being the inclusion of Grey's Pike as an additional checkpoint before Three Pikes, and also the inclusion of the extra piece at the beginning of the race over the viaduct near Bakethin Reservoir adding at least an extra 5 minutes on the winning time in the Borderer.

The above changes made it difficult to establish a record for the Borderer but I believe that it is now well established that over the existing route, David Armstrong of NFR established that record in 2000 in 2 hours 49 minutes 39; the ladies' race Louise Wilkinson of NFR in 3 hours 27 minutes 24 seconds.

Dwindling numbers were a cause for concern for the organisers, Bill Burlton and Mike Sanderson, and after the poor turnout in 1994, even the Borderer Fell Race was severely at risk of being lost forever, the Walk and Yomp having been abandoned in 1992. It was a well-known fact for the organisers that because of the remoteness of the route, a fell rescue team had to be in attendance for unforeseen difficulties. Up to 1992, the Forestry Commission had relied upon their own rangers to man the checkpoints and look after the safety of the competitors, but the unmanned checkpoint at Knox Knowe Cairn in 1991, in thick mist, had highlighted the danger and responsibilities which the organisers had to face.

From 1992 the Fell Rescue Teams were called in for their expert assistance, but for dwindling numbers this was a huge undertaking. Anyway, the fell race went ahead on 17th July 1993 with 25 entrants. Bill Knox won and I finished in 5th position in 3 hours 13 minutes. Ruth Fletcher won the ladies' race, but a poor turnout overall.

Mike Sanderson concisely wrote his report in the *Fellrunner* in 1993 as follows:

Even with fine weather, the Kielder Borderer, perhaps the toughest category B race in the calendar, could only attract twenty competitors.

Those who did compete ran the gauntlet of being bitten by adders, seen on the ascent to Three Pikes, or being swallowed whole in the peat during the descent therefrom. However, runners who cared to linger on Peel Fell were rewarded by views to both East and West coasts on such a clear day.

Due to heavy rain in the days preceding the event, the prospect of fast times receded rapidly with every step, particularly on the shallow, boggy climb to Deadwater Fell. Only the winner beat the magic three hour barrier."

Chris Probert, Recreation and Information Officer of Kielder Forest District, wrote to competitors on 3rd August 1993 after the race:

"We are planning to hold next year's event on Saturday 6th July 1994 and may try to increase the scale of the Event by including a Duathlon Course.

We would welcome comments from participants on any aspects of the Event – please feel free to write to us with your views. In the meantime, I hope you will book next year's date in your diary."

KIELDER BORDERER – JULY 17 1993 FELL RACE RESULTS

Position	Name	Time			No
		Hrs	Mins	Secs	
1	Bill Knox	3	57	56	8
2	John Rea	3	07	04	11
3	Tony Furlong	3	10	24	4
4	Simon James Gakhar	3	10	51	14
5	John Humble	3	13	06	16
6	Simon J P Lee	3	22	18	17
7	William Lawrence	3	22	19	3
8	Chris Scorer	3	25	48	7
9	Ruth Fletcher	3	26	44	6
10	Jim Buchanan	3	26	44	10
11	Ray Hayes	3	27	38	12
12	Jureen Burnhard	3	33	56	5
13	John Vaughan	3	36	46	13
14	Robert Mitchell	3	37	19	9
15	Iain Sharples	3	38	00	24
16	Keith Brewis	3	41	06	21
17	Dot Bailey	3	54	43	2
18	Mike Graham	3	54	43	22
19	John Gill	3	58	45	20
20	Mike Sanderson	4	00	11	2
21	Colin Thompson	4	08	15	18
22	John Whitmarsh	4	16	04	1
23	Gill Mennim	4	16	04	15
24	Thomas B Dodds	4	08	00	25
25	Barry Chambers	4	42	34	19

1994 – THE KIELDER BORDERER FELL RACE

The race was held on Saturday 16th July 1994 and it seemed readily apparent upon entering the pub car park (below the Castle) where we had to park that the Ron Hill Duathlon competitors greatly outnumbered the fell race competitors. It was a scorching hot day, and I remember well jogging from that car park up to the Castle before the race and saying to myself, I must take on a lot of liquid before and during the race.

The race in itself was an interesting one, very hot all the way and good visibility.

Unfortunately, some runners had taken "the old route" through Booterhaugh Estate and straight up the road without taking in the marked course over the viaduct at the beginning, which meant a 5 to 10 minutes advantage. Two of those people, if I remember correctly, were Jim and Nicola Davies of Borrowdale. A group of racers had also set off 2 hours earlier because of a mix-up of times by the new organisers. Not an ideal situation.

At Kielder Head, I was probably as far back as 10th position. I must have worked my way through the field and at Knox Knowe Cairn, just after the runners seemed to bunch, and upon climbing up the Border fence to Kielder Stone, I was in second place. I had just passed John Dallinson of NFR (who finished second overall), who said to me that there was one in front, but he was out of sight.

I had managed to travel from Knox Knowe Cairn to the Border fence very quickly, and quite unusually I had taken a different route by dropping down to the burn directly from Knox Knowe rather than contouring along the bankside.

It just so happened that I caught Angus Tait at Knox Knowe and he descended directly to the burn and I followed by instinct, and nothing more, as we often do in fell races.

That instinct was a good one on this occasion as Angus (a renowned descender in rough heather as this was, with huge hollows ready to find out the unsuspecting) led me down to the burn and along it to the start of the uphill climb on the Border fence.

I seemed to run faster and faster, and found myself, as I have said, in second place.

John Dallinson was hotly in pursuit, but I had managed by Peel Fell to give myself a breathing space between us. As I descended from Peel Fell to the last checkpoint at Deadwater, running along the line of the short iron boundary posts, I came upon the leader. We said a few words to each other and I was away. The leader at that point was Jim Davies of Borrowdale who had mistakenly missed out the Viaduct section because of inadequate instructions by the organisers.

The next person I saw was on the final straight, as I ran through the forest to the Castle. It was Bruce Lowdon, the winner of the 1987 race, who was walking the other way and supporting the runners. He spurred me on and I punched the air.

It was, however, a huge anti-climax at the Castle. I ran in almost unnoticed among hordes of people, and ultimately received my trophy and a yellow Ron Hill cagoule. No one else received a prize in the fell race. They had even spelt "Borderer" on the trophy wrongly. It was, in many ways, an anti-climax to everything I had worked towards. There was no acknowledgement in a real way of my achievement that day, but I knew in my heart of hearts that I had achieved one of my fell running aims in a time of 2 hours 52 minutes (a record for that course) at that time with John Dallinson, second. I honestly believed at the time that my record on that day would never be broken, but David Armstrong of NFR beat it by 3 minutes in 2000.

In many ways, the 1994 Kielder Borderer reached two heights. For me it was the pinnacle of my fell running achievements, but on the other hand, the Ron Hill Duathlon experience was the nail in the coffin for the race. Numbers had not been great for the fell race, and the organisation and après-race refreshments were abysmal.

Despite the lack of results and any real acknowledgement for my achievement that day the report in the *Hexham Courant* in 1994 recounted the events and Tynedale Harriers and A.C. won the team prize, comprising myself (1st), Angus Tait (3rd) and Mike Fry in 3 hours 20 minutes.

Extract from *Hexham Courant* August 1994:

"SATURDAY saw the running of Tynedale's premier fell race, the 17 mile 3,000 feet climbing Kielder Borderer Fell Race (category B long).

Contrary to popular belief the Kielder area not only comprises the largest man made forest and lake in Europe, it also has extensive open areas of moorland owned by the Forestry Commission and retained as a nature reserve.

This remote, vast area of heather and bog-covered wilderness, with rough fire breaks through the lower lying forests, provides the ideal venue for one of the toughest category B fell races in Britain.

The fell race organised by Mike Sanderson of Forest Enterprise now forms part of the Ron Hill sponsored series of events including the 20 mile Challenge Walk, Elite and Short Duathlon, with the great man himself participating in the latter event. Competitors from far and wide took part in the various events.

The six members of Tynedale Harriers taking part in the fell race had a particularly successful day, with John Humble reaching the zenith of his long running career by winning outright in a time of two hours 52 minutes, nearly 20 minutes faster than his previous year's performance.

John's performance was particularly noteworthy as the conditions were decidedly hot, but he ran particularly strongly in the latter part of the race to overcome strong opposition and finish three minutes ahead of Claremont's John Dallinson.

Angus Tait also had a good run, finishing third in a time of 3-01, followed by the constantly improving Chris Scorer in 3-15.

The excellent performances of these runners secured the Team Shield for Tynedale Harriers, the second year running.

Ruth Fletcher also had a very good run, finishing in 3-17 bettering her previous best time by nine minutes, but such was the exceptionally stiff opposition from Bingley Harrier's Amanda Isdale that Ruth had to settle for being second lady.

Mike Fry found the race very tough but finished in a creditable time of 3-20 with Stewart Beaty completing the Harriers' line up in 3-48, just ahead of local lad Simon Banks.

Most of the competitors were too weary to even notice the infamous midges as they relaxed in the lovely grounds of Kielder Castle prior to the presentation of the awards.

They had however been given a chance to sample the wonderful but seldom visited landscape between Kielder and Carter Bar. The view from Peel Fell on the Scottish border must be one of the most panoramic in Tynedale, with the Lake District mountains, Solway Firth and Galloway hills all clearly in view. The Kielder Stone also on the border is an imposing, historic site, and legend has it that to circle it three times clockwise will bring good fortune. A herd of elusive wild goats also reside in this remote wilderness.

It has to be hoped that this vast national asset is not allowed to pass into private ownership, with the inevitable restrictions of access and profit motivated management fundamentally changing the character of this unique landscape forever."

RESULTS

RONHILL

MOUNTAIN DUATHLON

run = ride = run

16 July '94

Kielder Borderer Fell Race

COURSE:

1 Lap 17 miles Walk Open fell & well graded trails 3000 feet of ascent and descent

Position	TEAM	TEAM	TEAM	Course	Category	Start time	Lap 1	TOTAL
Cat	Overall	No	Member 1	Member 2	Member 3		Run	TIME
		119	Watson		Fell	Unknown	11:00:00	14:59:17
		122	Gill		Fell	Unknown	13:01:00	15:22:15
1		106	Isdale		Fell	Ladies	13:01:00	16:10:17
2		131	Fletcher		Fell	Ladies	13:01:00	16:17:41
3		103	Mennin		Fell	Ladies	13:01:00	17:12:19
Q		117	Davies		Fell	Ladies	13:01:00 DQ? DQ?	16:01:04
								03:00:04
Position	TEAM	TEAM	TEAM	Course	Category	Start time	Lap 1	TOTAL
Cat	Overall	No	Member 1	Member 2	Member 3		Run	TIME
1		123	Thompson		Fell	Senior	13:01:00	15:34:00
2		118	Davies		Fell	Senior	13:01:00	15:59:41
3		124	Sloan		Fell	Senior	13:01:00	16:00:36
4		115	Catts		Fell	Senior	13:01:00	16:07:09
5		110	Young		Fell	Senior	11:00:00	14:11:48
6		109	Robinson		Fell	Senior	11:00:00	14:31:15
7		108	Phillips		Fell	Senior	11:00:00	14:38:59
8		126	Whinham		Fell	Senior	13:01:00	16:47:01
9		113	Banks		Fell	Senior	13:01:00	16:50:04
10		102	Topham		Fell	Senior	13:01:00	17:18:28
								04:17:28
Position	TEAM	TEAM	TEAM	Course	Category	Start time	Lap 1	TOTAL
Cat	Overall	No	Member 1	Member 2	Member 3		Run	TIME
1		104	Humble		Fell	VETS	13:01:00	15:53:59
2		132	Dallinson		Fell	VETS	13:01:00	15:57:07
3		128	Tait		Fell	VETS	13:01:00	16:01:15
4		130	Scorer		Fell	VETS	13:01:00	16:15:01
5		105	Fry		Fell	VETS	13:01:00	16:20:45
6		125	Hayes		Fell	VETS	13:01:00	16:24:09
7		114	Dyson		Fell	VETS	11:00:00	14:27:03
8		101	Pearson		Fell	VETS	13:01:00	16:33:42
9		107	Smith		Fell	VETS	13:01:00	16:44:07
10		116	Clarke		Fell	VETS	13:01:00	16:47:34
11		127	Bealy		Fell	VETS	13:01:00	16:47:57
12		129	Garbano		Fell	VETS	13:01:00	16:49:58
13		112	Coles		Fell	VETS	11:00:00	14:59:17
14		121	Mackey		Fell	VETS	11:00:00	15:03:00
RTD		120	Atkinson		Fell	VETS	11:00:00	RTD
7		111	Bates		Fell	VETS	11:00:00	NO FINISH TIME RECORDED



Above: 16th July 1994. After the Borderer.
 From left to right: Gill Mennim, Sophie Humble, John Humble, Bill Sloan (Claremont Road Runners), Simon Banks, and Angus Tait.



From left to right. John Humble, Mike Fry and Angus Tait with the team shield for Tynedale Harriers.

Kielder Borderer

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5th, 1995

The Kielder Borderer Fell Race starts and finishes at Kielder Castle, near Kielder Village, Northumberland. O.S. 1:50000 Sheet 80 (Cheviot Hills) Grid Ref. 632934.

The route is via Three Pikes, Kielder Head, Grey Mares Knowe, Knox Knowe, Kielder Stone, Peel Fell and Deadwater Fell, 17 miles with approximately 3000ft. of climbing. Fell Race category 'B' long, and owing to the severity of the event (distance, terrain and weather conditions), the organisers strongly recommend that only experienced persons should consider entering. Navigational skills are essential, although the beginning and end of the course are marked and markers must be followed at these points.

Open to males and females, 18 years and over.

Start time: 11a.m.

ROUTE/CHECK POINTS

The route is shown on the front of the form, but all competitors must carry O.S. Sheet 80. All competitors must visit the following check points:

	Grid Ref.	Closing Time
1 Three Pikes	666 953	12.00
2 Kielderhead	667 480	13.00
3 Grey Mares Knowe	667 004	13.45
4 Knox Knowe Cairn	651 026	14.45
5 Kielder Stone	637 005	16.00
6 Peel Fell	627 998	-
7 Deadwater Fell	626 972	-

Competitors who reach a check point after the closing time will be asked to retire. If for any reason you have to retire please report to the nearest checkpoint marshal and in any event you **MUST** report to the finish.

CAR PARKING – Follow signs to Kielder from Kielder Water on the C200 or from Byrness village on the A68. Park behind Anglers Arms.

CAMPING – Camping is available at Kielder campsite with showers, laundry, children's play area.

REGISTRATION

All competitors should register at Kielder Castle where race numbers will be issued. Registration opens at 9.30a.m. and closes at 10.45a.m.

Changing and showers are available at the Border Park Rugby Club.

The course consists of tracks over moorland, forest rides plus open fells over 2000ft.

