

Hodgson Relay 2019



The start

NFR had a strong showing at the Hodgson Relay on Sunday 6th October. This is an annual event held in Patterdale with a pair of runners on each leg. We matched our highest placing for a number of years, finishing 25th overall.

The overnight rain had cleared, leaving some mist on the top, very wet conditions underfoot but pleasant running conditions. Richard Garland and Katherine Davis were our lead-out pair on leg 1 which heads out to Angle Tarn before descending to Hartsop. They ran strongly, coming home in 45 mins in 27th place. Roger Sillito and Matthew Briggs took over for the leg over High Street. Roger knows this leg well now. Aided by some strong running from Matthew, they ran into Kirkstone Pass in a barnstorming time of 1 hour 15 minutes, and handed over in the dizzy heights of 16th place.



Richard and Katherine finish Leg 1



Roger and Matthew start Leg 2



NFR Flag

David Armstrong and I took over for leg 3. A few quick teams passed us on the climb up Red Screes. It was misty on the climb to Dove Crag, and we were vaguely aware of other teams taking different lines to the pile of stones checkpoint. The descent into Dovedale was very wet and slippery, but we arrived at the handover at Sykeside without mishap in 1 hours 5 minutes. We hadn't realized just how quickly Roger and Matthew had run, so were pleasantly surprised to learn that we had handed over in 23rd place.

Mark Clarkson and Matt Hetherington ran the anchor leg. This is the longest leg over Hart Crag, Fairfield, and St Sunday Crag. They ran well, holding off a couple of teams on the final run-in. They brought us home in 25th place overall with a total race time of 4 hours 35 minutes. This exceeded all our expectations. NFR was comfortably first north-east club, ahead of Saltwell and DFR.



Mark and Matt finish Leg 4

The Hodgson is always a good day out. Many thanks are due to the Hodgson family who organise the event. The relay was won by Keswick for the 3rd year running. Full results are on the sportident website.

John Duff