

L'Esker – La Connexion Française!

Esk Valley Fell Club's Blog



Pic courtesy sidecarland

1940's Weekend in Pickering – Fell race organiser steals the show!

Le'Visham Saltergate

North Yorkshire rolled back the years and the tanks rolled in, as Pickering had its now traditional Autumn 1940's World War Two makeover. Dave Parry was not quite sure what had happened as the Le'Visham Saltergate Fell Race coincided with the 18th Pickering 1940's weekend and LeVisham became LeVisham.



Pic courtesy sidecarland

Le'Visham became French pour le weekend

Saltergate became Saltergate+ and after its third makeover in as many years, the second Fell Race of the Winter Series has become **LeVisham Saltergate** (16/10/2011). Following the imposition of parking charges at its former start point and after our warm welcome at Lockton (LeVisham Limping), Dave decided to continue his tour of village hall committees at LeVisham Village Hall. We were warmly welcomed and the tea and cakes were terrific by all accounts.

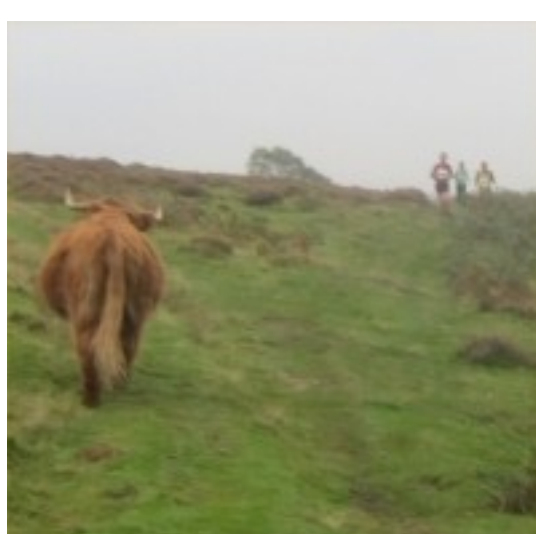
The many Ridings of Yorkshire were represented in an eclectic top-10, **Stuart Carmichael** of City Of Hull Harriers took the victory and new open race record in a cracking time of 76 minutes 3 seconds for the 11 mile race, just beating a resurgent Charlie Stead of Northumberland Fell Runners some 40 seconds back. North Riding honour was upheld by home club runner, **Cameron Taylor** of Esk Valley Fell Club who had a tremendous run in 4th place to establish an Esk Valley open and junior record. Andy Blackett of Durham Fell Runners came home 3rd and visitor Dale Foster of Otley AC made up the top-5.

In the team competition it was a double header win for **Esk Valley Fell Club** following up their victory in the Winter Series opener – Viking Chase 4 Peaks. Backing up Cameron in 9th place was Joe Johnson easing himself back to form, Dominic Barry in 16th (new M40 and M45, more competition!), and Stuart Backhouse in 19th and a return to form for an M50 record.

Esk Valley Fell Club continued its terrific presence in the local races with 12 runners completing the event and being the only team to finish a 'B' team. The 4th placed B's were, leading home Mick Quinn in 35th, Neil Byron 39th, Sam Williams 49th and David Gibson 50th.

In the ladies competition, Nicola Kent was first home in a brilliant 12th place for Loftus and Whitby (2nd home for L & W overall) and a time of 89 minutes 28 seconds for a new ladies open record, and leading the Loftus and Whitby ladies to ream victory.

Making up the 12 Eskers to finish were, John Hazell in 59th, Chris Jamieson (70+ races for the season so far!) in 60th, Joe Williams 64th and 72nd Ian Robinson. 82 competitors made it to the finish line, dodging the tanks, trains and Highland Cattle!



Pic courtesy Dougie Nesbit

Further afield

Two Eskers made the trip to the **Three Shires** (17/09/11) fell race in the Lake District, Thomas Hodgson came in 184th in a time of 3 hours 3 minutes and 12 seconds for the 13 miles race distance and 4000' of climb. Certainly not a race to be under-estimated as its round 5 of the Lakeland Classics Trophy, Thomas just pipped his Dad, Ian Hodgson (NYMAC), and second Esker home was Ian Harmer in 3 hours 46 minutes and 51 seconds from the 288 finishers. As no other Esk Valley competitors have completed the race, new records posted, good efforts all round.