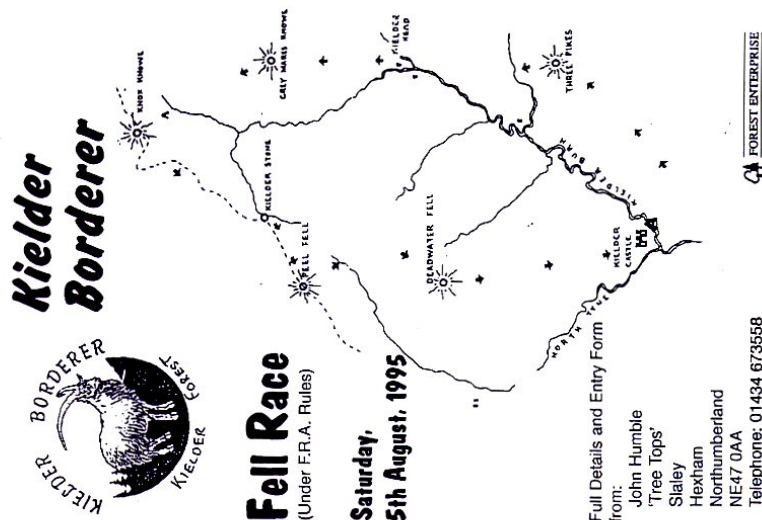
SAFETY EQUIPMENT – because of the exposed nature of the course all competitors **MUST** carry the minimum equipment as follows:

1. Full windproof body cover
2. Whistle
3. Map (OS Sheet 80)
4. Compass
5. Emergency rations (e.g. chocolate)

A kit check will be held at the Start.

TROPHIES

Prizegiving will take place as soon as is possible at Kielder Castle to as many age groups as possible.



Fell Race
(Under F.R.A. Rules)

**Saturday,
5th August, 1995**

Full Details and Entry Form
from:
John Humble
'Tree Tops'
Slaty
Hexham
Northumberland
NE47 0AA
Telephone: 01434 673558

FOREST ENTERPRISE

1995 – THE KIELDER BORDERER FELL RACE

Despite the euphoria for me in the 1994 race and the optimism of the *Courant* report following the race, which sang the praises of the Kielder area, numbers had to increase. Quite understandably, it looked as if the Forestry Commission had lost faith in the race, and it was not in the FRA calendar for 1995; was it "the beginning of the end for the Borderer"?

Many reasons were put forward for the possible demise of the Borderer; some true, some a figment of the imagination:

True – one of the toughest in Britain, not distance and climbing wise, but underfoot it was harder than any.
False – Kielder Castle was too remote – it was no more remote than starting points for scores of other fell races; the midgies – sometimes terrible, but at other times, particularly on the Borderer day, unnoticeable.

Whatever the reason, it had to continue and I decided to try to keep it going another year with the help of my dearest friend and native of Kielder Village, Simon Banks. If we did not, the Forestry Commission would persevere with it no longer.

First of all, we tried to publicise it like it had not been publicised before as we felt that its profile over the years had been low. How was it the 10k road race over Kielder Dam was over-subscribed? Deep down, I believe it is down to the remoteness and toughness of the course, nothing other, but it is quite simply the true fell race.

Simon wrote to various clubs, while I used Chris White to advertise it in his magazine *The Runner*, and Simon and I did our darndest to make sure people knew it was on. No stone was left unturned.

I also thought that a good way of promoting it was to put on a shorter race, possibly in the evening to promote not only the race, but the area. I looked at my map, I reccied the area around Kielder Castle on a regular basis, and tried to find the perfect route.

Three Pikes seemed the ideal checkpoint to work to. I ran to it time and time again and ran down the swampy steep firecheck to East Kielder Farm on the Borderer route and tried to find a perfect route back to the Castle via Three Pikes.

One evening I ran along the river from the bottom of the firecheck towards the Castle, but in complete despondency it was too rough for running. It was like a jungle and no good for a fell race.

Then, as usual, Simon came up with the solution as he always has. Nothing ever beats that man! He knew the forest better than the back of his hand. He had lived there all his life and worked in the forest all his working life.

Quite nonchalantly, he knew of forest rides that could lead us back to the castle from Three Pikes. If they were not in existence, then he would simply cut the trees down – he would open up a suitable route.

AND SO THE THREE PIKES FELL RACE WAS BORN!

Born out of a desire to promote and keep the Borderer going. We had lost the Yomp, lost the Challenge Walk and now risked losing the fell race. I knew Simon would come up with the goods, and those evenings above Kielder Castle with Simon planning the race route were unforgettable.

So the Three Pikes Fell Race was run on 6th June 1995.

Hopefully, this would mean increased numbers at the Borderer on 5th August 1995.

After the Three Pikes Fell Race and throughout my fortnight's holiday in Minorca in July 1995, I planned the Kielder Borderer Race; everything had to be organised to the minutest detail – Fell Rescue, prizes (I even had pictures of the Kielder area specially commissioned for the 2 winners by a local artist), entry forms, refreshments at the Castle afterwards ... only 21 runners arrived on the day – what a disappointment, after

all the work, all the preparation – why were they staying away? We had contacted everyone, many personally by letter or on the telephone.

I will not dwell on the day but leave you to read the report I sent to the *Hexham Courant* which appeared in the edition of 11th August 1995: Simon and I knew we could have done nothing more. We were exhausted and there were still all the letters of thank you to the Fell Rescue, the farmer Michael Dobson at Scaup Farm at Kielder Head, and Bill Burlton and Mike Sanderson of the Forestry Commission.

And so, I wrote my letter to Bill Burlton on 22nd August 1995. This letter also sowed the seeds for the Northumberland County Championship in 1996, of which you have heard. We were all still trying to save “the Borderer”, which was even harder after 1995.

Kielder Borderer puts Harriers to the test

KIELDER is fast becoming Tynedale's Mecca for a wide variety of sporting activities and last Saturday's festival included the running of the Kielder Borderer Fell Race.

The 17 mile 3000 feet ascent route covers some of the roughest, most inhospitable moorland in Northumberland and provides a considerable challenge to the fell runner.

This year's event was organised by Tynedale Harriers' John Humble with assistance from the Forestry Commission and at 11:00 am. prompt 21 runners, including some relative newcomers to long distance fell running, bravely ventured into unknown wastelands between Kielder and Carter Bar with the energy sapping sun blazing overhead.

The pleasant run along the old Border Counties Railway track and over Kielder's well known viaduct gives a gentle start before the steep climb up through the forest rides, past the fire tower onto the open moorland upto the first checkpoint at Three Pikes.

It's then a long descent through the forest, along rough pasture past East Kielder Farm, then over the river and up the track to the second checkpoint with welcome refreshments at Kielder Head.

The next checkpoint at Grey Mare's Knowe is reached after a long climb of nearly 900 feet through the forest and onto the open moor.

The character of the route then changes dramatically, what appears to be an endless expanse of heather clad moorland has to be traversed, where local knowledge can be an advantage in finding the best route to the next checkpoint at Knox Knowe Cairn on the Scottish border.

The next four miles of the route straddle the border including an incredibly rough descent through waist deep heather to the Black Needle Burn bottom before the climb to the next checkpoint, the famous landmark, the Kielder Stone.

Thankfully the moorland streams were still flowing with reasonably palatable water, to stave off dehydration and fatigue in the ever increasing heat.

The penultimate checkpoint, the highest point, Peel Fell at 1975ft. is the next goal, after which the going gets a little easier, with the characteristic domed aerals on Deadwater Fell, the final checkpoint, beckoning in the distance.

Those tempted to take the direct route through the valley are courting disaster, whilst the experienced runner follows the circular route via Mid Fell.

The views from Deadwater were breathtaking, with refreshments taken, encouragement from the marshals and Kielder now in sight.

The runners overcame their fatigue, cramp and blisters to run the final 2.5 miles back to the warm welcome at Kielder Castle.

Tynedale Harrier Andy Clarke had a great run but he is the first to admit that navigation is not his strongest point, and a bad route choice between Peel Fell and Deadwater resulted in him losing his lead.

Cumberland Fell Running Club's John Rea thought he had victory in his sight but he missed some markers near the end.

Andy could not believe his luck when he regained the lead to take the coveted victory in a time of 3 hours 9 mins. with John having to settle for second place only half a minute later.

Tynedale Harrier David (Dexter) Armstrong and Angus Tait ran much of the route together but youth eventually triumphed over experience and David had a great result, finishing in third position in a time of 3-21 with Angus fourth. in 3-25, taking the veterans' trophy.

Pat Cooper of Morpeth Running Club made it a Kielder double, when following victory in the Three Pikes Fell Race, she valiantly

completed the course to take the ladies' trophy in a time of 5-44.

Ray Hayes also of Morpeth had a good run to take the over 50 trophy, seventh overall, in 3-35, while Tynedale's Stewart Beaty was delighted to take the over 45 trophy, ninth overall in 3-49, with evergreen David Wright looking as if he had spent the day on a continental beach, winning the over 60 trophy in 6-02.

Other Tynedale Harriers finishing were local hero Simon Banks having a particularly good run to finish eighth in 3-44, Chris Scorer 10th 4-07, Malcolm Allen 11th in 4-11, with Steven Brown and Andrew Irving joint 19th

Marshals, members of Tynedale Harriers and at the remote checkpoints the North of Tyne Search and Rescue Team did a magnificent job in encouraging the competitors and ensuring their safe return.

Surprisingly in view of the conditions there was only one retirement.

The castle and festival were an ideal setting for the competitors to relax after their efforts, with excellent showers provided by Border Park Rugby Club, and ample refreshments at the Castle Cafe.

Next year the organisers are considering running a short race as well as the Borderer thus giving a wider selection of runners the chance to sample the delights of the varied Kielder landscape.

HEXHAM COURANT 11/8/1995

**'TREE TOPS'
SLALEY
HEXHAM
NORTHUMBERLAND
NE47 0AA**

22nd August 1995

Dear Bill

re: Kielder Borderer Fell Race 1995 and the Kielder Festival

Thank you for supporting the Kielder Borderer on 5th August 1995. Although the entry was relatively small, I feel sure that if the event was staged again, there would be larger numbers entering as I think the bad memory of the organisation by Ron Hill has now been obliterated.

When you have had the opportunity of discussing next year's events, I would be grateful if you could contact me and let me know whether for the Forest Enterprise and Northumbrian Water Limited could support the run and let me know whether you would like it to be on the same day as the Festival again or say on the following Sunday or even a week before or week after or even on another day in the year, perhaps to coincide with some other festival activity on Kielder water.

It was also mentioned that there may be a shorter race on the same day and I am sure like Alwinton or Mallerstang, this could bring more people to the run. I have also spoken with Lawrence Heslop who you may know, who organised the Chevy Chase and he suggested that we have a prize for the best result of the Chevy Chase and the Borderer and he would advertise the Borderer when he sends out the details for the Chevy Chase. Any ideas would be appreciated, but I would be grateful if you could contact me as soon as possible so that the details can be put in the Fell Running Calendar, which unfortunately you will know, did not happen this year.

Thank you for offering to let me have £50 towards the trophies. Unfortunately, I did not have enough money to buy individual annual trophies and have them engraved, although I would like to do so next year. The £50 you offered to me for trophies however, would be greatly appreciated if indeed the offer still stands. I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible as to the future of the event, and if you would like me to come up and see you at Bellingham, I would be delighted to do so.

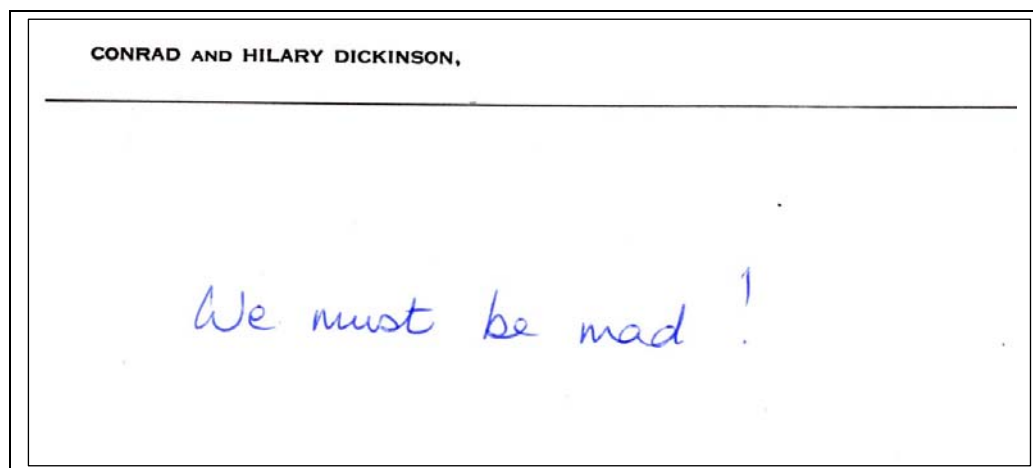
Very kindest regards,

Yours sincerely

JOHN HUMBLE

What good came out of 1995, if any?

Well, the Northumberland County Championship was born, the Three Pikes Fell Race was under way until 2000, and I had established with Simon Banks a friendship like no other. I also established friendships with others I wrote to at the time, people like Glen McWilliams from Wooler and Conrad & Hilary Dickinson, those intrepid Antarctica explorers. This is the note they sent with their entry form:



That is what they thought about the Borderer. If they thought they were mad entering, is it not surprising that lesser mortals think the same?

Despite our disappointment at the numbers entering the race, I think Simon and I would agree that it was all worthwhile for us, because of those 21 wonderful souls that entered, because I truly believed they had a wonderful day, and if you look down those names, many have formed the nucleus and backbone of NFR.

