

Northumberland Fell Runners — Hodgson Brothers Mountain Relay History

Historical results and leg pairings, 1997–2026

Year	Overall result	Total time	Legs / runners / leg time	Notes & official results
1997	22nd	4:24:03	L1 - Shaun Scott / Garry Owens — 1:14:54 (17th-fastest) L2 - Ray Hayes / Peter Scott — 47:02 (36th-fastest) L3 - John Humble / Bill Lawrence — 1:20:24 (30th-fastest) L4 - Simon Gakhar / David Armstrong — 1:01:37(19th fastest)	NFR was formed in 1997 Historic results provided by race organisers Split check: listed leg times total 4:23:57, six seconds below the stated 4:24:03.
1998	22nd	4:25:43	L1 - Steve Birkinshaw / Ian Mulvey — 1:19:03 L2 - Emma Moody / Ray Hayes — 0:47:14 L3 - Andy Curtis / Peter Scott — 1:19:53 L4 - David Armstrong / Bruce Lowden — 0:59:28	no public results URL located Historic results provided by race organisers
1999	29th	4:42:14	L1 - Andy Curtis / John Humble - 1:26:22 L2 - Ray Hayes / Mark Styles - 48:01 L3 - Peter Scott / Karen Robertson -1:27:54 L4 - David Armstrong / Garry Owens-59:57	no public results URL located Historic results provided by race organisers
2000	47th	5:23:21	L1 - John Dallinson / David Armstrong — 1:40:19 L2 - John Humble / Islam Ali — 50:27 L3 - Simon Gakhar / Peter Scott — 1:28:46 L4 - Andy Curtis / Paul Jameson — 1:23:49	no public results URL located Historic results provided by race organisers
2001	-	-	-	NO RACE – FOOT AND MOUTH
2002	32nd	4:42:22	L1 - David Armstrong / Steve Birkinshaw — 1:15:09 (15th-fastest) L2 - Keith Cooper / Pat Cooper — 58:31 (56th-fastest) L3 - Andy Curtis / Jeff Ross — 1:20:24 (26th-fastest) L4 - Steven Walker / Kevin Atwell — 1:08:18 (38th-fastest)	no public results URL located Historic results provided by race organisers
2003	33rd	4:46:46	L1 - David Armstrong / David Atkinson — 1:24:23 L2 - Peter Scott / John Humble — 0:46:16 L3 - John Dallinson / Paul Hainsworth — 1:29:42 L4 - Mike Jeffrey / John Duff —1:06:25	Old course; contemporary race report. L4 missed Red Screens dib; scorer took no action as there was no advantage. NFR 2003 race report Official results sheet supplied; no public results URL located
2004	42nd	5:14:13	L1 - David Armstrong / Mike Jeffrey — 1:20:08 (24th-fastest leg) L2 - Stewart Gardener / Susan Davis — 54:55 (55th-fastest leg) L3 - Geoff Davis / Lewis Grundy — 1:35:55 (30th-fastest) L4 - John Dallinson / Paul Creighton — 1:29:42 (55th-fastest leg)	Split check: listed leg times total 5:20:40, not the stated 5:14:13; worth checking against the original sheet.
2005	15th	4:10:56	L1 - Mike Jeffrey / David Steel — 1:21:00 L2 - David Atkinson / David Armstrong — 44:50 L3 - Morgan Donnelly / Charlie Stead — 1:11:31 L4 - Steve Birkinshaw / Nick Swinburn — 53:35	Old course. NFR's highest-ever finish at the time. L3 was 10th-fastest; L4 3rd-fastest. 2005 NFR race report

