



# The Esker - Autumn it is!



## Esk Valley Fell Club's Blog



### The Running to come.

The Summer Series rounded off with two contrasting races, the Castleton Show Race, tag line 'A Road race for Fell runners and a Fell race for Road runners', held in t-shirt hot weather, the intermittent cloud cover lifted for the race, so an oasis of sun in this mixed year.

The Series then finished with the Classic Roseberry Topping race. This is arguably our most true fell race in the mould of original Lakeland races, just run to the top of the local hill/fell and back. Its also the only Winter or Summer series race where the who age range (M12 to O70) compete on an equal footing!!

With the completion of the Summer Series, blink and its headlong into the Winter Series, opening with the Viking Chase Four Peaks, sometime visitor to the North York Moors Matt Speake of Dark Peak made his one race a year trip to the Moors, claiming the victory and course record.

Over in the Lakes we placed three runners in the Three Shires, so gaining a team placing overall in the Lakeland Classics Trophy, WELL DONE!

### SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2012/13 ARE STILL WELCOME – ONLY £10.00

### PAYMENTS TO DAVE PARRY

### Racing/Training dates

#### New training session

The Coulby Runners start in mid-October, meet at the [Leisure Farm](#), Coulby Grange, Coulby Newham, meet at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start, Monday nights, runs will be for; beginners, returning to fitness runners and those looking for an easy paced run on road and trail under streetlights.

#### Fell training torchrun sessions

- Tuesday 02/10/12** 19.00hrs - Training – Tourist Information Car Park, High Green, Great Ayton, then adjourn to the [Royal Oak P.H.](#) Over the road for a chat, drinks and chips.
- Tuesday 09/10/12** 19.00hrs - Training, - Ingleby Cross Church, (start of the [Ossy Oiks](#)), just off the A172, adjacent to Ingleby Arncliffe.
- Sunday 14/10/12** 10.30hrs – **Saltergate – Levisham** – BM – 17km/425m – Venue – Levisham Village Hall, Levisham, approx. 7 miles north of Pickering £6.00 on day. Teams men (4), ladies (3 (2 finishers to score points)), Over 18 only. Event two in the NEHRA/Esk Valley/Northern Runner Winter Series, enjoy a trot around the North York Moors, our second longest race.
- Tuesday 16/10/12** 19.00hrs - Training – Guisborough Woods, Layby by the school houses on the road to Hutton Village, Guisborough.
- Tuesday 23/10/12** 19.00hrs - Training, - [Black Swan](#) cross-roads, Kirkby-in-Cleveland.
- Sunday 28/10/12** 10.30hrs – **Guisborough Three Tops** – BM – 13km/655m – Venue – Guisborough Rugby Club, Belmontgate, Guisborough, Cleveland. GR 616155 £6.00 on the day, teams men (4), ladies (3, (2 finishers to score points)) Over 18 only, one of our toughest races where you are seemingly always climbing or descending, the route takes in Highcliffe, Roseberry Topping and Hanging Stone. Its event three in the Winter Series and the Autumn round of the Four Seasons Trophy.
- Tuesday 30/10/12** 19.00hrs – Training – [Maynards nursery](#) lay-by. ¼ mile south of Great Broughton on B1257.
- Tuesday 06/11/12** 19.00hrs - Training – Tourist Information Car Park, High Green, Great Ayton, then adjourn to the [Royal Oak P.H.](#) Over the road for a chat, drinks and chips.

### Race reports

The penultimate Summer Series race, the **Castleton Show 10km** (08/09/12) is billed as one of the toughest road 10km's in the Country, taking in 5 climbs (and descents), it is the much fabled Road race for Fell Runners and Fell Race for Road Runners. It was a great weather day a record field of 74 runners, a true t-shirt hot day, no nagging chill on the breeze and only passing cloud cover, perhaps not so great for running a 10km though!

On the day Jim Bulman equally at home of Fell or Road, eased to victory in a time of 34minutes 40 seconds, (nearly 2 and a half minutes down on his Middlesbrough 10km), over Ian McGrath of Durham Fell Runners (36min 52sec).

First Esker home was Joe Johnson in 11<sup>th</sup> place (42min 26sec – New Club Record) one place behind first lady in the race, Kay Neesam of New Marske Harriers, who took the ladies team prize . Next up for Esk Valley in 17<sup>th</sup> place was Clive Thornton (43min 40sec), closely followed by Dean Stockwell (19<sup>th</sup> – 43m 49s) and Phil Conner (21<sup>st</sup> – 44m 16s). It was ladies day for Esk Valley with 2 teams finishing, Allison Rolfe was first home in 53<sup>rd</sup> and Club Record – 52m 00s, with Louise Campbell, Ruth Hodgson, Sarah Bryson, Kate Brennan and Clare Williams occupying 69<sup>th</sup> – 73<sup>rd</sup>.

