

2019 Blackshaw Head Fete Fell Race

A big bag of mixed conditions hit our little fell race this year. We thought it might scare the runners away but were really pleased to see an excellent turn out in both the junior and senior races.

Both Open and Women's races were highly competitive. The young duo of Martin Howard and Alasdair Pedley from Calder Valley Fell Runners battled it out with Shaun Livesey from Ribble Valley Harrier's for the win, with Martin finishing strongly to lead the trio across the finishing fields. It was a showdown between Natasha Butterfield of Calder Valley and Annie Roberts of Todmorden Harriers in the Woman's category with Natasha taking the win by just over twenty seconds. Natasha and Martin were the first recipients of a cracking pair of trophies created by a local potter featuring the local landmark "Great Rock" where the devil wagered with God for the souls of the good people of the Calderdale.

Tod Harriers and Calder Valley always turn up in force at the Blackshaw Head Fete Fell race and this year we were pleased to see 30 Tod Harriers toe the start line. This provided Todmorden with a huge advantage in the new "Mid-pack Hero" race category, awarded to the club who gets the 8th counter over the line. Another new prize this year was the "Fastest Fell Running Family". This prize was surprisingly difficult to award but after some head scratching it went to Trudi Entwistle (4th W50), Clara Mckee (1st U11G) and Thomas Mckee (2nd U13B).

The juniors were hit with the worst of the weather and it was impressive seeing them shivering on the start line without a word of complaint. This was the second time that junior races have been part of the day, with attendance increasing by 40% and runners attending from as far afield as Settle. We will definitely be including the junior races again in 2020. A big thank-you to the local running clubs for supporting the junior races. New course records were set and old records broken, most notably by Clara McKee and Megan Wilkinson.