KIELDER BORDERER FELL RACE RESULTS

5TH AUGUST 1995

Position	Name	Club	Time	Category
1	Andy Clarke*	Tynedale	3.09.01	<u>Senior</u>
2	John Rea*	CFR	3.09.32	V40
3	David Armstrong*	Tynedale	3.21.26	
4	Angus Tait	Tynedale	3.25.00	<u>V45</u>
5	John Murphy	U/A	3.28.00	
6	Iain Sharples	Claremont	3.29.00	
7	Ray Hayes	Morpeth	3.35.00	<u>V55</u>
8	Simon Banks	Tynedale	3.44.00	
9	Stewart Beaty	Tynedale	3.49.00	<u>V45</u>
10	Chris Scorer	Tynedale	4.07.00	V45

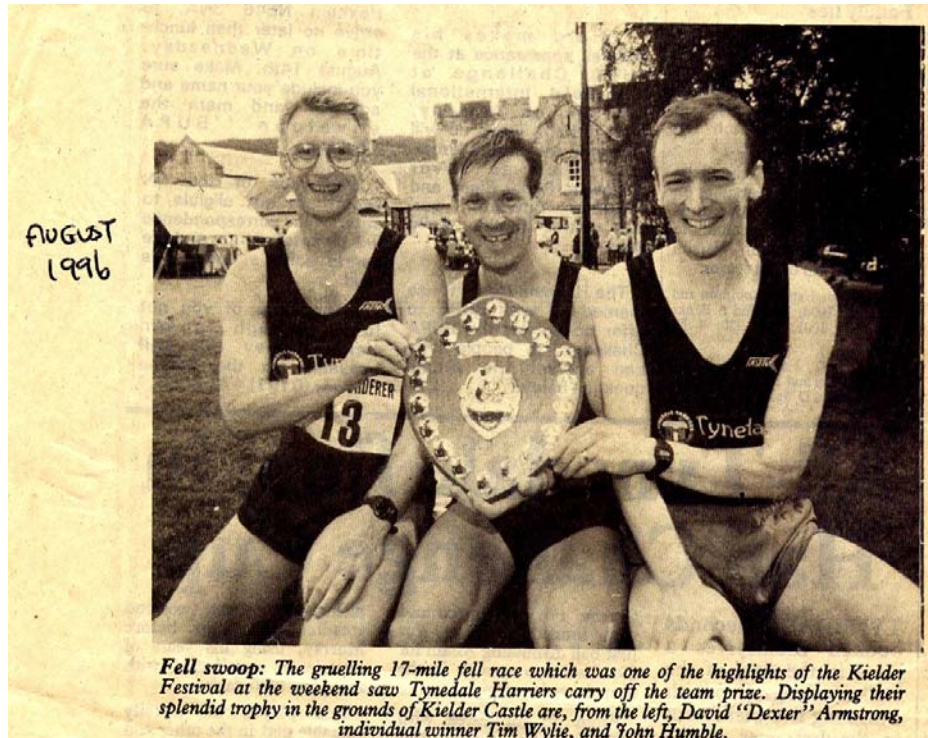
11	Malcolm Allen	Tynedale	4.11.00	
12	Peter Reed	Morpeth	4.20.00	V40
13	James Tomlin	Morpeth	4.20.00	V45
14	Bill Campbell	Gosforth	4.54.00	V45
15	J D Woodhouse	U/A	5.00.00	
16	Pat Cooper	Morpeth	5.44.00	<u>LADY</u>
17	Keith Cooper	Morpeth	5.44.00	V40
18	David Wright	Tynedale	6.02.00	<u>V60</u>
19	Steven Brown	Tynedale	6.02.00	
20	Andrew Irving	Tynedale	6.02.00	
	Roy Dawson	Retired at Knox Knowe		

* Trophy Winners

Team - Tynedale

1996 – THE KIELDER BORDERER FELL RACE

August 1996 came and the Kielder Borderer was one of those three races of the Northumberland County Championship, the next chapter in the desperate attempt to keep the race alive. It worked, as 50 runners competed, with Tim Wylie from Wark, a member of Tynedale Harriers, winning the race in 2:55:55. I was pleased with 3:03:52 but was beaten into second place in the male veteran 40 section by my friend, John Rea, from Cumberland Fell Runners. If you look at the results of 1996, you will see all those names that came into NFR – the Northumberland County Championships seemed to inspire them. I was delighted with the turnout. Tynedale Harriers and AC won the team shield, namely Tim Wylie, David Armstrong and myself.



	KIELDER BORDERER		4.8.96 - 17 MILES	
	RACE RESULTS			
NO.	NAME	CLASS	CLUB	TIME
44	D. THOMPSON	Individuals - Ladies	HARDLEY	3.43.53
31	E.A. NEWMAN	Individuals - Ladies	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	4.05.32
2	A. BYERS	Individuals - Ladies	WIGTON-ROAD RU Nf4ER	4.06.40
33	H. DICKINSON	Individuals - Ladies	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	4.09.44
26	A. WYLIE	Individuals - Ladies	N/A	4.21.22
40	A. M. WATSON	Individuals - Ladies	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	4.34.40
25	T. P. WYLIE	Individuals - Mens	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	2.55.55
13	D. ARMSTRONG	Individuals - Mens	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	3.00.36
19	J. REA	Individuals - Mens	CUMBERLAND FELL RAC	3.01.06
37	N.S. WALLACE	Individuals - Mens	ELSWICK HARRIERS	3.03.40
1	J. HUMBLE	Individuals - Mens	TYNEDALE H & A.C.	3.03.52
48	S. SCOTT	Individuals - Mens	U/A	3.04.11
56	R. BRADLEY	Individuals - Mens	HOLMFIRTH H.A.C.	3.04.47
6	S. BOULBY	Individuals - Mens	DENBY DALE	3.18.46
27	CJ WRIGHT	Individuals - Mens	MANDALE H.A.C.	3.20.54
29	J. CHRISTIE	Individuals - Mens	ALNWICK HARRIERS	3.23.22
22	M. HENRY	Individuals - Mens	ALNWICK HARRIERS	3.23.22
38	P.G.SCOTT	Individuals - Mens	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	3.24.34
20	R. HAYES	Individuals - Mens	MORPETH HARRIERS	3.26.47
24	D.L. BELL	Individuals - Mens	MORPETH HARRIERS	3.28.08
7	J. IVENS	Individuals - Mens	BRISTOL ORIENTERRIN	3.30.44
41	S.P. TINDALE	Individuals - Mens	SOUTH SHIELDS HARRIE	3.31.46
12	S. BROWN	Individuals - Mens	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	3.32.03
45	R. DAWSON	Individuals - Mens	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	3.38.44
23	T. WRIGHT	Individuals - Mens	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	3.38.45
17	A. HIGSON	Individuals - Mens	EYEMOUTH	3.41.16
18	D. ROBERTSON	Individuals - Mens	EYEMOUTH	3.41.16
11	M.J. FRY	Individuals - Mens	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	3.41.48
32	C. DICKINSON	Individuals - Mens	N/A	3.42.19
52	S. BEATY	Individuals - Mens	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	3.44.07
36	S. WALKER	Individuals - Mens	BLYTH	3.49.12
10	P. REED	Individuals - Mens	N/A	3.51.52
35	J. POTTS	Individuals - Mens	BLYTH RUNNING CLUB	3.51.55
3	B. CHRISTIE	Individuals - Mens	WIGTON ROAD RUNNER	3.54.36
4	B. DONLEY	Individuals - Mens	WIGTON ROAD RUNNER	3.54.37
55	R. GRAY	Individuals - Mens	AMBLESIDE	3.54.37
30	D.P. PEARSON	Individuals - Mens	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	3.59.02
42	J. HUTCHINSON	Individuals - Mens	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	4.02.57
43	M. SIMMS	Individuals - Mens	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	4.03.52

NO.	NAME	CLASS	CLUB	TIME
50	E. WATSON	Individuals - Mens	HEATON HARRIERS	4.07.50
21	G. ATKINSON	Individuals - Mens	WALLSEN D- H -& A- C.	4.08.59
5	K. L. MARTIN	Individuals - Mens	WIGTON ROAD RUNNE	4.14:29
34	R DICKINSON.	Individuals - Mens	BLYTH RUNNERS CLUB	4.14.29
53	W. CAMPBELL	Individuals - Mens	GDSFORTH-	4.16:25
16	J. CRUICKSHANK	Individuals - Mens	EYEMOUTH	4.28.52
9	R. BAINBRIDGE	Individuals - Mens-	MAAIDALE HARRIERS	4.30.42
46	p. LATHAM	Individuals - Mens-	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	4.30:59
39	M. ALLEN	Individuals - Wens	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	43.4:41
14	D. WRIGHT	Individuals - Mens	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	4.52.23
15	G. HULL	Individuals - Mens	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	4.52.29
47	K. COOPER	Individuals - Mens	MORPETH HARRIERS	5.02.56
19	J. REA	Veterans Over 40	CUMBERLAND FELL RAC	3.01.06
1	J. HUMBLE	Veterans Over 40	TYNEDALE H & A:C.	3:03.58
29	J. CHRISTIE	Veterans Over 40	ALNWICK HARRIERS	3.23.22
24	D L. BELL	Veterans Over 40	MORPETH HARRIERS	3:28:08
32	C DICKINSON	Veterans Over 40	N/A	3:42.19
30	D P. PEARSON	Veterans- Over 40	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	3:59:02
42	J. HUTCHINSON	Veterans Over 40	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	4.02.57
15	G. HULL	Veterans Over 40	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	4:52.29
47	K. COOPER	Veterans Over 40	MORPETH HARRIERS	5.02.56
44	D. THOMPSON	Veterans Over 40 - Ladies	HARDLEY	3.43.53
2	A. BYERS	Veterans Over 40 - Ladies	WIGTON ROAD RUNNER	4.06.40
33	H. DICKINSON	Veterans Over 40 - Ladies	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	4.09.41
56	R. BRADLEY	Veterans Over 45	HOLMFLRTH H:A:C.	3-04.47
22	M. HENRY	Veterans Over 45	ALNWICK HARRIERS-	3:23:22
45	R. DAWSON	Veterans Over 45	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	3:38:44
23	T. WRIGHT	Veterans Over 45	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	3:38.45
11	M.J. FRY	Veterans Over 45	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	3.41.43
52	S. BEATY	Veterans Over 45	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	3.44.07
10	P. REED	Veterans Over 45	N/A	3.51.52
35	J. POTTS	Veterans- Over 45	BLYTH RUNNING-CLUS	3:51.55
50	E. WATSON	Veterans- Over 45	HEATON HARRIERS	4.07.50
34	R. DICKINSON	Veterans Over 45	BLYTH RUNNERS CLUB	4.14.29

NO.	NAME	CLASS	CLUB	TIME
20	R. HAYES	Veterans over 50	MORPETH HARRIERS	3.26.47
4	B. DONLEY	Veterans over 50	WIGTON ROAD RUNNERS	3.54.37
55	R. GRAY	Veterans over 50	AMBLESIDE	3.54.37
21	G. ATKINSON	Veterans over 50	WALLSEND H & A.C.	4.08.59
53	W. CAMPBELL	Veterans over 50	GOSFORTH	4.16.25
46	P. LATHAM	Veterans over 50	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	4.30.59
3	B. CHRISTIE	Veterans over 60	WIGTON ROAD RUNNERS	3.54.36
9	R. BAINBRIDGE	Veterans over 60	MANDALE HARRIERS	4.30.42
14	D. WRIGHT	Veterans over 60	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	4.52.28

1997 – THE KIELDER BORDERER FELL RACE

Thirty-nine runners competed in The Borderer on 3rd August 1997 when, again, it was part of the Northumberland Fell Runners Championship, but also one of the newly formed NFR club championship races and the new club name appears against many of those well-known names of NFR. Keven Shevels of Quackers (I think "Quakers" was intended), that intrepid organiser of fell races in Durham over the last few years, was also in the field. The results are a little haphazard, but Andy Clarke won, I was 2nd, and David Armstrong 3rd.

Name	Club	Number	Category	Time Taken
GEOFF BINNS	NESTLE ROWNTREE	23	MALE	0.00.00
MARK STYLES	TYNEDALE	28	MALE	0.00.00
RICHARD CAVNER	NORTH FELL RUNNERS	16	MALE V45	0.00.00
ANDY CLARKE	TYNEDALE H	27	MALE	03.03.22
JOHN HUMBLE	NORTH FELL RUNNERS	2	MALE V45	03.04.19
DAVID ARMSTRONG	NORTH FELL RUNNERS	19	MALE	03.04.38
WILL LAWRENCE	F.R.A. NORHAM	1	MALE	03.13.23
TIMOTHY WYLIE	TYNEDALE	17	MALE	03.13.45
SIMON GAKHAR	NORTH FELL RUNNERS	20	MALE	03.14.45
GARRY OWENS	NORTH FELL RUNNERS	18	MALE V40	03.18.30
JOHN REA	CUMBERLAND FELL RUNNERS	22	MALE V40	03.26.25
MICHAEL BROADHURST	TYNEDALE HARRIERS	30	MALE V40	03.27.43
RAY HAYES	NORTH FELL RUNNERS	15	MALE V50	
DOUG COCKBURN	MORPETH HARRIERS	29	MALE V50	03.28.29
BRIAN DAVIES	BURNSIDE	26	MALE V40	03.29.49
FRASER LIVESEY	HOWGILL HARRIERS	7	MALE	03.37.07
DAVID L BELL	NORTH FELL RUNNERS	14	MALE V40	03.38.09
DAVID SAUNDERS	CLAREMONT R.R.	25	MALE	03.40.57
PETER REED	NORTH FELL RUNNERS	13	MALE V45	03.50.55
STEVEN WALKER	BLYTH	34	MALE	03.50.55
MAURICE MUSSON	DARK PEAK	4	MALE V45	03.52.06
RAYMOND GRAY	AMBLESIDE (?)	12	MALE V50	03.53.36
DAVID PEARSON	TYNEDALE	6	MALE V40	03.59.51
STUART FERGUSON	CROOK	3	MALE	04.00.05
STEWART BEATY	NORTH FELL RUNNERS	11	MALE V45	04.00.41
GEOFF DAVIS	SUNDERLAND UNI.	31	MALE V40	04.01.29
WILLIAM CAMPBELL	NORTH FELL RUNNERS	36	MALE V50	04.03.02
WILLIAM TAIT	NORTH FELL RUNNERS	10	MALE V45	04.06.50
JOE POTTS	BLYTH R.C.	32	MALE V45	04.14.31
JANE SAUL	NORTH FELL RUNNERS	21	FEMALE	04.14.31
H TURNBULL	BLYTH R.C.	33	MALE V45	04.31.01
RALPH DICKINSON	BLYTH R.C.	35	MALE V45	04.42.24

GEORGE SWANSON	NESTLE ROWNTREE	24	MALE	V45	04.45.53
DAVID MADDISON	NESTLE ROWNTREE	9	MALE	V50	05.15.05
IAN WILCOCK	NESTLE ROWNTREE	8	MALE	V40	05.15.10
K SHEVELS	QUACKERS	38	MALE	V40	05.42.10
S WABON	QUACKERS	39	MALE		05.42.10
HELEN YOUNG		37	FEMALE		05.42.10

1997 was a disappointing race for me as I was leading the race at Deadwater Fell. I had been about 10th at Kielder Head, as a result of letting the leaders go at East Kielder Farm, feeling that unless they were all going to break the record, they were all going too fast. As it turned out, I was right and passed all of the leaders up to Peel Fell. I had 100 yards on Andy Clark but his extra speed and youthfulness enabled him to pip me at the post and I hung on to second place from my bitter rival and close friend David Armstrong by 19 seconds. What a race!