Under 21 runner Tom Hodgson was the next male home for Esk Valley (one second ahead of Dad Ian, who runs for NYMAC), followed by Bob Lillie (41<sup>st</sup> – 51m 35s – M60 record), Phil Ainsley – 42<sup>nd</sup>, and Vince Stockwell – 57<sup>th</sup>. For the record NYMAC took the team prize with Esk Valley placed 2<sup>nd</sup>.

In the Roseberry Topping Race (12/09/12) some 4 days later, it was juniors to the fore with 8 of the top 20 under 21, (7 were under 16!). It was Jack Willis (M16) running as an individual who repeated his 2010 victory (then 13!) in a time of 11 minutes 45 seconds, well clear of relative oldie Nic Barber (23years!) of Pennine AC finishing in 12min 40sec. Next up in 3<sup>rd</sup> was another M16 Sam Garratt of New Marske Harriers finishing in a time of 13min 5sec., Dan Middlemas now of Dark Peak placed 4<sup>th</sup> just beating former winner Antony Moss of Topley AC.

First lady finisher was F16 junior Bronwen Owen of Scarborough AC, rounding off the top 10 was M12 (youngest permitted category in this race), Nathan Smith (unattached). Michael Quinn (11<sup>th</sup> – 14min 40sec) of home club Esk Valley first home of an Esker trio, followed by Joe Johnson in 12<sup>th</sup> and Thomas Hodgson (Under 21) 13<sup>th</sup> Derek Owen completed the Esk Valley A who claimed the team victory. Rounding off the junior finishers, Aidan Rigby (M14) – 15<sup>th</sup> – New Marske Harriers, Tyler Hutchinson (M14)- 17<sup>th</sup>, Emma Clapton (F14) - 19<sup>th</sup> – Scarborough AC, Chris Wright (M16) – 26<sup>th</sup>, Sam Clapton (M12) – 41<sup>st</sup> – Scarborough AC, Thomas Aspin (M12) - 54<sup>th</sup> – New Marske Harriers, Elliot Hutchinson (M12) – 59<sup>th</sup> and Katie Thornton (F14) - 72<sup>nd</sup> – New Marske Harriers. Brilliant running from our North Eastern juniors and the future looks rosy.

In the ladies team race, New Marske Harriers again claimed victory with Kay Neesam 3<sup>rd</sup> (22<sup>nd</sup> overall), Shelli Gordon 4<sup>th</sup> (33<sup>rd</sup> overall) and Katie Thornton 6<sup>th</sup> (72<sup>nd</sup> overall). No team prizes were awarded on the night, but i'm sure Dave will catch up at some stage. Allison Rolfe and Louise Campbell (with a ghost) placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the ladies competition.

Back to the men and Clive led home the Esker B's supported by David Whitfield, Kieran Gill and Adrian Martin to place 6<sup>th</sup>. The final standings Esk Valley A claimed the team championship to back up their Winter Series triumph and the B's again claimed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. WELL DONE.

The remaining Eskers to finish this club championships race, so all important were, Chris Jamieson, Martin Hunt and Richard Milne (M60 club record).

Whilst celebrating our junior runners, Roseberry was good training for the British Junior Uphill Championships held over at Melmerby. In the Under 16's Bronwen Owen claimed Silver, Charlotte Edge of Scarborough AC earned 13<sup>th</sup> place in the U18's and in the U16 boys Jack Willis was just outside the medals in 4<sup>th</sup>. TERRIFIC!

### Catching Up

Great to see the Winter Series bringing out some old faces, Dave Collett ran in the Viking Chase first race for best part of two years, Keith Westerman returned to action as did Mark Brown, more on the Viking next time. Spoke to Stuart Backhouse recently, if you are wondering where he is, a work accident has meant he won't be on the hills and fells for a while, the club wishes you a speedy recovery and he hopes to be at the Saltergate to catch-up.

### The black stuff

One of our youngest members was in the running at Albert Park (29/09/12), where Jack Conner claimed a pb and beat dad Phil in the bargain. Clive Thornton was 2<sup>nd</sup> at Locke Park in Redcar (29/09/12), Louise Campbell and Allison are regular participants at Albert Park and Louise Campbell continues to lead the organising team one week in four.

There were six Eskers at the recent Redcar half Marathon (30/09/12), Joe Johnson was best placed in 59<sup>th</sup> position from 1271 finishers, Chris Jamieson was 279<sup>th</sup>, Allison Rolfe claimed a bit pb in 297<sup>th</sup> – 1hr 39m 43s, Scott Howard 562<sup>nd</sup>, Louise Campbell 817<sup>th</sup> and Martin Hall (Hunt?) 978<sup>th</sup>, Great runs.

Don't forget the Esk Valley Facebook page – [Link](#)

### Next Time

Club Championships round-up, winter series results and lots more.



Fell Pic courtesy Katie Thornton

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