

# The Esker – It's April

Another weekend in North Yorkshire another terrific race, **Blakey Blitz** once again lived up to its billing as the toughest race on the Winter and Summer Series calendar. The relative drought over the past few weeks (driest March in 60 years!) meant running under foot was relatively good and Paul Butler blasted away the previous record by over two minutes, not to be outdone, Shelli Gordon and Kay Neesham flew round the course, crossed the finish line together in a new joint record, beating the previous mark by 2 minutes.

Esk Valley runners were in good supply again with 15 taking part, Dave Smith showed his experience as first Esker to cross the line in 9<sup>th</sup>, Cameron Taylor continuing his terrific form finished in 12<sup>th</sup>, Joe Johnson in 21<sup>st</sup> and Stuart Backhouse in 26<sup>th</sup> took the team to a very good second place finish to the Loftus and Whitby squad. (More next time on BB)

Not to be outdone by son Matthew who won recently at High Cup Nick, Richard Clark retained his **Cleveland Survival** title with another fastest time for the marathon distance event. This year based on a Hutton-le-Hole start, Richard navigated his way round in 3 hours 52 minutes.

Mike McGough (3hr 53m) and Phil Conner (3hr 58m) completed the **Edale Skyline** (21m/4500') on the same day as Blakey, no positions yet, but great times. Chris Jamieson completed another contrasting double header weekend again on a busy Blakey weekend, **Causey Pike** on Saturday followed by the **Thirsk 10m** on Sunday, not sure whether CJ was on his way to Blakey but chanced upon the Thirsk event and thought why not!

## Your need to Know

Training venues for April (all 7.00pm):

5<sup>th</sup> April – Black Horse, Swainby (start of Whorlton Run),

12<sup>th</sup> April – Maynards Nursery Layby, South of Great Broughton (see the Wainstones in daylight),

19<sup>th</sup> April – Carlton Bank top, Carlton in Cleveland (options for flat/hilly run)

26<sup>th</sup> April – **Carlton Challenge** – Carlton Bank top - 1<sup>st</sup> Summer Series event, 5m/850' 7pm start

## Relays

We would like to enter some of the team events this year, first up is the local event so good chance for some local and not so local rivalry in – **Cleveland Way Team Relay**. We need at least 16 club members including one female. The event is held over the whole 110 miles of the Cleveland Way. Mike McGough has kindly offered to co-ordinate the event for the club, so he is eager to hear from interested parties. Contact Mike via email [relays@eskvalleyfellclub.org](mailto:relays@eskvalleyfellclub.org)

## Don't forget

10<sup>th</sup> April – 34<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Gisborough Moors race**, 12.5mls/2600' – Venue – Guisborough Rugby Club, Belmontgate, Guisborough – Start time is 11.00am. Final counter in the Northern Runner/Esk Valley Fell Club Winter Series.

## Next Time

Winter Series round-up, AGM, Results, Summer Series preview

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