On the same day Chris Jamieson continued his assault on the FRA calendar completing **Rombalds Romp fell versus trail race** based around Ilkley, competing in the fell race, Chris finished 86th in a time of 1 hour 16 minutes 27 seconds for the 7 ish mile route.

The 27th **Pathfinder challenge** was held on 8th October 2011, the LDWA event has two distances 15 and 25 miles taking in the moors around Kildale and Comondale. Warming up for the LeVisham Saltergate, Cameron Taylor finished the 15 mile route in 1 hour 49 minutes for a best time on the day for Esk Valley and claim a club best, 2nd place was claimed by Steve Murton for Esk Valley too, in 2 hours 16 minutes, which matched Mike McGough's previous club record. If there had been a team competition, Esk Valley would of done really well as Sheldon Cockburn came home in 2 hours 17 minutes and Andrew Bennett in 2 hours 24 minutes. In the 25 mile challenge, who else but Chris Jamieson came home in 6 hours 28 minutes.

Richard Clark rounded off his **Lakelands Classic Trophy** assault at **Langdale Horseshoe** (08/10/2011) with 129th from 343 finishers in a time of 3 hours 9 minutes 22 seconds for the 14 mile race, over some of the toughest terrain that the Lakes have to offer. The LCT consists of six races; Duddon Valley, Ennerdale, Wasdale, Borrowdale, Three Shires and Langdale, three must be completed to qualify for the final table. Richard completed all the Dale races and finished 40th overall from the 102 that qualified, a tremendous achievement, WELL DONE!

Albert parkrun

In our only nod to the black stuff the Eskers have been making their presence felt at the 5km Albert parkrun recently. The event is held every Saturday morning, start time 9.00am, locally there is the Middlesbrough event, then Newcastle, Sunderland and recent addition Durham. Nine Esk Valley members have registered times;

Clive Thornton – PB - 18' 45" (16 runs); Phil Conner – 19' 10" (4); Kendra White – 19' 27" (11); David McNamee – 20' 21" (5); Rob Bailey – 21' 27" (1); Adrian Martin – 22' 26" (3); Allison Rolfe – 22' 32" (62) Louise Campbell – 25' 07" (119) ; Ruth Hodgson – 27' 34" (3).

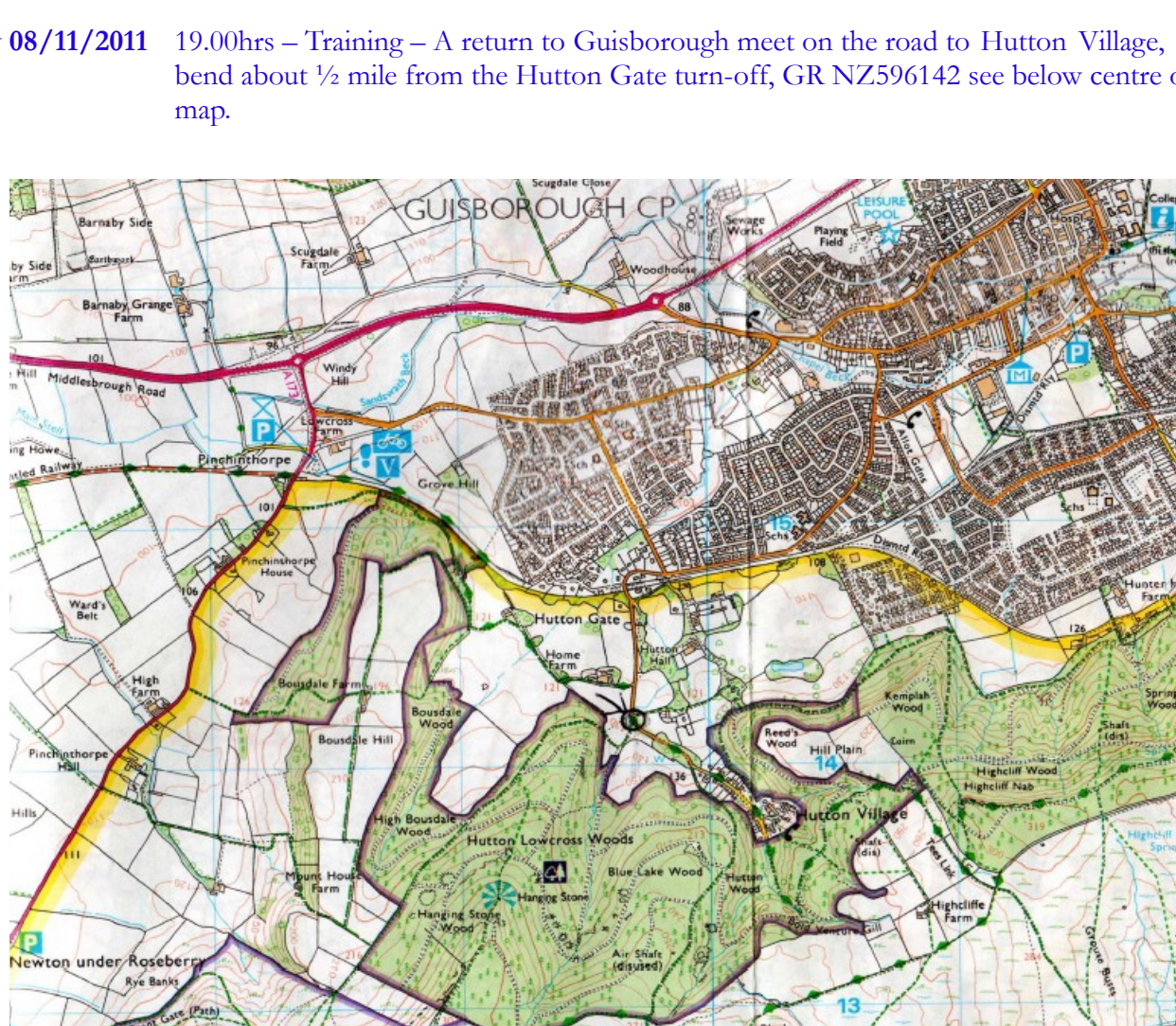
Start your weekend with a bang, link to Albert parkrun [here](#).

