

The Esker – February 2011 – Part 2

The First Word

Castleton Beacon another terrific winter series race, a bit of everything, lung buster start, heather bashing, trail running, route choice, very runnable descents and ascents, bogs and water crossings – TREMENDOUS!

The races keep coming too, High Cup Nick, Comondale Clart (Best of luck this weekends runners) new race Glaisdale Rigg and arguably our toughest North Yorkshire race of the year, the 'A' rated Blakey Blitz.

Need to know

Training – March should signal a change of venue for the Tuesday training nights, as we haven't decide yet, this Tuesday 1st March its 7.00pm at High Green Car Park at Great Ayton, suggestions welcomed for the 8th, 15th and 22nd, Kildale? And we'll head upon to the moor to the Baysdale side and the back of Captain Cook's.

AGM – Date for you diary, 29th March, Venue and time to follow, nothing formal more a drink, eats and a chat, plus the award of the 2010 Club Champs trophies – Dave Collett, Cameron Taylor and Phil Conner. Anything you would like discussed or suggestions for the year, please contact Dave Parry.

Results

Wansfell (05/02/2011) – Chris Jamieson paid another visit to the Lakes, completing this eastern fells race in 39m 17s placing 44th in an event won by Rob Jebb.

Mickledon Straddle (06/02/2011) – Two Eskers made the trip to West Yorkshire for this 14 mile event, Kevin Holmes continuing his Three Peaks preparation, placed 80th in a time of 2hr 26m 55s and Chris Jamieson in another double header weekend placed 177th in 2hr 59m 58s.

Wadsworth Trog (12/02/2011) – Another weekend in West Yorkshire for Kevin Holmes this time for 20 miles and 4hr 7min 49s and 71st place from a field of 132 finishers.

Castleton Beacon (13/02/2011) – Another terrific Castleton based race, on classic moorland terrain, saw not quite a 100+ field due to the distraction of the blackstuff based Poultry Run make the start line. First counter in this year's club champs saw 13 Eskers cross the finish line. Lewis Banton of Clowne RR led home, Cameron Taylor continued his terrific form placing 5th overall within one minute of the winner in a new Esk Valley open record of 61 minutes 10 seconds. In a reverse of the Eureka positions, Dave Smith followed Cameron home in 6th position in an M40 record of 62m 22s, next up was convert from the road Joe Johnson in 19th and making up the 3rd placed 'A' team in 28th was Huw Liappiatt.

Shelli Gordon continued her sparkling form with victory in the female race, but with the other New Marske ladies at the Poultry Run, Scarborough AC took the team victory. Esk Valley B finished 6th, led home by Phil Conner (29th), Clive Thornton (40th), Mark Brown (43rd) and Barry O'Brien (55th), we also placed a third team in 8th, with Bob Lillie, Joe Williams, Jonathan Wallace and Ian Harmer, and Ian Robinson rounds off the Eskers to finish the race.

Poultry Run (13/02/2011) – Three Eskers that I could spot ran this mixed terrain event, postponed from its traditional pre-Christmas slot, but not quite the same for it, 250+ completed, Dean Stockwell was well placed in 27th (53m 44s), Vince Stockwell – 93rd (1h 22s) and Chris Jamieson added further to his list of events with 98th in a time of 1hr 1min 22s.

Snow returns!

Snow returned last weekend, a glance at the Wainstones on Saturday revealed a icing sugar dusting, there was a bit more further north for Sunday's Kielder Borderer. No Eskers at this one, but just wanted to remind you all of the joy of snow, if you'd forgotten.



Kielder Borderer "Britain's Worst Fell Race" photo courtesy of Rob Stephens (nfr)

Next Time - Winter Series update, Club Champs and don't keep you're exploits a secret!

clive@eskvalleyfellclub.org