



The Erratic Esker



Esk Valley Fell Club's Blog



Winter's here (the Series that is!) - Championship catch-up

Well that was good (the Summer), sunshine and warmth in all the right places. Autumn was autumnal, wet, relatively mild with the odd burst of sun and now its headlong into winter with the media predicting the worst winter since....., well whatever the editor feels like for dramatic affect.

There was great running and racing throughout and with the Summer Series over we're now well into the winter series and the more serious series, plus the club championship finales.

The festive race period and the build-up to it for me is a cracking time of year. The new Commondale Beacon (24/11/13) in the last weekend of November, is after the initial climb out of Commondale and scenic trail style medium race. Into December and the now well established Eskdale Eureka (08/12/13), just shy of 9 miles with a reasonable amount of climb it takes you out into the wilderness.

The Loftus Poultry Race (22/12/13) so named as the prizes are poultry is now in its 30th year, an 8 mile event with 3 ascents (total approximately 250m) and two off-road sections. Look out for Christmas day parkruns just as a warm-up to the Esk Valley festive trio; Guisborough Woods (27/12/13), Captain Cooks Race (01/01/14) and Clay Bank East (05/01/14)

And most importantly enjoy your running where ever you may be.

Introduction to Fell Running Courses

If you are taking your first steps into off-road running, are new to running and want to run offroad or are not quite sure where to start off-road then why not come along to our all new Introduction to off-road running sessions.

We are running two sessions at the same time, one for juniors and one for adults or why not make it a family affair. The sessions are led by our two UK Athletics qualified and insured Fell Leaders, Mike McGough and Shelli Gordon. Full details on the Esk Valley [website](#).

Sessions run from the Guisborough Forest visitors centre at Pinchinthorpe. Starting at 10.30am. The first block of sessions run through to Sunday 22nd December and it is planned to hold a further six after Christmas 12th January to 16th February, contact details on the web link.

Summer Series Round-up

The 2013 Summer Series rounded off with two contrasting races, the Castleton Show Race (Saturday 14/09/13), tag line 'A Road race for Fell runners and a Fell race for Road runners', and the Roseberry Topping Fell Race (Wednesday 11/09/13), short and steep, a race for fell running purists.

The summer series usually sorted by the running of these two events, still had plenty of running in it. Paul Butler (Loftus and Whitby) led the **Men Overall** with Cameron Taylor (Esk Valley) the only other who could overhaul Paul, but Cameron needed to complete one of the remaining races at least as he only has seven counters with this years competition an 8 from 14. However neither of the remaining races were favoured by Cameron, despite finishing the Cleveland Way earlier in the day Cameron placed 3rd at Roseberry, sufficient to take top spot overall. Even top Summer Series points in the Castleton Show Race for Paul was not enough.

In the **Women's Overall** Kay Neesam (New Marske Harriers) with wins at Guisborough Grunt and Inclined to Madness could not be overhauled. So could put her feet up for the remaining two races, in relative terms.

Cameron Taylor (Esk Valley) claimed the **Male Junior** category for another year. In the **Male senior** category Tim Whitehead (Esk Valley) raced to victory ,Martin Clements and Joe Johnson of Esk Valley placed 10th and 11th.

The **Male 40** category was decided with Dan Middlemas of Dark Peak claiming, victory, Brothers Dean and Vince Stockwell (Esk Valley) claimed second and third overall. Paul Butler (Loftus and Whitby) with a clean sweep of category victory's takes the **Male 45** category, Bryan Saysell (NYMAC) and Rob Williamson (Loftus and Whitby) were next and best placed Esker was Sid Bollands in 10th.

Julian Barwick (NYMAC) sealed the **Male 50** category after 12 events, Chris Jamieson, Ian Robinson, Mick Vickers and Dave Dedman (all Esk Valley) ran well with all placed in the top-10. The **Male 55** category was won by Mick Bennett (Elvet Striders) with Paul Kelly (Durham FR) in second. Phil Quinlan the only Esker in the top-10 was 4th.

Mick McGurk (New Marske Harriers) with second at Roseberry sealed the **Male 60** category. Stephen Ramsden was runner up and Bob Lillie 5th, with injury at the Grunt preventing participation in an 8th counter.

