



Pic courtesy Tall Guy Flickr

## Captain Cook's Monument – See you New Year's Day!

Those with Winter Series aspirations have plenty of opportunity over the Christmas and New Year to make their move, with three Christmas crackers, **Guisborough Woods**, the New Year's day **Captain Cooks Races** and a return to the wilderness with the **Clay Bank East**. New Years Day also sees the start of the all new **NEHRA Junior Fell Race Series 2012**, a 12 race series championships for U12 to U18's, so plenty to choose from.

The **2012** race fixtures calendar is now on the website, it's only a sprinkling of what is out there, as more races are finalised there will be regular updates, I hope Father Christmas brought all that you wished for and it'll be great to see you on the hills and fells.

### Racing/Training dates

The weather closed in and Christmas commitments took their toll a little on the Tuesday night headtorch runs in December, no worries New Year new targets, so its a nice gentle start with a meet at Great Ayton on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan with time for a chat afterwards in the Royal Oak. Next up I have suggested Maynards so we could head over towards Round Hill to Clay Bank East territory.

For anyone new to night-time running or if your candle lamp is failing a tremendous value head torch the 'Gamma' is available from **Alpkit**, (other head torches are available).

**Tuesday 27/12/2011** 11.00hrs – **Guisborough Woods** – 5.5ml/1222' or 8.8km/376m Venue - Guisborough Rugby Club, Belmontgate, Guisborough, Cleveland, GR NZ 616155. £6.00 - Enter on the day. Junior race for U14/U16/U18 over one lap of the course 1.8ml/407' or 2.9km/125m, £3.00 EoD. This is race 6 in the Esk Valley/NEHRA/Northern Runner Winter Series, a testing three lapper, you are never too far away, with terrain to suit all tastes, come-on did you eat too much Christmas Pud?

**Sunday 01/01/2012** 11.00hrs – **Captain Cooks Races** – 5ml/1033' or 8km/318m. Venue – Royal Oak P. H. High Green, Great Ayton, North Yorkshire, GR NZ 563107. Our Charity fund raiser, £6.00 Pre-enter/2011/12 Winter series entrant or £7.00 Enter on the Day. Junior Races U12 – 3.1km, U14/U16/U18 – 4.1km £3.00 Enter on Day. Race 7 of the Winter Series and Race 1 in the NEHRA 2012 Junior Fell Race Series. Start your running year with the classic CCR's.

**Tuesday 03/01/2012** 19.00hrs – **Training** – Tourist Information Car Park, High Green, Great Ayton

**Tuesday 10/01/2012** 19.00hrs – **Training** – Maynards Nursery layby on the B1257 about ¼ mile south of Great Broughton or 2 and ¼ miles south of Stokesley.

**Sunday 15/01/2012** 10.30hrs – **Clay Bank East** – BS – 5.7ml/998' or 9.1km/307m. Venue – Car Park top of Clay Bank on B1257 approx. 3 miles south of Stokesley GR NZ 572036. £6.00 Enter on the Day. Race 8 in the Esk Valley/NEHRA/Northern Runner Winter Series . Junior Race – Event 2 in the NEHRA Junior Fell Race Series All 3km – U12/U14/U16/U18 - £3.00 Enter on the Day. Third in the Christmas/New Year trio, tame the Beast!

### Advance Entries

**Old Monks Race** – Sunday 08/01/2012 – 11.00hrs – A 5.5 multi-terrain race, back to its regular New Year slot, organised by **Hartlepool Burn Road Harriers**, entry form [here](#).

**Hardmoors Series** – There are now 4 events in the Hardmoors series, 30, 60, 55 (half Cleveland Way) and 110 (full Cleveland Way). For you Ultra fans! the series opener, the 30 is held on New Years Day, link to site [here](#).

### Eskdale Eureka (04/12/2011)

Bring on the winter chill, a mizzle in the air and the North Yorkshire Moors are not so easy to tame. With a tweaked route for the second Eureka of the year, the 2010 event was snowed off, oh how the memory fades, all was set for a classic North Yorkshire moors race.



Cameron leads Nic on the descent from the start

The new venue on the western edge of Castleton above Dibble Bridge meant a thunderous offroad downhill start, catching some of the 100+ racers offguard, but not Cameron Taylor (Esk Valley) and Nic Barber (Pennine) who's race long battle started from the off. The original race route was quickly joined at the wooden footbridge below Dibble. The outward crossing of the Westerdale Road saw the first five of Cameron, Nic, Jim Bulman (U/A) Nigel Tate (Durham FR) and Charles Stead (Northumberland FR) establish themselves. On the return leg towards Hob Hole Nic Barber had eased into a lead over Cameron, but this was only temporary as with two climbs remaining Cameron's superior climbing meant he passed Nic to take a well deserved overall victory.



Nigel Tate couldn't quite fly to victory in 4<sup>th</sup>.



Ian McGarth (DFR) slightly perplexed took the longer road route to Hob Hole to finish 6<sup>th</sup> overall.