1998 – THE KIELDER BORDERER FELL RACE

Name	Position	Category	Time	Club
Shaun Scott	1		2.53.30	Northumberland FR
David Armstrong	2		3.01.37	Northumberland FR
James Dickinson	3	V40	3.04.04	Tynedale Harriers
John Humble	4	V40	3.10.27	Northumberland FR
Ian Mulve	5		3.14.40	Northumberland FR
Stephen Davis	6	V40	3.18.18	Mandale Harriers
Brian Robinson	7	V40	3.19.21 I	Mandale Harriers
John Rea	8	V 45	3.28.40	Cumberland FR
Derek Schofield	9	V45	3.30.58	—
John Batt	10	V40	3.31.51	Buxton AC
Ray Hayes	11	V50	3.35.32	Northumberland FR
Mark Brown	12		3.36.12	Mandale Harriers
Elizabeth Batt	13	L	3.40.13	Buxton AC
Stuart Ferguson	14	V40	3.42.21	Crook
David Binks	15		3.43.14	BCR
Nick Cotton	16		3.50.11	Thirsk + Sowerby Harriers
Marlon Tielmans	17	V40	3.50.11	HAC - Holland
Raymond Gray	18	V50	3.51.41	Northumberland FR
John Dunnek	19	V40	3.57.05	Derwentside AC
Simon Banks	20		4.00.28	Northumberland FR
Richard Clarke	21	V50	4.00.42	Mandale Harriers
Andrew Lain	21		4.00.42	Mandale Harriers
Peter Reed	23	V45	4.01.27	Northumberland FR
Joe Garbarino	24	V60	4.12.21	Northumberland FR
John Christie	25	V40	4.17.17	Alnwick
Mark Styles	26		4.19.51	Tynedale Harriers
Stewart Beaty	27	V50	4.27.41	Northumberland FR
George Atkinson	28	V50	4.38.35	Wallsend
Ronnie Lendrum	29	LV35	5.08.46	Thirsk+Sowerby Harriers
Robert Deuchar	29	V40	5.08.46	Thirsk+Sowerby Harriers
David Jeal	29		5.08.46	Thirsk+Sowerby Harriers
Phillip Conner	32		5.12.46	
Andrew Conner	33		5.13.17	FRA
Les Scurr	34	V45	5.53.35	

The ultra talented Shaun Scott of NFR won the race and I finished 4th in 3.10.27. David Armstrong continued his incredible record in this race by finishing 2nd again. Liz Batt of Buxton AC won the ladies race. She won the Wasdale Fell Race the same year, beating Emma Moody of NFR into second place. Mike Sanderson wrote in the *Fellrunner* after the race:

"Not all controls were marshalled this year. However, judging by the times, no one can have cheated and the course record remains intact. With the demise of the World Cup (football) so recent, someone should have dribbled the big ball down from Deadwater to the finish. Must invite Gazza next year!!!"



Above: Left to right: John Humble, David Armstrong, and Shaun Scott, winners of the team shield for NFR at the Castle after the Borderer.

1999 – THE KIELDER BORDERER FELL RACE

James Dickinson	1	V 40	2.57.53	Tynedale
Morgan Donnelly	2		2.58.43	Tynedale
John Humble	3		3.21.00	Northumberland FR
Jeff Ross	4		3.23.58	Northumberland FR
Karen Robertson	5	L	3.30.28	Northumberland FR
Peter Scott	6	V40	3 30 28	Northumberland FR
R Dawson	7	V 5 0	3.32.10	Northumberland FR
E King	8		3.33.57	Redcar
Simon Banks	9		3.53.31	Northumberland FR
S Walker	10	V 40	4.21.42	Northumberland FR
T Hart	11	V50	4.21.42	Blyth
J Lumsden	12	L	4.22.40	Blyth
Stewart Beaty	13	V50	4.25.17	Northumberland FR
J Donneky	14	V40	4 33 17	Derwentside
J Potts	15	V 50	4 47 48	Northumberland FR

Tynedale captured 1st & 2nd places and NFR then captured the runner up Morgan Donnelly. NFR were 3rd to 7th and won the team prize. Karen Robertson was 1st lady in 3.30.28.

I will leave you to read my report that appeared in the NFR newsletter as follows:

KIELDER BORDERER FELL RACE 1 AUGUST 1999

One would think that this race would become easier, and yet as I participate year after year it seems to become tougher. Could it be the weather, or the length of the heather (now most of the goats have gone) or my age, or possibly a combination of all of them and other factors as well? There is no doubt, that for a BL category race it is incredibly hard. It is better not to dwell too long at Three Pikes or even Kielder Head, otherwise the route ahead is daunting for the race starts reasonably easy and becomes harder and harder as the terrain becomes tougher and wilder.

On this occasion a relatively small field of 18 runners set off on an extremely hot day, although there was a breeze on the tops which retarded the dehydration among the racers a little. By the end, I felt that after three hours twenty one minutes that I had been in the sun long enough. I had finished third, and felt I could have done better as I was about twenty minutes behind the winner James Dickinson of Tynedale, who for a well advanced V40 and only on his second attempt at the race (after a third last year) had a great race in two hours fifty-eight minutes followed closely by Morgan Donnelly who without doing James any injustice should have won the race but for his inattention to the marked route at the end of the race. Even James himself was surprised when about one mile from the finish he was told that he was in the lead, having seen Morgan leave him in his wake after Deadwater Fell.

Many congratulations to Morgan Donnelly for a valiant first outing over this course, and most of all for his sporting, no nonsense, no excuse attitude which indeed any Northumberland Fell Runner member would be proud of.

Morgan's attitude epitomises fell running – his love of the country and the sport and all for having a great day out with runners of like mind as himself. I was third and I suppose I should have been pleased and followed the example of Morgan, but deep down I was a little disappointed, but tried not to show it.

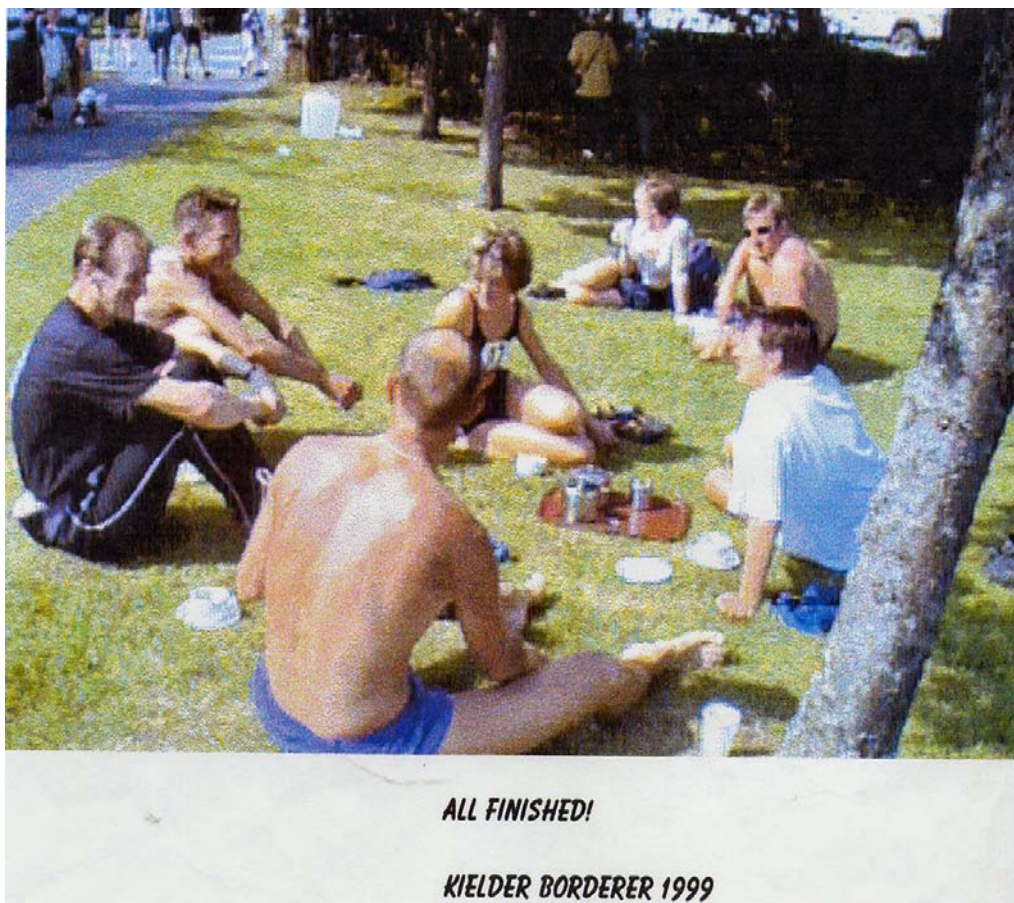
I was trailed most of the way by Jeff Ross who came in 2 minutes behind me. He pursued me like a hunter and there is no worse feeling on the Kielder Borderer than to be hotly pursued up the last hill after nearly seventeen miles, but he came and he came and he kept coming for me and I now know why he almost succeeded on his Bob Graham round recently in the most atrocious weather.

Northumberland Fell Runners won the team prize, myself, Jeff Ross and Karen Robertson, the latter winning the ladies' prize on her first attempt – what a competitor – she had never raced more than fourteen miles in a fell race and completed the Borderer in 3 hours 30 minutes and convincingly won the ladies section – well done Karen.

Roy Dawson beat his jinx of last year and won the V50's in 3 hours 32 minutes and he did not even look tired; I would love to know what his secret is.

Other finishers from N.F.R. were Peter Scott, 3.30, Simon Banks, 3.53, Steven Walker, 4.22, Terence Hart, 4.22, Jacqui Lumsden, 4.22, Stewart Beaty, 4.25, and Joe Potts, 4.48.

Thank you also for the support from Bill Campbell at Three Pikes and at the top of the hill at the end with Bill Tomlinson, and also Jackie Scott and Jane Saul at the end, who were all a wonderful sight after such a gruelling race.



ALL FINISHED!

KIELDER BORDERER 1999

What a peaceful setting above, what a contentment to finish, and an experience never to be forgotten. What I really cannot understand is why more people do not come back after they have done it once. I did it once and could not stop coming back again and again and again, and also never sicken of running that route as a

training session, although one has to overcome the realisation that as the years progress it becomes more and more difficult to break that 3 hour barrier.

Thank you also to Simon Banks for making the course at the beginning and the end so clear (apart from to Morgan of course).

Hopefully one day the Kielder Borderer could be an England and British Championship race. Do you think we would be the fifty entrants or would the Borderer's reputation still put people off? Please support this race in 2000 as it could become extinct just like the goats on the Kielder fells. It has teetered on the brink before and then came back strongly. It needs more than eighteen people next year. Please, Please support it. Why would anyone want it as a championship race again? Perhaps you could let me know.

2000 – THE KIELDER BORDERER FELL RACE

6TH AUGUST 2000

RESULTS:

No.	Name	Cat	Club	Time
1	David Armstrong	V40	Northumberland FR	2.49.39
2	James Dickinson	V40	Tynedale	2.56.28
3	Garry Owens	V40	Northumberland FR	3.09.36
4	Paul Fernandez		U/a	3.26.04
5	Geoffrey Hodges	V45	Macclesfield	3.27.17
6	Paul Gaines		Tynedale	3.32.49
7	Steven Walker	V40	Northumberland FR	3.36.01
8	John Pollard	V45	Glossopdale	3.36.29
9	Stewart Jones	V40	Northumberland FR	3.37.00
10	Clive Baker		North Shields Poly	3.40.24
11	Les Stephenson	V50	Kendal	3.40.50
12	Raymond Gray	V50	Northumberland FR	3.41.15
13	Jeffrey Ross		Northumberland FR	3.41.45
14	Ray Hayes	V60	Northumberland FR	3.46.33
15	Peter Reed	V45	Northumberland FR	3.46.33
16	Simon Banks		Northumberland FR	3.50.56
17	Terence Mulligan	V40	U/a	3.55.50
18	Terry Hart	V50	Northumberland FR	3.56.07
19	Thomas Dodds	V50	Northumberland FR	4.06.19
20	Francis Morgan	V45	Holmfirth	4.07.50
21	James Keeble	V50	U/a	4.13.13
22	Billy Campbell	V50	Northumberland FR	4.13.16
22	Kenneth Turnbull	V50	Blyth	4.13.16
22	Keith Cooper	V45	Northumberland FR	4.13.16
22	Chris White	V50	Northumberland FR	4.13.16
26	John Donneky	V45	Derwentside	4.20.53
27	Mike Fry	V50	Northumberland FR	4.31.26
28	Richard Cavern	V45	Northumberland FR	4.51.41

29	Paul Hodgson	V40	U/a	4.56.16
30	James Wilkinson	V50	Northumberland FR	DNF

Team Shield – Northumberland Fell Runners

Team Winners were:

1. David Armstrong (1st)
2. Garry Owens (3rd)
3. Steven Walker (7th)

David Armstrong, after so many finishes in the top three, finally won the race and he did it in style by breaking the record on the 'new' course in a time of 2.49.39. I had been unwell since March of that year and did not compete but had the pleasure of walking over towards Peel Fell via Deadwater Fell and seeing David and the other runners approach Deadwater. My good friend Jim Wilkinson was beset by cramp, and although failing to finish, through his usual doggedness and determination, battled to reach the last checkpoint at Deadwater Fell.

2001 – THE KIELDER BORDERER

Foot and Mouth disease in 2001 meant the race did not go ahead in August 2001.

Kielder Borderer Fell Race – 4th August 2002

A small field of 21 runners who, I believe, all deserve a medal, completed the fell race at Kielder this year, and if there has to be someone singled out, then I believe it should be Steve Birkinshaw who won the race in 3 hours 5 minutes and 57 seconds, but did you know, that he finished fifth in the Borrowdale Fell Race the day before, and when you consider, well it is only my opinion, that this was probably the hardest of Borderer ever, and I say that after having completed many Yomps and Borderers over the years.

I think it was one of the hardest ever because it was so wet at underfoot and it was very warm as well. Since the Borderer last took place the heather, particularly between Grey Mares Knowe and Knox Knowe Carin and Peel Fell has become so much longer as a result of the removal of the goats (but Simon Banks and I have seen some that have escaped the roundup, but do not tell the Forest Enterprise). Also, the excessive rain over the last couple of years has exaggerated the deep gullies and created new ones, particularly on the bank sides between Knox Knowe Carin and Kielder Stone and the Black Needle Burn between the two has on many occasions flooded its banks and washed them away in places, making the route more and more difficult.

This year, I set off quite conservatively and allowed the first four in the race ease away and only as I ascended to Grey Mares Knowe Mount from Keilder Head did I begin to work a lot harder, but probably paid the price later of not taking on board as much liquid as I should have done (will I ever learn?).

By the time I reached Peel Fell I was fourth and the runner in front of me, Jeff Ross, I believe was 10 minutes ahead. Unfortunately I lost a lot of time from then on as I found the ground so wet from Peel Fell to Deadwater Fell, and thankfully Jim Wilkinson was at Deadwater Fell to encourage me and give me food and liquid to enable me to complete route, but descending Deadwater Fell my legs were cramping a great deal,

something I had never experienced before save I remember on a very hot day in Lakeland on a unsuccessful attempt of the Bog Graham Round.

I hope the Borderer will continue to be staged, as it has so many happy memories for me, both during and after the race, and I still picture at home so many distinct memories of those hills and the camaraderie afterwards in and around Kielder Castle. My most vivid memories of Kielder are those Keilder Yomps in the 1980's when I would weigh my rucksack to precision with 20 lbs of sand in and if Bill Burlton or Mike Sanderson considered it too heavy or light I would make the alteration by taking out or putting in a bag of sand which I had weighed previously. I also remember the year the checkpoint marshall never reached his checkpoint at Knox Knowe Cairn in very thick mist, and even knowing the area as I do, had to stand there and wonder whether I was really at Knox Knowe Cairn. Someone now though has planted a oak tree on the summit, although as Simon Banks and I found recently, the poor tree is finding it difficult to survive – I wonder why?