Alan Wikeley (Thirsk and Sowerby) **Male 65** and Ronnie Sherwood (New Marske Harriers) **Male 70** claimed their respective age category titles.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2013/14 ARE WELCOME – ONLY £5.00

(English Athletics Affiliations payable at cost)

PAYMENTS TO DAVE PARRY

Esk Valley/Northern Runner/NEHRA - Winter Series

Viking Chase Four Peaks (22/09/13) was the series opener, Cameron Taylor (Esk Valley Fell Club) signed off with a win before starting University at Oxford and Esk Valley claimed the team prize with Cameron, Michael Quinn, Nigel Tate and Tim Whitehead. In the overall it was early leader Duncan Archer who claimed 2nd place over Paul Butler of Loftus and Whitby. Esk Valley B's raced to third team with Dean Stockwell, David Gibson, Nick Galpin and Stuart Quickenden. In the ladies race Nicola Kent was victorious and it was good to see Esk Valley again placing a ladies team with Julia Cove Smith, and Lorna Goodchild (plus ghost).

After an autumn break the **Saltergate Levisham** (20/10/13) saw a return to form for Jayson Cavill of Pickering AC claiming victory from York Knavesmire's runners' Chris Roberts and Simon Collins. First home for Esk Valley was a returning to fitness Joseph Johnson in 11th, followed by Dave Parker 13th, Richard Clark 15th and Lee Harper 36th to claim second team. In the ladies race Kay Neesam of New Marske Harriers returned to action after claiming the Summer Series crown to race to victory in a new course record. Esk Valley ladies again earned a team place with Gill Jones (EVFC course record) and Jacqueline Edwards. Esk Valley also earned 3rd in the team competition with Dan Blackman, Stephen Alderton, Stephen Ramsden and Ian Robinson. To cap a good team day for Esk Valley, Jon Hudson, Richard Parkin, Barry Edwards and Chris Jamieson raced to 4th team too.

In the Autumn event of the Four Seasons Trophy, **Guisborough Three Tops** (27/10/13) it was Durham Fell Runners' Peter Bray who earned victory and with Andy Blackett 4th, Ian McGrath 6th and Greg Rimmer 11th also claimed team victory. Kay Neesam of New Marske Harriers made it two victories and course records on the spin and 13th place overall. First home again for Esk Valley was Joe Johnson in 17th and back in the running Simon Ashwell was 22nd after a summer of cycling, Dave Parker 25th and Dave Gibson 41st supported to take the team to 3rd overall. Kay also headed the victorious ladies team supported by Lisa Bennett and Helen Whitney. Julia Cove-Smith claimed another EVFC ladies course record and a team position with support from Barbara Kearney.

Which takes us to the most recent event – **Clay Bank West** (10/11/13) round 4. The short hilly A-rated event saw 117 runners finish, not quite matching the 142 who finished at Guisborough two weeks previous, but a great turnout. Peter Bray of Durham Fell Runners made two victories on the trot, but this time lacked sufficient support to claim a team placing. Andy Blackett also of Durham was 2nd and Ian McGrath was 6th, but no 4th mens finisher meant York Knavesmire instead claimed team victory. First home for Esk Valley was the fast improving Simon Ashwell in 16th, with Joe Johnson again top 20 in 19th, Michael Quinn 22nd and Dave Parker 29th for a team silver.

Kay Neesam of New Marske Harriers making the overall event her own so far, again claimed victory but no course record. Supported by Helen Whitney and Joanne Goldsmith earned team prize. Great to see Kendra White back on the fells and leading the Esk Valley ladies, with Julia Cove-Smith and Julie McNicholas for team place. The mens B team of Dean Stockwell Chris Green, Andrew Bewick and Craig Holifield were well placed in 3rd.

Next Event is Commondale Beacon on Sunday 24th November, registration, start and finish at the Cleveland Inn in Commondale, registration from 9.15am and race starts at 10.30.

Next time

Club Championship Round-up

The Lakeland Classics Trophy 2013

and the Black stuff.



Fell Pic courtesy Katie Thornton

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