

~~“Causey Pike”~~ ... The Outerside Chase 30.03.13

I've waited patiently for 14 years for Causey Pike to be in the NFR Club Championships ... and when it finally is, the bloomin' thing is cancelled!

But before I despaired too much, I recalled the words of that learned scholar, whose name suddenly escapes me ... “ There's always a positive ... you just sometimes have to look quite hard to find it ! ”

And indeed there was. There were several positives actually.

We were blessed with a wonderful winter's day. OK, it isn't winter anymore, I admit. But if we were, we'd be saying what a lovely day it was. In fact it was a perfect day for fell racing; clear, cool, not windy bright, and largely sunny.

And we were presented with a brand new route that had never been raced before. And it was a rather enjoyable route at that. Not as tough as the Causey Pike route itself, but 1,500ft of ascent in 4.5 miles placed it well into Category-A fell race territory, and it had its own technical challenges too. They could do a lot worse than add it to the calendar permanently.

And a large field to add interest, which was of a rather high quality up at the sharp end, with ex-British and English Champions to admire at every turn.

And we had 2 age-category wins for the Club in Lakeland, out of the 8 of us that ran, which isn't at all a bad strike rate.

And free tea and cake too.

Now that's a good few positives in anyone's book ... and all for a fiver!



L-R: Andy, Richard, Peter, Dave, Dexter, John, Steph & Andrew.

Photo courtesy of Andy Russell

So I'm sorry to say it folks, but those of you that didn't travel over were the losers on this occasion. As those famous NFR twin brothers, OC and YC, might have said ... “It was a grand day out in Lakeland, and the only thing missing was a pint of fine ale to slake the fell runner's thirst at the end”

And there's always next year

Dexter