I also remember vividly the year Simon Banks and I organised the race and the honour I had in presenting the trophies in the courtyard of Kielder Castle. I remember before my first Yomp driving along the forest drive and climbing up to 3 Pikes up the fire check to see where the pikes were. I could go on indefinitely about my happy memories of the Borderer and indeed some of those moments both in the Yomp and the Borderer and during reconnaissance of the route when I wondered whether anything could be physically more demanding for me.

So please organisers, keep it going and members, please support it, as I can assure you that it fulfils the spirit and provides satisfaction afterwards.

Here are the results, and in particular well done Steve Birkinshaw (first) David Armstrong (second) and Jeff Ross (third).

John Humble

KIELDER BORDERER FELL RACE – 4TH AUGUST 2002 – RESULTS

Position	Name	Time	Cat	Club
1	Steve Birkinshaw	3.05.57		Northumberland FR
2.	David Armstrong	3.10.22	V40	Northumberland FR
3	Jeffrey Ross	3.17.19		Northumberland FR
4	John Humble	3.36.57	V50	Northumberland FR
5	Paul Fernandez	3.38.18		U/A
6	Murdo McEwan	3.40.22	V40	Carnethy HRC
7	Dave McPartlin	3.56.58	V40	Northumberland FR
8	Les Stephenson	4.03.24	V50	Kendal AC
9	Simon Banks	4.04.49	V40	Northumberland FR
10	Steven Walker	4.13.16	V40	Northumberland FR
11	Karen Robertson	4.13.17	L	Northumberland FR
12	Paul Creighton	4.18.17		U/A
13	Raymond Gray	4.18.20	V50	Northumberland FR
14	Terry Hart	4.18.43	V50	Northumberland FR
15	John Myatt	4.21.26		U/A
16	Ken Turnbull	4.42.57	V50	Northumberland FR
17	Roy Dawson	4.42.57	V50	Northumberland FR
18	Peter Scott	4.42.57	V40	Northumberland FR
19	Phil Maddern	5.34.32		U/A
20	Jane Saul	5.34.32	L	Northumberland FR
21	Billy Graham	DNF	V40	U/A

SAVE THE KEILDER BORDERER AND 2003 RESULTS
BY JOHN HUMBLE

Only 12 runners, but a good 12 at that. What a pity such a small entry on such a lovely day at Kielder Festival. I have talked and written too much already of my love of these fells and this race in particular – 8 consecutive yomps and I have forgotten how many Borderers (I would need to check).

The race nearly folded up a few years ago but, mainly with the help of Simon Banks, Bill Burlton and Mike Sanderson, we kept going and formed a new race called “The Three Pikes” for a few years to promote the longer race, but still ‘The Borderer’ never had more than about 30-35 runners but it survived, but perhaps not this time. A meeting is however being held between the organisers Forest Enterprise + Simon Banks and myself to see whether there is any way of saving it eg. by modifying the race, changing the date etc. If anyone has any ideas please let me or Simon know.

This year’s results – well a great run for Steve Birkinshaw, but a particular well done to David Burn who battled out his first Borderer and never gave up and wants to do it again and also to Louise, a brave lady to take it on and beat it in 4 hours 20 minutes. Well done all of you and grateful thanks to you for supporting it. Please let me know if anyone else is willing to support it in the future.

Particular thanks to Simon Banks and Bill Burlton who did so much this year and to the North of Tyne Fell Rescue Team without whom the race would be very difficult to stage and all those wonderful marshals and support. Thank you Bill Campbell and all others.

In particular, thank you to Simon Banks who works so hard on this race and even carried tea and goodies all the way to Knox Knowe Cairn to replenish our bodies and spirits – just to see Simon there and receive his encouragement was marvellous. Thank you Simon, you are a hero! Not just on this occasion, but on so many others as well.

Kielder Borderer Fell Race 3 August 2003 Results

Pos	Name	Club	Time	Cat
1	Steve Birkenshaw	NFR	2.55.14	
2	David Armstrong	NFR	3.07.35	V40
3	Jeffrey Ross	NFR	3.17.03	
4	Andy Porter	Preston Harriers	3.21.30	
5	Dave McPartlan	NFR	3.28.51	V40
6	John Humble	NFR	3.33.11	V50
7	Syd Coxon	Tynedale Harriers	3.37.03	V40
8	David Burn	NFR	3.55.41	V40
9	Terry Hart	NFR	3.59.18	V50
10	Raymond Gray	NFR	4.01.04	V50
11	Louise Wilkinson	NFR	4.20.16	L
12	Andrew Laing	Middlesborough AC	5.06.30	V40

Individual Categories

Men

Pos	Name	Club
1	Steve Birkenshaw	NFR
2	David Armstrong	NFR
3	Jeffrey Ross	NFR

Ladies

Pos	Name	Club
1	Louise Wilkinson	NFR

Vets O40

Pos	Name	Club
1	David Armstrong	NFR
2	Dave McPartlan	NFR
3	Syd Coxon	Tynedale

Vets O50

Pos	Name	Club
1	John Humble	NFR
2	Terry Hart	NFR
3	Raymond Gray	NFR

Below: Team winners 2003 NFR. Left to right. Jeff Ross (3rd), Steve Birkinshaw (1st), and David Armstrong (2nd).



Kielder Borderer Fell Race Sunday August 1 2004 - Results

Position	Name	Club	Time	Cat
1	Joe Blackett	North York Moors AC	3.07.24	V40
2	David Armstrong	NFR	3.11.22	V40
3	Jonathan Ingram	Saddleworth Runners	3.11.57	
4	Phillip Addyman	NFR	3.18.43	
5	Brian Roberts	North York Moors AC	3.19.22	V40
6	Simon Deakin	North York Moors AC	3.23.14	
7	Howard Chambers	Saddleworth Runners	3.25.28	V40
8	Louise Wilkinson	NFR	3.27.24	L
9	Ozzy Kershaw	Saddleworth Runners	3.28.30	V40
10	David Burn	NFR	3.29.18	V40
11	Geoff Davis	NFR	3.31.10	V40
12	David Atkinson	NFR	3.33.20	V40
13	Simon Elliot	Notts AC	3.34.49	V40
14	John Duff	NFR	3.36.20	
15	Paul Hawksworth	NFR	3.37.26	
15	Christopher Little	NFR	3.37.26	
17	Conrad Dickinson	Tynedale AC	3.38.29	V40
18	Karen Mather	Saddleworth Runners	3.39.45	LV40
19	Marcus Byron	Tynedale AC	3.41.22	
20	Paul Appleby	NFR	3.43.45	V40
21	Michael Gutherton	NFR	3.43.46	
22	Steve Wright	U/A	3.46.45	
23	David Eagan	Hunters Bog Trotters	3.49.20	V50
24	Chris Jenkins	Totley AC	3.57.14	
25	Simon Banks	Hunters Bog Trotters	4.05.40	V40
26	Damon Rodwell	NFR	4.05.58	
27	Raymond Gray	Westerlands	4.18.14	V50
28	Mike Elwell	NFR	4.26.22	V60
29	Jane Hodgson	Saddleworth Runners	4.27.18	L
30	John Allen	Saddleworth Runners	4.33.15	
31	Raymond Migocz	U/A	4.38.02	V50
32	Tony Shantly	U/A	4.40.38	V40
33	Mike Sanderson	Saddleworth Runners	4.43.18	V60
34	Ray Bradley	NFR	4.56.15	V50
35	Paul Jameson	Saddleworth Runners	5.23.00	V50
35	Ruphina Yeld	NFR	5.23.00	LV40
37	Charles Scott	Chichester	5.25.00	V40

Category Results

Senior Men			
1	Joe Blackett	North York Moors AC	3.07.24
2	David Armstrong	NFR	3.11.22
2	Jonathan Ingram	Saddleworth Runners	3.11.57

Men V40			
1	Joe Blackett	North York Moors AC	3.07.24
2	David Armstrong	NFR	3.11.22
3	Brian Roberts	North York Moors AC	3.19.22

Men V50			
1	David Eagan	Totley AC	3.49.20

	2	Raymond Gray	NFR	4.18.24
	3	Raymond Migocz	U/A	4.38.02
Men V60				
	1	Mike Elwell	Saddleworth Runners	4.26.22
	2	Mike Sanderson	NFR	4.43.18
Ladies				
	1	Louise Wilkinson	NFR	3.27.44
	2	Karen Mather	Saddleworth Runners	3.39.46
	3	Jane Hodgson	Saddleworth Runners	4.27.18
Ladies V40				
	1	Karen Mather	Saddleworth Runners	3.39.46
	2	Ruphina Yeld	Chichester	5.23.00

Extract from NFR Newsletter 2004:

A TALE OF TWO RACES

(An account of the Kielder Borderer written by John Duff with occasional asides by Paul Jameson from a different perspective at the back.)

LOUISE BREAKS RECORD:

The Kielder Borderer: 17 miles of scenic running that shows off the Border country at its best? or the race from hell, complete with mud and midges, and designed for masochists? 37 runners assembled at Kielder yesterday to find out. The field was swelled by contingents from NFR, North Yorkshire Moors, and Saddleworth Runners who had made it a championship race.

Starting at the Castle, there is a quick half mile along the Old Railway Line before a slippery climb up through the forest to Greys Pike. The mist was just on the tops, so visibility was down but at least it was cool. After a run along the ridge to Three Pikes, a rough descent through the forest leads to a river crossing and run along the road to Kielder Head. That was the easy bit. (The road choice was a tip recalled by one of the tail-end party at the wrong time.)

The climb up through the woods to Grey Mares Knowe was a long one, and with the mist proving slow to clear several runners went astray here. (No problem with navigation when we arrived in the sun. My distant memory suggests that this ascent was harder many years ago when the deer fence path weren't there. Can

anyone confirm?) I was running in company with David Burn and Howard from Saddleworth, and we managed to find the elusive escarpment track, stealing a march on Geoff Davis and Dave Atkinson who dropped too low. However we promptly lost the track, and a party led by Louise Wilkinson caught us up. (No problems losing this track but a problem finding one later.) This led to a mass arrival at the Knox Knowe checkpoint and the question on everyone's lips was: where now? (We had advice at the checkpoint about a path between two fingers of bracken on the far side of the stream and ominous warnings about the tough going.)

The answer proved to be a rough descent down to the burn before an indistinct track led through the heather to the impressive Kielder Stone. (Not many taken the route downstream and upstream taken by the intrepid explorers at the back of the field having opted out of the direct and seemingly pathless route through the heather. Advice urgently sought.) From here there was a long and weary climb up to Peel Fell in by now warm sun, before the final pull over Deadwater Fell. (This was the easy part after our exploits and on a path as well! The advice to aim for the fence posts after Kielder Stone was recalled in the nick of time soon after we started to head up the stream.) And the least said about the descent – both stony then marshy – the better. (The descent was a pleasure especially after the warm welcome by North of Tyne Search and Rescue on Deadwater. Both parts of that word had significance for us.)

David Armstrong (3:11:22) running his nth Borderer led NFR home, finishing second behind Joe Blackett (3:07:24). In the ladies' race, Louise Wilkinson (3:27:44) proved she is the Tracey Morris of NFR, knocking one hour off her previous time and breaking the course record. There were other notable performance from Chris Little and Paul Hainsworth who finished together arms aloft, and from Paul Appleby whose times are coming down. Ray Gray and Mike Sanderson were second V50 and V60 respectively, and last but not least Paul Jameson swept up the rear of the field just in time for the prize giving.

(Paul was accompanied by Charles and his friend Ruphina who was running in her first ever fell race after Charles had suggested they could do it. I think Charles was a little worried when I suggested it might take as long as the Allendale Challenge. My competitive instinct – yes really – got the better of me at the end and I lost out on the prize for the last runner but on my reckoning gained valuable championship points.)

The fell race from hell? (A race classified as B, proving that numbers don't mean everything when grading a race.) You will have to run it to find out!

JOHN DUFF

A member of Saddleworth Runners says "It was good to see you all last Sunday, we had a fantastic weekend and look forward to seeing you next year."

2005 – THE_KIELDER BORDERER

Kielder Borderer 2005 Results

Position	Race No	Name	Club	Time	Category
1	150	Adam Breaks	CVFR	2.48.00	M
2	149	Jeff Ross	NFR	2.54.38	V40
3	151	James Dickinson	NFR	3.01.52	V40
4	147	David Armstrong	NFR	3.13.06	V40
5	148	John Humble	NFR	3.59.52	V50
6	154	Raymond Gray	NFR	4.06.30	V60
7	145	Steve Monahan	Skelmersdale	4.09.40	V40
8	146	Paul Jameson	NFR	4.25.37	V50
9	144	Peter Whewell	NYMAC	4.26.34	V50
10	153	Susan Davies	NFR	4.36.24	LV40
11	152	Geoff Davies	NFR	4.36.25	V40
12	156	Derek Blades	UA	4.43.45	V50
13	155	Micheal Shields	UA	5.11.21	V40



■ **Fell guys:** Kielder Festival Fell Race trophy winners were, back, from left, Veteran 60 winner Raymond Gray, second overall and first veteran home Jeff Ross, and Vet 50 winner John Humble . At the front from left are Adam Breaks, event winner, breaking the course record by one and a half minutes, and first lady home and first veteran 40 Susan Davis D320509

THE THREE PIKES FELL RACE 1995–2000

THE THREE PIKES FELL RACE 1995 (CM. 8 miles. 950 feet)

You have heard how and why it came about. The results were as follows:

RESULTS : 6 JULY 1995

Position	Name	Club	Category	Time
1	Barry Jameson	Tynedale	V40	57.27
2	Garry Owens	U/a		59.04
3	Angus Tait	Tynedale	V45	59.11
4	John Marsh	Teviotdale	V40	59.50
5	Roy Dawson	Tynedale	V45	61.39
6	James Brown	Tynedale	V45	63.38
7	Ray Hayes	Morpeth	V50	64.27
8	Bill Campbell	Gosforth	V45	66.05
9	David Bell	Morpeth	V40	66.34
10	J.W. Tomlin	Morpeth	V45	68.34
11	Alan Coltman	Teviotdale		68.47
12	Stewart Beaty	Tynedale	V45	69.37
13	D Croasdale	Tynedale	V45	72.25
14	Ian Leighton	Elswick	V50	72.38
15	Mike Sanderson	U/a	V50	72.45
16	T Mitcheson	Elswick	V40	75.58
17	Brian Wilson	U/a	V40	77.25
18	John Gill	U/a	V45	77.46
19	Pat Cooper	Morpeth	1 st Lady	83.24

The *Hexham Courant* reported on 14 July 1995:

3 PIKES FELL RACE 6TH JULY 1995

EXTRACT FROM HEXHAM COURANT 14/7/1995

Thursday evening saw the inaugural running of the Three Pikes Fell Race, based at Kielder Castle and covering an eight-mile route with a 950ft ascent (category C medium).