Terrific turnout again from Esk Valley, with 17 finishers out of a field of 107, Cameron Taylor in a great vein of form claimed his second victory of the Winter Series and sets a course record of 56 minutes 18 seconds for the 8mile-ish course. Nic Barber of Pennine and sometime Esk Valley headtorch claimed second and for a second event in a row a returning Jim Bulman claimed 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the team race Durham FR took overall victory again, team championship leaders Esk Valley A placed second, with supporting Cameron were new member Jamie Henderson in 14<sup>th</sup>, (64' 57" - M40 record), Matt Coleby in 17<sup>th</sup> and Richard Clark in 25<sup>th</sup>, in a very close run team battle NYMAC A (2<sup>nd</sup> in the Championship) placed 3<sup>rd</sup> one point behind Esk Valley A.

In the women's race Cath Williamson of Loftus and Whitby, taking an active rest from her British cycling team duties, took victory in a time of 64 minutes and 40 seconds and placing 13<sup>th</sup> overall. Two lady Eskers took the EVFC ladies to 4<sup>th</sup> overall (3<sup>rd</sup> in team championship), Alison Rolfe 14<sup>th</sup> lady (M40 record- 89'19") and Louise Campbell 21<sup>st</sup> lady – 108' 02". Mick Quinn in 29<sup>th</sup> led home the EVFC 'B' team (3<sup>rd</sup> in championship), with Stuart Backhouse 37<sup>th</sup> (M45 & M50 record – 70' 04"), Dave Dedman - 40<sup>th</sup> and new member Matthew Trevelyan in 49<sup>th</sup>.

The remaining Eskers to complete the race were; David Gibson 62<sup>nd</sup>, Ian Harmer 80<sup>th</sup> (M55 record – 88' 10"), a returning Bob Lillie who gave everyone a head start came in 82<sup>nd</sup> (M60 record – 88' 20"), Chris Jamieson (78<sup>th</sup> race of season) in 91<sup>st</sup>, Ian Robinson - 93<sup>rd</sup> and new member Ian Conyers in 101<sup>st</sup>.

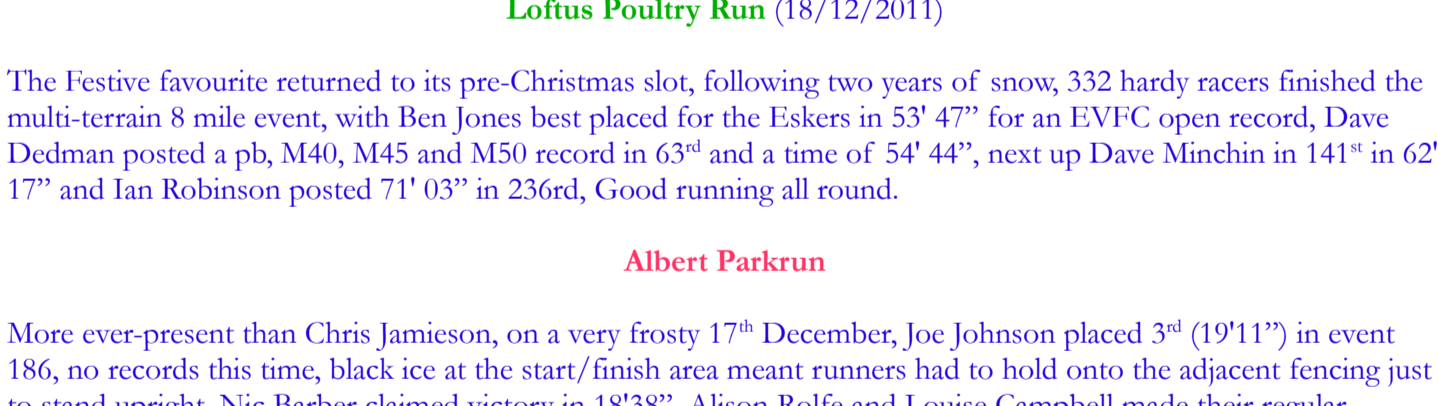
Terrific performance from all, I think the tweaked route was a success, the new start and finish taking out the the previous road sections.

### Loftus Poultry Run (18/12/2011)

The Festive favourite returned to its pre-Christmas slot, following two years of snow, 332 hardy racers finished the multi-terrain 8 mile event, with Ben Jones best placed for the Eskers in 53' 47" for an EVFC open record, Dave Dedman posted a pb, M40, M45 and M50 record in 63<sup>rd</sup> and a time of 54' 44", next up Dave Minchin in 141<sup>st</sup> in 62' 17" and Ian Robinson posted 71' 03" in 236<sup>rd</sup>, Good running all round.

### Albert Parkrun

More ever-present than Chris Jamieson, on a very frosty 17<sup>th</sup> December, Joe Johnson placed 3<sup>rd</sup> (19'11") in event 186, no records this time, black ice at the start/finish area meant runners had to hold onto the adjacent fencing just to stand upright, Nic Barber claimed victory in 18'38". Alison Rolfe and Louise Campbell made their regular Saturday morning appearance.



Esker Joe Johnson on the front line

### Your thoughts

A club meal social in February? And suggestions for the 2012 club championships, I suggest a straight 6 from 12 or 6 from 13 or 7 from 14 or similar format, What do you think? And don't forget your race choices.

## Happy New Year!

### Next Time

Festive race round-up, Club Championships review, plans for 2012?

