

Humbleton Fell Race 5.3 m / 787 ft 19.06.13

We were again blessed with a glorious summer evening for the second running of the race, but with drier underfoot conditions this year, times were generally quicker, resulting in a new course record for the winner, David Beech of Tyne Bridge Harriers, in 36.57.

Last year's winner, Steve Birkinshaw of Borrowdale, was a close 2nd, and 1st V40, in 37.08, with John Butters of NFR just behind Steve in 3rd place in 37.17.

We had 70 starters this year, up from 54 last year, helped partly by the race being a counter in the NFR Club Championship. This produced an NFR clean sweep in the ladies' race, with Karen Robertson winning in 44.04, and also claiming 1st LV40, Steph Scott 2nd in 46.42 and Tara Johnson a close-run 3rd in 46.46.

NFR also took several other prizes with David Armstrong 1st V50 in 8th place in 39.37, Joe Garbarino 1st V70 in 58.08 and 1st Men's Team and 1st Ladies Team.

Local club Tynedale Harriers cleaned up the remaining awards, with Alistair Maxwell 1st U18 in 44.49, Peter Graham 1st V60 in 47.51 and Bridget Broadhurst 1st LV50 in 56.35.

It was disappointing that 3 people were disqualified for not completing the route after being unclear on route markers. Particularly for NFRs Will Horsley, who was leading at the time, and so quite likely would have influenced the results at the head of the field. A lot of effort went into the course preparation, but we will take on board feedback and try to make it infallible for next year. Apologies to those affected.

We hope to see you all again next year.

Marcus Byron