The route starts in a gentle manner, following the track of the old Border Counties railway and over the well known viaduct before heading up the steep forest rides up to the triangulation point at Grey's Pike.

It's then along the fell ridge to the ultimate goal of the Three Pikes. Thought to be 1,800 years old the purpose of the mysterious cairns remains unknown since they have no relationship with the highest

point, boundaries, direction markers or burial grounds.

Then down some rough heather and along a rough forest ride before hitting a pleasant forest track, then battling through some dense forest to the valley bottom.

The runners then cross a delightful old humped back packhorse bridge, followed by a pleasant run along the fields, before a short sharp climb back to the castle.

The weather was rather warm and damp with mist on the high ground but organisers John Humble of Tynedale Harriers and Simon Banks of the Forestry Commission had done an excellent job of marking the course, so navigation was not a problem.

A field of 19 enthusiastic runners including one lady and Tynedale Harriers' Barry Jameson, having one of his first fell races, fresh from his previous night's magnificent run in the Tynedale 10k road race, was glad to get started and away from the midges at Kielder Castle.

Barry's sparkling form continued with a well deserved victory, earning him the magnificent Three Pikes Trophy, in a time of 57 minutes, 27 seconds.

Garry Owens from Morpeth

was second in 59-04, followed by Tynedale's Angus Tait having a strong run in 59-11, to finish first over 45, with Teviotdale's John Marsh fourth in 59-50. Morpeth's Ray Hayes was first over 50 in seventh position overall, Ian Leighton of Elswick Harriers was first over 55, 14th, in 72-38, with first and only lady, Pat Cooper from Morpeth in a time of 83-24.

Other members of Tynedale finishers included Roy Dawson, fifth in 61-39, Jim Brown, sixth, 63-38, Stewart Beaty, 12th, 69-37, Derek (Shoe Bar) Croasdale, 13th, 72-25, Mike Sanderson (forest ranger) 15th, 72-45 and Tony Mitchinson 16th, in 75-58.

The cafe at the castle provided welcome refreshment for the hot sweaty runners and the presentations of trophies and prizes took place. Such was the generosity of the organisers that all the participants received a prize.

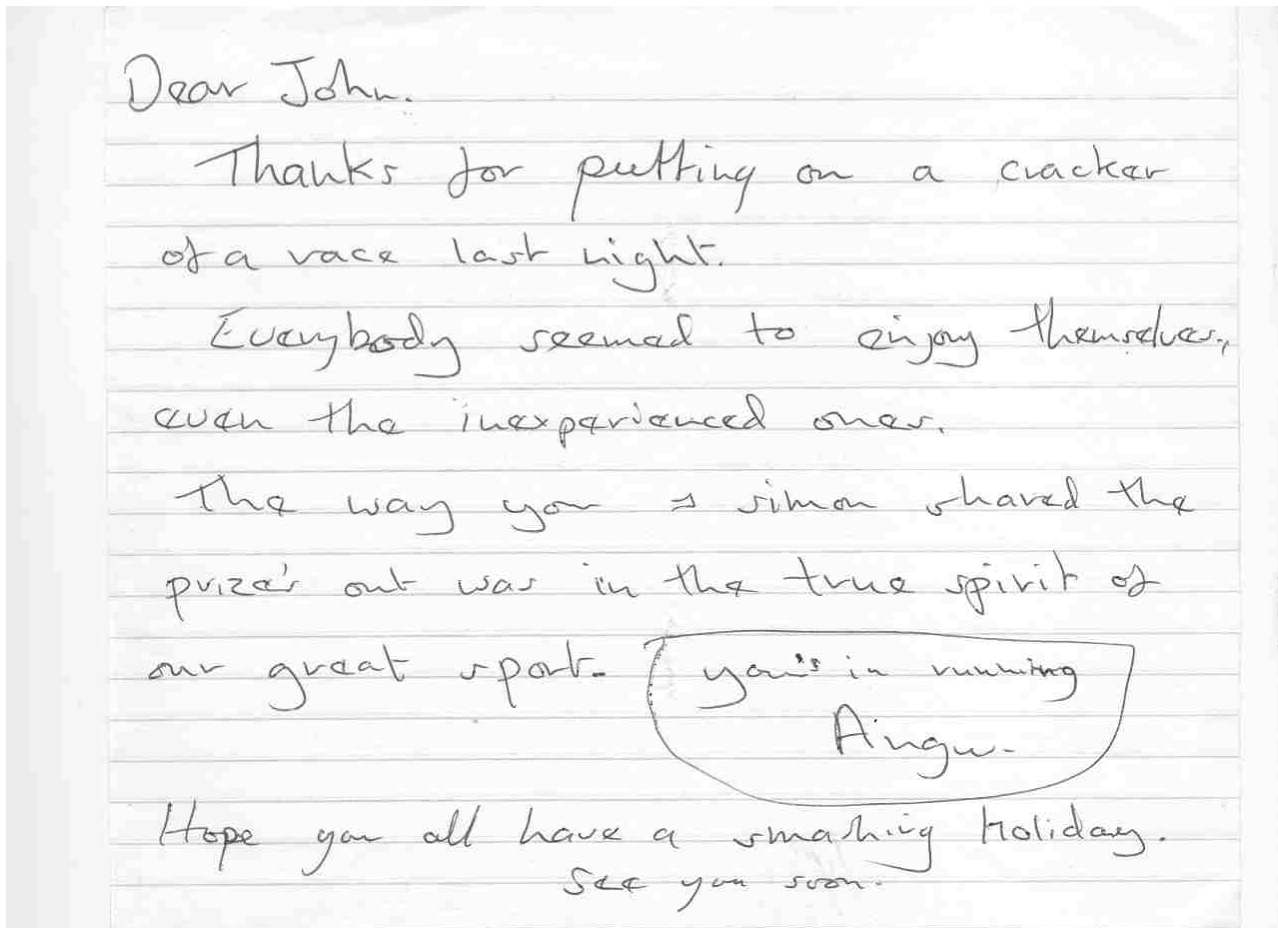
Those wishing to visit the Three Pikes at a more leisurely pace may choose to walk a similar route. Full details of this and many other activities are available at the Forestry Commission visitor centre and shop and Kielder Castle.

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!
LOOK OUT FOR DATE
IN FELL RUNNERS CALENDAR!

I cannot speak for Simon, but all I wanted that evening was for those 19 runners to have a wonderful evening and I hope they did. I had never really announced winners at a fell race, but found it quite natural to say a little something about those winners, just to make them know that they were very special. They certainly had given me one of the biggest surges of adrenalin as I saw them come in, covered in peat stains. I think the

after race gathering in the cafe quite unconsciously gave me the idea of the format of the NFR presentation evening, when I wanted people to know of the award winners' achievements.

Perhaps the biggest compliment I could have received was from Angus Tait who wrote to me after the race:



Angus never said anything he did not mean, and from one of the great fell racers it meant everything. He once said to me after I had completed a Yomp one year (he was running 'the Borderer' that year) something to the effect that if I could run that route with a 20lb pack in 3 hours 20 minutes, I had joined the ranks of a true fell runner.

Although only a very small number of runners entered the Three Pikes Race that year, Simon and I felt that the new race had been worthwhile and Simon did so much for that race, in particular the moulding of the men's trophy depicting the Three Pikes. Because of the nature of the route, almost all of it had to be flagged at least every couple of hundred yards or so, and we had to be ultra-cautious in the event of mist. It also had to be 'unflagged' which competitors often forget when they enter races that have flags on them to assist, as all fell runners know that there is no such fell race as one that is fully marked.

THE 1996 THREE PIKES FELL RACE

Although the 1995 Three Pikes Race was meant to be a 'once off', we decided to stage it again in 1996 and I will leave you to peruse the results and the report that appeared in the subsequent edition of the *Fellrunner*. John Tullie broke the record and won in the men's race and Ruth Fletcher took Pat Cooper's ladies' record from 1995. I will never forget the après race presentation and 'goodies' in the Kielder Castle Café, then ably provided by Rosemary (who has now left the area), after Simon had arranged the special out of hours opening of the café. We took the view that if there were midgies around, we might be safer inside.

On a statistical note, the numbers in the 1996 Borderer were swelled to 50, so hopefully the Three Pikes Race and the Northumberland Fell Running Championship had been at least contributory factors towards this revival in 1996. As in 1995, I reminded everyone about the Borderer in August.

The report in the *Fellrunner* read as follows:

This was the second year of the race and it turned out to be a calm, sunny evening with wonderful visibility and the views from Three Pikes were magnificent. The event produced an entry of 47 runners, 20 of whom were from Tynedale Harriers and Athletics Club as it was one of the Club's Championship races.

Although the fell was wetter than last year, times were exceptionally good and the first ten competitors bettered the course record of Barry Jameson in 1995.

John Tullie of Teviotdale just managed to hold off Tim Wylie of Tynedale at the finish by 10 seconds, Tim having surrendered a good lead at Three Pikes on the homeward journey through the "forest ride" section.

It was an excellent run by the first over 40 Veteran, Angus Tait, and the first over 50 Male Veteran, Ray Hayes, and it was very encouraging to see Ruth Fletcher winning the Ladies race after a long spell of injury.

Refreshments and prize giving took place in the courtyard at Kielder Castle afterwards and as a result of the good turnout, the race will definitely go ahead in 1997.

RACE RESULTS

Race	Category	Date	196
INDIVIDUALS - Overall			
1	John Tullie	Teviotdale	51.44
2	Tim Wylie	Tynedale	51.54
3	Ian Mulvey	Tyne Triath	52.24
4	Neil Wallace	Elswick	52.36
5	Mike Carmont	Ncle Univ	54.19
6	Eddie Simpson	Cumberland	55.11
7	Andy Clark	Tynedale	55.16
8	Angus Tait	Tynedale	56.03
9	Robert Cranston	Teviotdale	56.34
10	David Armstrong	Tynedale	56.56
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			
27			
28			
29			
30			
INDIVIDUALS - Ladies			
1	Ruth Fletcher	Tynedale	68.37
2	Hilary Dickinson	Tynedale	75.14
3	Angela Wylie	U/A	76.01
4	Pat Cooper	Morpeth	78.04
5	Maggie Simpson	Not Fast R C	93.25
6			
7			
8			
INDIVIDUALS - Veterans 0/40			
1	John Humble	Tynedale	58.24
2	Fintan Clarke	Saltwell	58.34
3	John Rea	Cumberland	60.54
4	David Bell	Morpeth	61.02
5	Bob Parker	Tynedale	65.13
INDIVIDUALS - Veterans 0/45			
1	Angus Tait	Tynedale	56.03
2	Bruce Lowdon	U/A	58.28
3	Roy Dawson	Tynedale	61.27
4	Mike Fry	Tynedale	62.45
5	Jim Brown	Tynedale	63.56
INDIVIDUALS - Veterans 0/50			
1	Jim Wilkinson	Tynedale	74.38
2			
3			
4			
5			
INDIVIDUALS - Veterans 0/55			
1	Ray Hayes	Morpeth	62.51
2	Mike Sanderson	U/A	71.51
3			
INDIVIDUALS - Veterans 0/60			
1	David Wright	Tynedale	80.17
2			
3			
INDIVIDUALS - Intermediates			
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
INDIVIDUALS - Juniors			
1			
2			
3			
TEAMS			

THE 1997 THREE PIKES FELL RACE

THREE PIKES FELL RACE

Thursday 12th June 1997 - Start 7 p.m.



THREE PIKES 1365 ft/416 m, three cairns of unusual construction, some 2 yds/m high they stand on fell sandstone outcrops and consist mainly of triangular stone slabs, the cairns being triangular in section and outline. Only two others, identical in everyway, are thought to exist in the Borders, on Windiestraw Law in the Moorfoot Hills, 38 miles north. Thought to be 1,800 years old, they remain a mystery, having no relationship with the highest point, boundaries, directional markers or burial grounds. The rogue fourth cairn is of modern and inferior construction.

8 miles - 950 feet Ascent (category C medium) from Kielder Castle, Kielder, Northumberland

**Entries on the night - £2.50
Teams - free**

Presentation at Kielder Castle and cafe will be open for competitors to buy food and refreshments afterwards

Most of the course will be marked, but please carry your own map as well as a compass in case of mist, together with other necessary equipment depending upon weather conditions. Fell shoes or good gripping soles are essential.

Records
- Male - 51.44 J. Tullie 1996
- Female - 68.37 R. Fletcher 1996

Whet the appetite for this year's Kielder Borderer Fell Race on Sunday 3rd August 1997 (Kielder Festival Day). Entry forms will be available after the race.

For further information contact John Humble (Tel. No. 01434 673558 or Simon Banks (Tel. No. 01434 250268)

In 1997, there was an excellent turnout of 44 runners, and many of those names you will see in the results were future NFR members, still running for their old clubs, and there was emerging gradually a desire by those truly interested in fell running to join a specialised fell running club.

I was delighted to announce and for Simon to give the Three Pikes Trophy to Ben Evans from Ambleside, who I had met in the Lake District and other racing venues. He set a new record as did Jane Saul in the ladies' race. The team prize went to Tynedale, but NFR was on the up.

The Report in the *Fellrunner* read as follows:

THREE PIKES FELL RACE
NORTHUMBERLAND
CM/8m950ft 12/6/97

The weather was poor with low cloud and conditions were very wet underfoot after a lot of heavy rain prior to the race. Because of a new forestry road having been put in over the last part of the course, the race route had to be changed at the last minute, which extended the course by about one mile and involved more climbing with one very steep climb through the forest after 'Three Pikes'.

This meant a new race record for Ben Evans of Ambleside in fifty-nine minutes and three seconds, on his first running of the event and it was also refreshing to see representations from Keswick in the form of Andy Lewsley who finished eighth and third veteran over forty.

Last years winner John Tullie of Teviotdale had to settle for fourth position overall, but took the first veteran over forty. Tim Wylie was second for the second consecutive year. Well done also to the first lady who was Jane Saul of the new club – Northumberland Fell Runners.

Despite the low cloud no one got lost and every one seemed to enjoy the refreshments and prize giving at Kielder Castle afterwards. The consensus of opinion was that the new course was rougher but better.