2006	12th	4:17:15	L1 - Francis Blunt / Aengus McCullough — 1:19:29 L2 - David Atkinson / David Steel — 43:04 L3 - Charlie Stead / Steve Birkinshaw — 1:14:04 L4 - David Armstrong / Mike Jeffrey — 1:00:38	official HBMR archive era. HBMR results archive (legacy year link) Race report from NFR Archive
2007	11th	4:09:35	L1 - Francis Blunt / Aengus McCullough — 1:04:59 L2 - David Armstrong / Steve Birkinshaw — 1:06:27 L3 - Dave Atkinson / David Steel — 40:53 L4 - Nick Swinburn / Charlie Stead — 1:17:16	Anticlockwise course (first since 1995). Each NFR leg was reported as 11th-fastest on its respective leg. Record NFR finish at the time. No direct comparison with normal-direction years. HBMR results archive (legacy year link) Race report from NFR Archive
2008	—	—	—	No race due to Foot & Mouth.
2009	25th	4:33:46	L1 - Lee Bennett / David Armstrong — 1:10:35 L2 - Francis Blunt / Jon Robinson — 1:16:21 L3 - Scott Gibson / Geoff Scott — 42:48 L4 - Gary Jones / Phil Sanderson — 1:24:02	HBMR results archive (legacy year link) Dex's race report NFR Archive
2010	25th	4:44:47	L1 - Aengus McCullough / Charlie Stead — 1:06:16 L2 - Lee Bennett / Scott Gibson — 1:14:12 L3 - David Armstrong / John Duff — 43:15 L4 - Will Horsley / Phil Sanderson — 1:41:04	HBMR results archive (legacy year link) John Duff Report NFR Archive
2011	31st	4:53:20	L1 - Andrew Higgins / George Nicholson — 45:38 L2 - David Armstrong / Louis Goffe — 1:31:49 L3 - John Duff / Dave Johnson — 1:17:45 L4 - Tom Cornthwaite / Will Horsley — 1:18:08	L4 gained 12 places. HBMR results archive (legacy year link) Will Horsley Report David Johnson Report
2012	24th	4:44:43	L1 - George Nicholson / Mark Clarkson — 42:01 L2 - David Atkinson / David Armstrong — 1:23:19 L3 - Paul Hainsworth / John Tollitt — 1:09:32 L4 - Louis Goffe / Lee Bennett — 1:29:51	Official results Dex's Report
2013	28th	4:42:35	L1 - Paul Hainsworth / Emma Bain — 46:17 L2 - Scott Gibson / Will Horsley — 1:19:00 L3 - John Tollitt / George Nicholson — 1:11:56 L4 - Mark Clarkson / David Armstrong — 1:25:22	Poor weather/navigation reported. 2013 NFR race report Official results
2014	34th	4:58:51	L1 - David Armstrong / Will Horsley — 45:31 L2 - Scott Gibson / George Nicholson — 1:28:30 L3 - Steph Scott / John Duff — 1:25:13 L4 - Mark Clarkson / Andrew Higgins — 1:19:37	2014 NFR race report Official results
2015	45th	4:58:13	L1 - John Tollitt / George Nicholson — 48:24 L2 - David Armstrong / Scott Gibson — 1:19:00 L3 - Steph Scott / John Duff — 1:27:51 L4 - Mark Clarkson / Andrew Higgins — 1:22:58	Official results

2016	25th	4:33:57	L1 - David Armstrong / Mark Clarkson — 50:30 L2 - Roger Sillito / Scott Gibson — 1:21:27 L3 - John Duff / Francis Shillitoe — 1:01:43 L4 - John Butters / Jonny Malley — 1:20:17	2016 NFR race report Official results
2017	32nd	3:30:51	L1 - Matthew Briggs / John Tollitt — 46:22 L2 - Scott Gibson / Roger Sillito — 55:35 L3 - Andrew Higgins / Mark Clarkson — 48:42 L4 - John Duff / Steph Scott — 1:00:12	Shortened course due to bad weather; times not comparable with normal course. 2017 NFR race report Official results
2018	47th	5:03:42	L1 - Matthew Briggs / John Tollitt — 56:22 L2 - Roger Sillito / Matthew Hetherington — 1:24:32 L3 - David Armstrong / Steven Major — 1:10:28 L4 - John Duff / Adam Malloy — 1:32:20	Official results
2019	25th	4:35:57	L1 - Katherine Davis / Richard Garland — 45:29 L2 - Roger Sillito / Matthew Briggs — 1:15:36 L3 - John Duff / David Armstrong — 1:05:22 L4 - Matthew Hetherington / Mark Clarkson — 1:29:30	2019 NFR race report Official results
2020	—	—	—	No race — Covid-19.
2021	33rd	5:00:13	L1 - John Tollitt / Pete Storey — 52:31 L2 - Katherine Davis / Roger Sillito — 1:32:13 L3 - John Duff / Frank Shillitoe — 1:12:50 L4 - Andrew Higgins / Matt Briggs — 1:22:39	Official results
2022	19th	4:28:12	L1 - Kris Axon / Will Robson — 41:43 L2 - Roger Sillito / Joe Stringer — 1:20:18 L3 - John Duff / Adam Malloy — 1:03:56 L4 - Mark Clarkson / Andrew Higgins — 1:22:15	Official results
2023	33rd	4:40:16	L1 - Garry Robson / Will Robson — 49:38 L2 - Roger Sillito / Oscar Jolly — 1:21:19 L3 - John Duff / Richard Garland — 1:07:47 L4 - Andy Higgins / Joe Stringer — 1:21:32	Official results
2024	25th	4:26:53	L1 - Joe Stringer / Michael Lumb — 41:14 L2 - Jarlath McKenna / Craig Jones — 1:14:23 L3 - Ewan Richardson / Danny Grieves — 1:06:10 L4 - Will Robson / Tom Suddaby — 1:25:06	2024 NFR race report Official results
2025	—	—	—	No race — bad weather.
2026	9th	4:10:25	L1 - Joe Stringer / Andrew Higgins — 40:46 L2 - Thomas Prentice / Ruari Macneil — 01:20:30 L3 - Craig Jones / Joe Crellin — 59:29 L4 - Chris Larkin / Will Robson — 1:09:40	Best-ever NFR finish. Official results

