

## The Ruth Fletcher Memorial Trophy

A lovely trophy has been presented to the Club by Richard, Ruth's brother, to be awarded in her memory.



The trophy will be presented to the winning ladies team at the Beacon Hill Fell Race every year (thanks to Paul Appleby for his assistance with this). The inaugural winners of this shiny new cup are, fittingly, Northumberland Fell Runners. This year the team consisted of Karen Robertson, Sue Mitchell and Steph Scott.

After much deliberation, Richard decided he would like to award the trophy at this race as it was Ruth's last race before her death in 2011. Ruth had been a part of many events over the years, so it was difficult to decide how best to honour her memory. With the help of Ruth's partner, Bill, we decided that as Ruth had been a member of the winning NFR ladies team at Beacon Hill in 2011, this was a fitting tribute. I'm sure many of you will remember that she was in fine form that night, laughing about being 'selected' as our mascot for the

upcoming FRA relays! Sadly, Ruth never made it to those relays, but I will always remember her resounding laugh and the funny stories she told, particularly in the car park at Beacon Hill.

It is true that Beacon Hill does not always attract a huge field and there may be a time when the trophy is not won. On those occasions, I will look after the trophy until it is won again. Personally, I will always try to go to Beacon Hill to hear Ruth's laugh.

I will bring the trophy to the next NFR race that I get to (maybe the Cairns - I've never done it before!!), so that people can see it and also to the Club Dinner next year. We will try and get a photo of Paul Appleby presenting it to Karen, Sue and myself if possible, for the website to add to the Ruth photo collection. Karen and Sue - After that, I will pass the trophy to one of you to keep for a while then pass on to the other, if that's ok. I'm sure you would both like to have it for a while too as it is particularly special. Unfortunately, we didn't have the trophy in time to present it at Beacon Hill this year, so we are doing the awarding of it after the event.

Many thanks to Richard for the kind donation of The Ruth Fletcher Memorial Trophy and to Bill for co-ordinating its delivery! Thanks also to Paul Appleby for his help in deciding how best to award the trophy and for agreeing to present it at Beacon Hill Fell Race each year.

Steph Scott (Oct 2012)