Up and coming - Racing/Training

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 **01/11/2011** 19.00hrs – Training – Tourist Information Car Park, High Green Great Ayton. GR - NZ 563107. Royal Oak P. H. afterwards for drinks and chips social.

Tuesday **08/11/2011** 19.00hrs – Training – A return to Guisborough meet on the road to Hutton Village, on the bend about ½ mile from the Hutton Gate turn-off, GR NZ596142 see below centre of map.



Tuesday **15/11/2011** 19.00hrs – Training - Maynards Nursery lay-by, ¼ mile south of Great Broughton on B1257, GR NZ 553052, recce the weekend's race.

Sunday **20/11/2011** 10.30hrs – **Clay Bank West** – 5.5m/900' – Venue – Playing Field High Park (top of Clay Bank), approx. 3.5 miles south of Stokesley on B1257. - GR NZ 572036 – £6.00 on day – Junior races U14 to U18 – 2m/400'. Final event in the 2011 Club Championships, Round 4 of the 2011/12 Winter Series, test yourself against Wainstones and Cold Moor.

Advance Entries

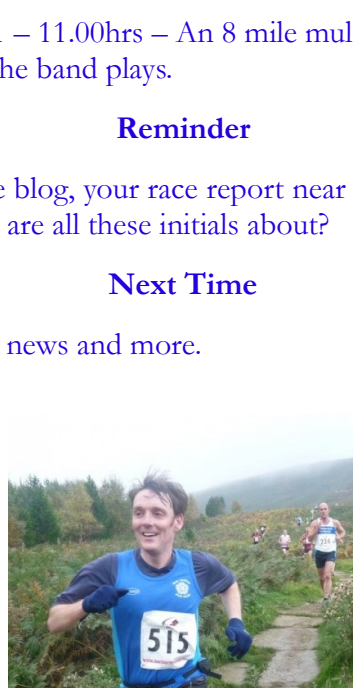
Loftus Poultry Run – Sunday 18/12/2011 – 11.00hrs – An 8 mile multi-terrain festive race favourite, a drink and a mince pie for finishers, poultry prizes and the band plays.

Reminder

I'd love to receive your contributions to the blog, your race report near or far, your take on a race, quirky fell racing stuff, off-road racing, LAMM, OMM, what are all these initials about?

Next Time

Three Tops results, training, racings, events news and more.



Fell Pic courtesy Dave Aspin

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