Notes: Times/pairings supplied in the NFR historical material are preserved unless corrected against an official result sheet. Links are included where a report or results page could be identified. For 2006–2011 the official archive page is linked because the legacy year-specific links currently fail. The 1998 and 2007 races ran in reverse direction; 2017 was shortened due to bad weather.

Club Statistics

Compiled from the NFR historical results assembled in the club history record, including the 2026 official result.

1. Most participation

David Armstrong is the clear NFR record-holder, with 20 recorded Hodgson Brothers Mountain Relay appearances. The table includes every NFR runner with four or more recorded participations.

Rank	Runner	Appearances	
1	David Armstrong	20	
2	John Duff	12	
=3	Andrew Higgins	8	
=3	Mark Clarkson	8	
=3	Roger Sillito	8	
6	Scott Gibson	7	
7	John Tollitt	6	
=8	David Atkinson	5	
=8	Peter Scott	5	
=8	Steve Birkinshaw	5	
=8	George Nicholson	5	
=12	John Humble	4	
=12	Andy Curtis	4	
=12	Mike Jeffrey	4	
=12	Will Horsley	4	
=12	Matthew Briggs	4	
=12	Will Robson	4	
=12	Joe Stringer	4	

2. Top three quickest legs — standard/modern course

For a meaningful comparison, this ranking uses the standard course results in the modern dataset and excludes the 2007 anticlockwise course and the 2017 shortened course. The 2026 result is the latest official result.

Leg	Time	Runners	Year
Leg 1	40:46	Joe Stringer / Andrew Higgins	2026
	41:14	Joe Stringer / Michael Lumb	2024
	41:43	Kris Axon / Will Robson	2022
Leg 2	1:14:23	Jarlath McKenna / Craig Jones	2024
	1:15:36	Roger Sillito / Matthew Briggs	2019
	1:19:00	Scott Gibson / Will Horsley	2013
Leg 3	59:29	Craig Jones / Joe Crellin	2026
	1:01:43	John Duff / Francis Shillitoe	2016
	1:03:56	John Duff / Adam Malloy	2022
Leg 4	1:09:40	Chris Larkin / Will Robson	2026
	1:19:37	Mark Clarkson / Andrew Higgins	2014
	1:20:17	John Butters / Jonny Malley	2016

3. Top 10 NFR results by finishing position

The table below ranks the ten best NFR finishing positions recorded in the assembled history, rather than ranking teams by elapsed time. Where finishing positions are tied, the tied results are shown at the same rank.

Rank	Year	Finish	Total	Course / note
1	2026	9th	4:10:25	Standard course; best-ever NFR finish
2	2007	11th	4:09:35	Anticlockwise course
3	2006	12th	4:17:15	Early archive era
4	2005	15th	4:10:56	Old course
5	2022	19th	4:28:12	Standard/modern course
6	1997	22nd	4:24:03	Early course
=7	2010	24th	4:44:47	Standard course
=7	2012	24th	4:44:43	Standard course
=9	2009	25th	4:33:46	Standard course
=9	2016	25th	4:33:57	Standard/modern course

This standard-course list is the more useful comparison for a race report. It excludes the 2007 reverse-direction race and the 2017 bad-weather shortened course.

4. Club milestones

Year	Finish	Milestone
2005	15th	Highest NFR finish at the time; the club's report highlighted the strength of the team.
2006	12th	Improved the previous best.
2007	11th	New club record at the time, despite the race running anticlockwise.
2022	19th	First sub-4:30 NFR time in the standard-course results currently assembled.
2024	25th	4:26:53 on the modern course.
2026	9th	New NFR best finish; 4:10:25. Three individual leg times were also NFR modern-course bests.

Data notes

- 2001 — no race due to Foot and Mouth.
- 2008 — no race due to Foot and Mouth.
- 2020 — no race due to Covid-19.
- 2025 — no race due to bad weather.
- 2007 — anticlockwise course, so its 4:09:35 total is not directly comparable with normal-direction years.
- 2017 — shortened course due to bad weather; times are not comparable with the normal course.
- The 2004 NFR result and some other early records were supplied manually and/or are still being reconciled against original result sheets.

Source basis: NFR Hodgson Brothers Mountain Relay historical record and official SPORTident results where available. Statistics reflect the records assembled in this project and are intended as a club-history working record.