

Race Report – 2nd September 2017

With the Castle Carr English Champs race due to be held on the following day just a few miles away and after the monsoon conditions of 2016 I was afraid that numbers would be down. Thankfully the Blackshaw Head Fell Race attracts a loyal bunch of runners and 81 runners toed the starting line and returned home safely.

Conditions for running were excellent and first back home was Callum Hanson of Pudsey & Bramley in a rapid 36:26, only 16 seconds outside the course record. Callum was followed by local favorite Shaun Godsman of Calder Valley Fell Runners and young Watson Peel of Halifax Harriers who also claimed the U18 prize.

In the womans race Kate Mansell of Todmorden Harriers led home the field. The Mansell household was in for a merry night with partner Graeme Brown 2nd v40 and 4th overall. There was a close battle for the remaining podium places in the womans field where Aileen Baldwin of Stainland Lions pipped Hazel Berrett of Halifax Harriers. It should be noted that Aileen in 2nd place was also 1st v60.

Perhaps the most notable performances were from a travelling band of Cambridge Harriers. Christain Poulton was 1st v50 and 5th overall and showed no ill effects when he turned up the following with club mates Clem Dixon and Mark Newall to contest the AL rate Champs Race just one day later.

The team prizes were split across the valleys dominant clubs with Calder Valley taking home the mens prize and Todmorden Harrier claimed the womans. The RO was left red faced after incorrectly initially also awarding the ladies prize to Calder Valley (sorry tod ladies).

The Blackshaw Head Fete Fell Race is not the most brutal of fell races and there were a good handful of runners who were taking part in a fell race for the first time.

Ian Symington
Blackshaw Head RO