

BLACKSHAW HEAD FETE FELL RACE – 2018 RACE REPORT

Having picked up the race organizer duties for the Blackshaw Head Fete in 2017 (and managing not to have any serious incidents) I thought I'd go and make it all much, much more complicated for 2018. The big change this year was the inclusion of the junior races before the seniors event. Thanks to all the juniors who turned up and made the effort worthwhile. A lot of effort was put into finding interesting race routes but based on the feedback I'll be shortening some of the routes while trying to keep some of the good technical terrain. I'll be looking at how the whole event is structured to try and make the whole event more family friendly for 2019.

Unfortunately over winter a tree had destroyed the broken the central span of the beautiful old clapper bridge which meant that runners in the seniors and junior races were required to get their feet wet by crossing the river. This didn't deter either of this year's winners in the senior race with Alex Whitem of Calder Valley and Rebecca Patrick of Todmorden Harrier taking home the honours. Spare a thought for Calder Valley Club Captain who picked up 2nd place once again, 3rd time lucky and all that Shaun.

There were some great performances across the field but Ken Taylor had a cracking run as the first M70 back in 38th position.

Ribble Harriers turned up in force and had three runners in the top 10 but the depth of the local clubs took effect and Calder Valley ended up taking home the mens prize. The mental gymnastics required to calculate the team prize in the few spare minutes between the last runners returning and prize giving commencing once again proved too much for this race organizer. At least I managed to get the right team this year just not the correct team members. Apologies to Pauline May, Jane Leonard and Rebecca Patrick of Todmorden Harriers who took the prize.

Thanks for running and supporting the race.