3 Pikes Fell Race 1997

	Position	NUMBER	TIME	CATEGORY	CLUB	
BEN EVANS	1ST	98	59.03	S	AMBLESIDE	
TIM WYLIE	2ND	121	59.30	S	U/A	
ANDY GREEN	3RD	119	1.00.56	S	TYNEDALE	
JOHN TULLIE	4TH	95	1.01.37	V40	TEVIOTDALE	1ST V40
SHAUN SCOTT	5TH	115	1.01.48	S	NFR	
DUNCAN SCOTT	6TH	112	1.01.51	JUNIOR	TYNEDALE	1ST JUNIOR
GARRY OWENS	7TH	88	1.02.34	V40	NFR	2ND V40
ANDY LEWISLEY	8TH	97	1.02.46	V40	KESWICK	3RD V40
MIKE BROADHURST	9TH	116	1.03.36	V40	TYNEDALE	4TH V40
DAVID ARMSTRONG	10TH	84	1.03.59	S	NFR	
BRUCE LOWDON	11TH	99	1.05.31	V45	U/A	1ST V45
ANDY CLARKE	12TH	118	1.05.56	S	TYNEDALE	
STEVEN BROWN	13TH	81	1.06.05	S	TYNEDALE	
ANGUS TAIT	14TH	122	1.06.41	V45	NFR	2ND V45
JOHN REA	15TH	77	1.09.50	V40	CFR	5TH V40
DAVID SANDERS	16TH	85	1.10.30	S	CLAREMONT	
PETER SCOTT	17TH	111	1.10.46	V40	NFR	6TH V40
ROY DAWSON	18TH	109	1.11.24	V45	TYNEDALE	3RD V45
KELVIN WOOF	19TH	117	1.11.42	S	U/A	
ROBERT CRANSTON	20TH	96	1.11.51	S	TEVIOTDALE	
DOUG COCKBURN	21ST	78	1.11.55	V50	MORPETH	1ST V50
RAY HAYES	22ND	90	1.12.21	V55	NFR	1ST V55 (2nd V50)
BILL CAMPBELL	23RD	91	1.12.30	V50	GOSFORTH	3RD V50
MATT SIMMS	24TH	124	1.14.38	S	NFR	
STEVE WALKER	25TH	94	1.15.18	S	BLYTH	
ALAN MITCHAM	26TH	127	1.16.02	V50	TYNEDALE	4TH V50
HOWARD FORREST	27TH	120	1.16.47	V45	TYNEDALE	4TH V45
KEN TURNBULL	28TH	93	1.17.03	V45	BLYTH	5TH V45
JIM BROWN	29TH	110	1.17.31	V45	TYNEDALE	6TH V45
PETER REED	30TH	89	1.17.38	V45	NFR	7TH V45
ROB WISE	31ST	87	1.17.45	S	CLAREMONT	
COLIN GRIME	32ND	125	1.18.03	V50	ROWNTREES A.C.	5TH VET 50

3 PIKES FELL RACE

	POSITION	NUMBER	TIME	CATEGORY	CLUB	
JANE SAUL	33RD	86 ¹	1 18 09	Female	NFR	1ST LADY
JOE POTTS	34TH	92	1 18 29	V45	BLYTH	8TH V45
MARK STYLES	35TH	126	1 22 09	S	TYNEDALE	
STEWART BEATTY	36TH	108	1 22 23	V45	NFR	9TH V45
MIKE SANDERSON	37TH	128	1 22 49	V55	U/A	2ND V55
PETER CROSSDALE	38TH	114	1 26 06	V45	DERWENTDALE	10TH V45
RICHARD CARROTHERS	39TH	83	1 26 12	V45	TYNEDALE	11TH V45
DAVID WRIGHT	40TH	82	1 29 03	V60	TYNEDALE	1ST V60
JOHN GILL	41ST	123	1 32 38	V45	U/A	12TH V45
FIONA HUTCHINSON	42ND	80	1 32 53	FV40	TYNEDALE	1ST VET LADY
ALLAN DICKINSON	43RD	113	1 32 53	FV40	TYNEDALE	2ND VET LADY
RUTH FLETCHER	44TH	79	1 32 53	FV40	TYNEDALE	3RD VET LADY
	45TH					
	46TH					
	47TH					
	48TH					
	49TH					
	50TH					
	51ST					
	52ND					
	53RD					
	54TH					
	55TH					
	56TH					
	57TH					
	58TH					
	59TH					
	60TH					
	61ST					
	62ND					
	63RD					
	64TH					

THE THREE PIKES FELL RACE 1998

Report in the *Fellrunner*.

"For the 4th year of this event it was the wettest under foot, although despite rain before and just after the race, the rain kept off for Shaun Scott of Northumberland Fell Runners to take the title just ahead of Ben Evans of Ambleside, last year's winner, although Ben's record still stands from last year. The two of them were virtually neck and neck at Three Pikes. It is hoped that Ben returns again next year with more runners from his area; we can guarantee no rocks but plenty of bogs.

Refreshments and prize giving were in the Café at the Castle afterwards when 40 competitors took a welcome rest. Tynedale Harriers won the team prize with Northumberland Fell Runners second."

RACE RESULTS

3 Pikes Fell Race Category: Date: 12/06/98								
Pos	Name	Cat	Club	Time	Pos	Name	Club	Time
Individuals - Overall					Individuals – Veterans Over 40			
1	Shaun Scott	Sen	NFR	59.27	1	J Dickinson	Tyne	62.53
2	Ben Evans	Sen	Ambleside	59.42	2	M Broadhurst	Tyne	64.21
3	Andy Green	Sen	Tynedale	1.00.33	3	G Owens	NFR	64.49
4	Tim Wylie	Sen	U/A	1.00.54	4	J Christie	Alnwick	70.50
5	Bob Johnston	Sen	Saltwell	1.01.55	5	P Scott	NFR	72.59
6	James Dickinson	MV40	Tynedale	1.02.53	Individuals - Veterans Over 45			
7	Michael Broadhurst	MV40	Tynedale	1.04.21	1	K Turnbull	Blyth	80.26
8	Andy Clarke	Sen	Tynedale	1.04.25	2	B Campbell	NFR	81.53
9	Peter Vale	Sen	Morpeth	1.04.45	3	M Sanderson	NFR	86.50
10	Garry Owens	MV40	NFR	1.04.49	4	D Croasdale	Derwent	87.12
11					5	S Beaty	NFR	87.45
12					Individuals - Veterans Over 50			
13					1	B Lowdon	NFR	68.11
14					2	R Dawson	NFR	74.16
15					3	J Humble	NFR	76.55
16					4	B Parker	Tyne	76.55
17					5	M Fry	Tyne	83.13
18					Individuals - Veterans Over 55			
19					1	R Hayes	NFR	75.10
20					2			
21					3			

22				
23				
24				
25				
26				
27				
28				
29				
30				
Individuals - Ladies				
1	Jane Saul	SL	NFR	1.25.41
2	Andrea Mitchell	LV40	Morpeth	1.29.59
3	Bridget Broadhurst	SL	Tynedale	1.34.03
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

Individuals - Veterans Over 60			
1	J Garbarino	NFR	84.56
2	D Wright	Tyne	97.12
3			
Individuals - Intermediates			
1	None		
2			
3			
4			
5			
Individuals - Juniors			
1			
2			
3			
Teams			
1	Tynedale Harriers		
2	Northumberland Fell Runners		
3	Saltwell		

THE THREE PIKES FELL RACE 1999

Results and Report from the *Fellrunner* 28.8.1999:

The Race had to be held up for a few minutes while Ruth Fletcher of Northumberland Fell Runners managed to unlock her car with the assistance of the RAC after locking herself out before the race. It was fortunate that she arrived early and managed to do all this before the start at 7p.m. She eventually won the ladies veterans prize in a time of 83 mins. 41 seconds.

Shaun Scott of NFR continued his amazing run of success by winning the race for the second year in succession but this year he broke the record of Ben Evans of Ambleside in a time of 58-51 followed closely by Andy Green of Tynedale in 59-12.

Despite the good showing by NFR, Tynedale won the team prize by namely James Dickinson, Andy Green and Morgan Donnelly (then Tynedale, now NFR). Incidentally, Morgan Donnelly had raced the Coledale Horseshoe the evening before.

In the ladies section Karen Robertson of NFR won in 71-34 again a new record, having within the previous week won the ladies prize at Simonside Cairns race and Alwinton.

Again it was good to see racers from more distant clubs, with Andy Lewsley from Keswick finishing 5th in 63-05 (2nd Veteran 40) and representatives from Holmfirth and Les Stephenson from Kendal who of late has won quite a few local races at Veteran 50, inter alia Doctors Gate and Cronkley Fell.

31 runners in all (down from last year) but a good class field giving strong competition on a course which was wet but not as wet as the year before. Thank you to Kielder Castle Café for the food and drink and for providing the prize giving venue away from the midgies which decided to descend upon us on a damp still evening. One of these years we will have bright sunshine.

Finally well done to Jim Wilkinson and Paul Crompton who finished well after running "The Blaydon Race" the night before.

THREE PIKES FELL RACE 1999

Position	Name	Club	Time	No	Category
1	Shaun Scott	NFR	58-51		Senior
2	Andy Green	Tynedale	59-12		Senior
3	James Dickenson	Tynedale	62-25		Male V 40
4	Ian Mulvey	NFR	63-21		Senior
5	Andy Lewsley	Keswick	63-51		Male V 40
6	Morgan Donnelly	Tynedale	63-56		Senior
7	Duncan Scott	Tynedale	65-09		Junior
8	Pat Gaines	Tynedale	66-31		Senior
9	Terry Fountain	Holmfirth	66-37		Senior
10	Gary Owen	NFR	66-39		Male V 40
11	Andy Curtiss	Tynedale	68-24		Male V 45
12	Bruce Lowden	NFR	68-34		Male V 50
13	Peter Scott	NFR	71-24		Male V 40
14	Karen Robertson	NFR	71-34		Lady
15	Ray Dawson	NFR	72-53		Male V 50
16	Shaun Simpson	Kimberworth striders	75-00		Senior
17	Les Stephenson	Kendal	75-03		Male V 50
18	Ray Hayes	NFR	75-07		Male V 55
19	Chris Beadle	Holmfirth	77-10		Senior
20	Bob Parker	Tynedale	78-24		Male V 45
21	Steve Walker	NFR	81-16		Senior
22	Peter Reed	NFR	82-24		Male V 45
23	Ruth Fletcher	NFR	83-41		Lady V 45
24	Joe Garbarino	NFR	86-24		Male V 60
25	Mike Sanderson	NFR	88-02		Male V 55
26	Ralph Dickenson	Blyth	91-13		Male V 45
27	Jane Saul	NFR	91-31		Lady V 35
28	Pat Cooper	NFR	92-11		Lady V 45
29	Jim Wilkinson	NFR	96-38		Male V 50
30	Fiona Hutchinson	Tynedale	96-38		Lady V 45
31	Paul Crompton	Tynedale	98-15		Male V 50

THE THREE PIKES FELL RACE 2000

RESULTS AND REPORT

'3 PIKES' FELL RACE 2000

POSITION	CATEGORY	NAME	CLUB	TIME	
1	SENIOR	MORGAN DONNELLY	N.F.R.	61-41	1st MALE
2	MV40	JAMES DICKINSON	TYNEDALE	61-50	1st MV40
3	MV45	ANDY LEWSLEY	KESWICK	66-27	1st MV45
4	MV50	ROB HALL	N.F.R.	67-34	1st MV50
5	SENIOR	MICHAEL JEFFREY	U/A	67-54	
6	MV50	ROY DAWSON	N.F.R.	68-35	
7	MV45	DOUG HENDERSON	TYNEDALE	71-10	
8	MV40	PETER SCOTT	N.F.R.	72-07	
9	MV40	PHILIP PEARSON	SALTWELL	72-11	
10	SENIOR	HUGH BINGHAM	TYNEDALE	72-48	
11	MV40	STEVEN WALKER	N.F.R.	73-14	
12	MV45	JOHN DALLINSON	N.F.R.	75-28	
13	MV50	DOUG COCKBURN	N.F.R.	76-17	
14	MV40	DAVE M'PARTLAN	N.U.F.C.	79-02	
15	MV50	BILL CAMPBELL	N.F.R.	80-07	
16	MV50	JIM TOMLIN	N.F.R.	81-24	
17	MV45	RALPH DICKINSON	BLYTH	81-38	
18	LADY	SIÂN PORTEOUS	N.F.R.	81-44	1st LADY
19	LADY	SALLY ROOSE	QUAKERS	83-50	
20	MV50	MIKE FRY	TYNEDALE	84-46	
21	SENIOR	MATT SIMMS	N.F.R.	86-47	
22	MV50	DEREK CROSSDALE	TYNEDALE	90-28	
23	MV55	JIM WILKINSON	N.F.R.	90-35	1st MV55
24	MV50	STEWART BEATY	N.F.R.	90-47	
25	MV50	PAUL CROMPTON	TYNEDALE	100-55	
26	LV55	KATH DALLINSON	N.F.R.	112-17	1st LADYVE
27	LV45	BARBARA YOUNG	U/A	112-18	

Morgan Donnelly of Northumberland Fell Runners, having put his long standing injury behind him, and the Coledale Race in Lakeland the night before, continued his recent rich vein of form by winning by 9 Seconds from the first veteran 40 James Dickinson of Tynedale.

It was hoped that because of the very fine weather, which had not graced this race since its inauguration in 1996 (to promote in that year the longer Kielder Borderer in August) that there would have been a larger field than 27 runners, but despite this there was a good quality field, and there were representatives from Keswick, Tynedale, Saltwell, Blyth and Quakers, with NFR providing the most runners, and accordingly winning the team prize. Andy Lewsley from Keswick a regular competitor in this race presumably because of his love of the Kielder Fells finished a creditable 3rd in 66 minutes 27 seconds and won the veteran 45 trophy. This again, like Morgan Donnelly, after completing the Coledale Horseshoe the night before. The first veteran 50 was in forth place namely Rob Hall and only a minute after him the second V50 Roy Dawson also of NFR. Both of these V50's are outstanding competitors in their V50 age group at the moment. Interestingly enough the first four finishers were senior, V40, V45, and V50 – that cannot happen all that often! Indeed, has it ever happened before in a fell race?

First veteran 55 was Jim Wilkinson who, again after injury fought all the way with Derek Croasdale and stalwart of the fells, Stewart Beaty of NFR.

Kath Dallinson of NFR just managed to hold off Barbara Young to win the lady veteran category. The midgies were not quite so prominent this year, because of the sunshine, although they were in evidence and everyone involved with the race, both competitors and helpers alike, retired to the Kielder Castle café for prize giving, refreshments and food.

Thank you to Simon Banks the co-organiser, my daughter Sophie for suffering in silence as the midgies attacked her as she helped with results at the finish, and all those helpers on the course and in the café who made the race possible again this year.

The 2001 Race turned out to be the last. If I had known at the time, it would have been with the utmost regret that I announced those magical 27 names who completed the race and indeed just as important, all those people who had assisted in some way to extend the life of the race from one year to six years.

In retrospect, I believe it did help the Borderer, but as well as that it gave me and Simon the opportunity to put on an evening for those people who meant so much to us. Sitting in Simon's animal trailer to take the entries was quite an exciting experience not knowing who would turn up on the night, and as you will see if you look at the results and reports, we had many surprises and were privileged to have some very talented running experiences in the bogs of Kielder Forest and perhaps, more memorable, the never forgettable views of the surrounding environment from Grey's Pike to Three Pikes.

One such entry was that of Andy Lewsley of Keswick Harriers who competed in 1999 and 2000. Andy and wife Stella Lewsley of fell running fame were the Course Planners in the 1997 Karrimor International Mountain Marathon from Kielder Castle; and Simon and I would like to think, although we may never know, that the Borderer and the Three Pikes Race might have had some influence upon Andy and Stella in making the decision that the fells around Kielder Castle were a wonderful venue for this popular, demanding long standing two day mountain marathon.

KIELDER FELL RACES IN 2001

This was the year of the Foot and Mouth Disease and there were no races between about March and August of that year. Fell racing was decimated. Two stalwarts of the sport decided to put on races in the Kielder area.

THE LEWISBURN FELL RACE – 26TH AUGUST 2001

Bill Campbell of Bellingham arranged a race on 26th August 2001 from just out of Kielder Village at Lewisburn, which was a great relief after the gloom of the foot and mouth disease. David Armstrong won it and local Louise Wilkinson was 1st lady.

THE NORTHUMBERLAND FELL RACE – 14th October 2001

Then there was the Northumberland Fell Race on the 14th October 2001 organised by Simon Banks. The race started and finished at the Kielder Castle (hence referred to in the results as 'Kielder Castle' Race) and was a tour of Kielder Forest, varied and enjoyable. 21 runners turned out mainly NFR but ironically a Tynedale veteran 40 James Dickinson won it. It was good to see that Ben Nevis stalwart of 25 times John Marsh of Teviotdale was in 4th position.

THE LEWISBURN FELL RACE SUNDAY 26TH AUGUST 2001

POSITION	NAME	TIME
1st	David Armstrong	41.22
2nd	Michael Broadhurst	41.32
3rd	Geoff Davis	44.13
4th	David Burn	46.20
5th	John Dallinson	46.22
6th	William Lawrence	47.11
7th	Peter Scott	48.40
8th	John Humble	48.47
9th	Bill Campbell	48.55
10th	Jonny Cocker	49.56
11th	Paul Jameson	50.15
12th	Martin Rapier	52.53
13th	Ross Gray	55.05
14th	Simon Banks	55.52
15th	Louise Wilkinson (1st Lady)	56.45
16th	Susan Davis	58.24
17th	Mike Sanderson	59.24
18th	Barbara Young	62.26
19th	Kathleen Dallinson	71.05
20th	Aileen Burn	72.10
21st	Susan Riley	77.00

Kielder Castle Sunday 14 October 2001

POSITION	Cat	NAME	CLUB	TIME
1st	V40	James Dickinson	Tynedale	46:48
2nd	V40	David Armstrong	NFR	49:36
3rd	V40	Tim McAll	Norham	50:57
4th	V40	John Marsh	Teviotdale	51:16
5th	V40	William Lawrence	NFR	52:51
6th	V40	Peter Scott	NFR	55:17
7th	V50	Roy Dawson	NFR	55:41
8th	V50	John Humble	NFR	56:47
9th	V40	Bob Parker	Tynedale	58:29
10th	M	Islam Ali	NFR	58:55
11th	F	Karen Robertson	NFR	58:59
12th	V40	Paul Jameson	NFR	61 mins
13th	V50	Billy Campbell	NFR	61 mins
14th	V50	Mike Fry	NFR	64 mins
15th	F	Jane Saul	NFR	64 mins
16th	V50	Brian Orr	NFR	64 mins
17th	F	Lucy Hall	NFR	65 mins
18th	V50	Mike Sanderson	NFR	65 mins
19th	V50	Stewart Beaty	NFR	71 mins
20th	F	Louise Wilkinson	N/A	72 mins
21st	F	Ruth Fletcher	NFR	81 mins

THE PEEL FELL RACE

Peel Fell in my opinion is one of the most beautiful places on this earth and I have had an attraction to it for the last 20 years. The views from this hallowed spot are second to none, and I have engrained in my memory the times I have reached it in the Kielder Yomp and the Kielder Borderer and raced off it along the border fence to Deadwater. I remember so vividly the faces of those marshals over the years that have manned the checkpoint on that revered hill in all weathers. There are the hundreds of training runs over the years when upon climbing up the burn from the Kielder Stone I would think of saving my legs and turning my back on it and running to Deadwater without visiting it, only to rebuke myself in even considering not making my usual pilgrimage to it.

There was the occasion one morning in I think 1992 when I set off from Kielder Castle to run the Yomp route with my 20lb pack very early. It was misty all the way and as I approached Peel Fell I came across perhaps 100 mountain goats at around 10am, oblivious to my presence as they silently grazed on the Peel Fell heather, their long horns sticking out of a rising mist like snow capped alpine peaks protruding above the cloud. What a sight! I ran through them and still they hardly seemed to move, as if to wonder what I was doing there at that time of the morning.

It is apt therefore, that Peel Fell should be the name that was given to Kielder's newest fell race from Kielder Castle.

How did it come about? You have probably gathered by now that it must have something to do with the Kielder Borderer Fell Race.

Bill Burlton (Environmental Officer with the Forestry Commission) wrote to me, Simon Banks and Jonathan Farries (current organiser of the Borderer from the Forestry Commission) on 23rd September 2003:

"Only 11 runners in 2003 – at this level of entry the race is not sustainable. Have had as many as 50 in recent years (1996).

Race is tough and lacks an obvious focus e.g. Cheviot in the Chevy Chase or Kilhope Law on the Allendale Challenge. The ground has also got rougher over the last five years since grazing by sheep and goats was removed. This makes the races a very challenging proposition.

None of this is going to change so this race is never likely to be really popular."

The note went on detailing certain proposals to promote the race to include, inter alia, John (Humble that is) to write an article for the NFR magazine describing the race history and urging people to keep the race going.

Bill (Burlton that is) to write a short article for the FRA journal. John (H) to help out. Promote the race as being really tough and a special achievement.

John (H) to put together all the results.

"If after next year it still doesn't get reasonable numbers we will have to consider dropping the race from the calendar."

The final proposition in Bill's note to us was:

"New shorter race ...

We will introduce a new shorter race next year to be run in conjunction with the Kielder Borderer. The race will be 10 miles/2,700 and will include Deadwater, Peel and Mid Fells. This will hopefully have wider appeal and will attract similar fields to the Simonside Race ..." etc.

After that meeting we put the route together, the map was prepared and Simon and I decided to give it a go, and then see if the NFR members liked it before putting it in the FRA calendar for 2004.

"The recce" for me and Simon was exciting – a new race, AL category at that (Stewart Beaty had worked that out – he was our statistician and we relied upon him – 10 miles, 2,700 (AM category).

Simon and I found it was "all runnable" and advertised it as such. The descent from Deadwater over rough heather was exhilarating. I questioned Simon as to whether it was not a bit too dangerous; Simon said: "of course not, it's a true full course with a bit of everything". Simon said he would however mark some of that section to assist a little and take the runners through an idyllic spot called Borestones. We were delighted with the route and we advertised it as a Sunday training run for NFR members and friends and indeed for anyone who wanted to try out the route and have a morning out on beautiful fell country, which took in the last section of the Borderer route from Peel Fell to Kielder Castle. It was to be on Sunday 22 February 2004.

On that Sunday six turned up to run and I was included in the six. I felt so sorry for Simon. He had put some much work into it but, true to our principles, we were happy that the other five would have a super morning's run.

The gathering in the café after the race was one of the happiest hours that I have spent in fell racing, almost as good as the après race atmosphere at Wooler Youth Hostel after the Chevy Chase.

The results were as follows:

1.	Peter Scott	NFR	1-45-18 (new record)
2.	John Humble	NFR	1.-1.-50
3.	Ray Gray	NFR	1-54-52
4.	Ken Rawlinson	now NFR	2-01-13
5.	Stewart Beaty	NFR	2-22-45
6.	Pat Cooper	NFR First Lady	

I was privileged to announce the winners (and incidentally even announced them wrongly, albeit only 6 to announce) and was also delighted to see Keith Cooper and Pat Cooper and son Richard (still talking about his aeroplanes – he is so bright) with whom my son Philip has met and played with at fell races over the years, Falstone in particular.



Above: the start of the inaugural Peel Fell Race from the car park above Kielder Castle
Left to right: John Humble, Peter Scott, Stewart Beaty, Pat Cooper, Ray Gray and Ken Rawlinson, with Simon Banks in the background

Below: in the café after the race after prize giving. Left to right: Peter Scott (winner) NFR, Ken Rawlinson (converted that day to NFR), Ray Gray NFR, Stewart Beaty NFR back row, John Humble (front) and Pat Cooper NFR



Keith kindly took the photograph above. Doesn't Peter Scott have a look of complete satisfaction and smugness, knowing he now had the record for the race having received his bottle of wine and the plaudits of his companions in the café.

So the race appeared in the 2004 FRA Calendar on the same day as the Borderer, with Peter's record there for the beating possibly!

The race did not take place in August but on 11th April 2004 to enable both races to be in the NFR Championship for that year.

The results were as follows:

Peel Fell Race 11 April 2004

Name	Club	Position	Category	Time
Philip Addyman	NFR	1	M	1:26:24
David Armstrong	NFR	2	MV40	1:27:19
James Dickinson	Tynedale	3	MV40	1:29:48
Martin Pengilly	Lliswerry	4	M	1:30:58
Mike Jeffrey	NFR	5	MV40	1:31:34
Brian Robson		6	M	1:38:37
Stewart Gardner	NFR	7	MV50	1:39:10
Phil Vincent	Tynedale	8	M	1:40:22
John Dallinson	NFR	9	MV50	1:41:17
David Burn	NFR	10	MV40	1:43:13
Karen Robertson	NFR	11	FV35	1:43:29
Phil Appleby	NFR	12	MV40	1:44:26
Stewart Jones	NFR	13	MV40	1:44:51
Louise Wilkinson	NFR	14	F	1:45:01
Peter Graham	Tynedale	15	M	1:47:19
Rachel Carter	Tynedale	16	F	1:51:29
Doug Cockburn	NFR	17	MV50	1:53:23
Allan Welsh	NFR	18	M	1:55:46
Graham Wilkinson	NFR	19	M	2:00:14
Jane Walker	NFR	20	F	2:00:45
Sally Welsh	NFR	21	F	2:02:29
Susan Jeffrey	Morpeth	22	FV35	2:04:50
Michael Sanderson	NFR	23	MV60	2:11:08
Joy Ryall	Tynedale	24	FV35	2:16:40
Susan Davis	NFR	25	FV35	2:20:48
David Wright	Tynedale	26	MV60	2:32:21
Kathleen Dallinson	NFR	27	FV35	2:53:59
Pam Armstrong	NFR	28	FV35	2:54:00
Aileen Burn	-	29	FV35	2:58:28

I was injured at the time, but made my way with Simon to Deadwater to watch those weary runners after the climb to Deadwater Fell, hobbling down through the rough heather. Our race was working – they all seemed so happy, as they also did at prize giving in the café afterwards. Another new race was born!

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THE 1997 KARRIMOR INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN MARATHON FROM KIELDER CASTLE

The Elite Category has been won by NFR members Howard Forrest, Steven Birkinshaw and Morgan Donnelly.

Race number 233 on the 25th and 26th October 1997 was Simon Banks and John Humble (A Class). We finished 79th out of 104 in 14 hours 11 mins (there were 20 retirements in the A Class).

All I can say is WE DID IT OUR WAY! and had a great weekend, a good laugh and cemented an already great friendship.

I remember sitting with Simon just below Knox Knowe Cairn that day sharing a drink wondering why no one else, and I mean no one else, was around us. Simon looked at me and laughed as he pointed towards the escarpment as hundreds of runners lined the horizon. We were taking the "as the crow flies" route. It was shorter and rougher our way, but it was quieter and more exciting.

I was so tired after the day that Simon put the tent up, made my meal and wrapped me in tin foil when I was so cold in the night. After all this, I needed to go out to the loo. I managed to walk out of the tent in the tin foil but probably woke up the rest of the competitors with the crackling of the foil – HAPPY MEMORIES!

The next day we did it their way and joined the procession and where should we end up? – yes, at Three Pikes. Simon knew a quick way and we passed many a pair from Three Pikes to the Castle. The Three Pikes Fell Race and Simon's local knowledge came in handy that day.

MY KIELDER EXPERIENCE – THE CONCLUSION

It is impossible to sum it up concisely. I will try. Without sounding melodramatic, it has been a spiritual journey exploring my own physical capabilities against, at times, in the wrong weather, a foreboding environment. Make no bones about it, there have been occasions when by myself I have turned around at Grey Mares Knowe (the point of no return) by the sight and sound of inclement weather. There is not such a thing as having an easy training run around the Borderer route.

Most times, however, I have challenged the environment, a wild and beautiful one at that, with wild goats, deer, foxes, adders, hawks and all kinds of wildlife. They almost say "How dare you be here?" – this is not for man, this is a wilderness, and long may it stay like that.

On hundreds of occasions I have run the Kielder fells, whether it be racing, recceing the race route (with or without 20lb pack) or being there with friends for the sheer enjoyment – friends like Simon Banks, Stewart Beaty, Angus Tait and others who must forgive me for not mentioning them by name.

There was one occasion I had a bad blister as early on as the fire tower (before Grey's Pike). All I could do was turn around, it was so painful. "Hang on," Angus said, "take your shoe off." It did the trick. Angus was right and I ran the rest of the 17 miles with Angus and Stewart, with my Walsh PB trainers in my rucksack. I think that day we celebrated Stewart's 45th birthday with cake and candles at Grey Mares Knowe. The date was 11th February, and Stewart tells me that it was in his words "an unforgettable day".

I have mentioned the wild but beautiful countryside, the physical challenges, the mystery of Peel Fell, the sense of "should I venture further?" at Grey Mares Knowe, the solitude of Knox Knowe Cairn and the rowan tree struggling to survive on its summit. These parts of my Kielder Experience would be nothing without the people, my fellow runners, the farmers like Michael Dobson at Scaup Farm, who has shouted me on at many a race and indeed many a training run. He on one occasion reminded me I was tenth at Kielder Head. I threw him my sun hat and indignantly said "the race starts now", and eventually won the race. There are those special Forestry Commission people like Mike Sanderson and Bill Burlton, men of the forest, knowledgeable and wise who have become my great friends and supported me in every way.

There have been all those people at the café and the Castle, the café being the focal point of our races, both before and after.

There is Simon and his lovely family and all the people connected with them.

It has been an experience that I never wish to end. That is why I will be there, fit or not, to race in 2005.

I will always run, and if I cannot run, I will walk those hills. I have never been frightened or intimidated when by myself on those fells. All I can do is give them the supreme accolades and RESPECT.

Finally one special moment on Deadwater Fell: In 2000 I had picked up a virus and had not run for many months. In July I tried to run the Borderer route to see if I could race in August that year.

At Deadwater, I felt under the weather and even the distance between Deadwater and the Castle and back to my car at Kielder Head seemed too much. Who at that moment should come jogging up Deadwater but NFR friend Bill Campbell (coloured scarf around his head, organiser of the Bellingham Fell Race). He kindly said he knew a route back to near Kielder Head directly from Deadwater. He led me down to my car and I realised how lucky I had been. It is not that often you meet someone on the top of the Deadwater Fell at about 5p.m. on a weekday in the afternoon. It was like a miracle, something out of the bible.

To me the Kielder fells are heaven on earth! After a day in the Kielder Fells, I would drive home thinking in complete and utter satisfaction – I have conquered and savoured them again. Please let this feeling never end. Without these races, it will never be the same.