

The Esker – February 2011

The First Word

Eskdale Eureka was by consensus a terrific event, the snow had gone, so competitors could really concentrate on their running, the course was a good early season test to start to stretch the legs for the challenges that lay ahead. It's more of the same next weekend with the Castleton Beacon race, though this time we head in the opposite direction from Castleton.

Training

Tuesday night training sessions in February (We taking bids for March) are starting from High Green Car Park, Great Ayton, vicinity of the Royal Oak (start of the Captain Cooks New Years race), start time is 7pm for a 8-9mile training run. This week 8th February we are meeting in Royal Oak afterwards for a drink, a chat and chips, we'll be in there from 8.30-8.45pm.

Next Sunday (13th Feb) is Castleton Beacon or the re-arranged Loftus Poultry Run, Sunday 20th Feb it's the start of the half term holidays, a race recce is an option (Glaisdale Rigg?), then the following weekend is a race double header Saturday 26th Feb – High Cup Nick and Sunday 27th Feb – Commondale Clart.

Next Race

SUN 13 FEB 2011 – CASTLETON BEACON – BM – 10.30am – 8m/1100' – Venue: The Green, Bottom of the Hill, vicinity of the Cricket Pitch, Castleton, North Yorkshire, GR 684084, £6.00 enter on day. Now the 9th Northern runner/NEHRA/Esk Valley winter series counter. 9th counter in the Northern Runner/NEHRA/Esk Valley Winter series and 1st **Club Championships counter**.

Featured Race – High Cup Nick

The second race of the club championships and the first further afield race is High Cup Nick on **Saturday 26th February**, start time 2.00pm, with Junior trail races U8 – U14 starting at 1.00pm. The event is set in the Northern Pennines, based on Dufton Village, the 9 mile 1500' climb event takes in the remarkable topographical feature High Cup Nick, the Northumbrian Fell Runners photo report on the 2008 event and extra photo link show a testing mixed terrain event.

[High Cup Nick Fell Race photo report 2008](#)

(thank you Northumbrian Fell Runners)

[High Cup Nick Fell Race Map](#)

(thank you – Dufton village website)

There is likely to be reasonably sized group of Esk Valley Runners attending the event as a number have expressed interest. I think it has the potential to be a terrific opening awayday, let me know if you are thinking about attending and we'll try to co-ordinate some lifts.

Results

Eskdale Eureka (30/01/11) – It was now or never for the Eureka, held over from December 2010 when snow made access a touch difficult. On the day the weather held good and in the chill still conditions Lewis Rodgers of Loftus and Whitby raced to victory and a new male open record of 65 minutes 59 seconds.

On a day of records 112 runners made the start line, the first 100+ field for the event. In a top class team competition where 12 of the first 16 home made up the top three male teams, it was Loftus and Whitby's day as they eased to the team victory with a near clean sweep of the top 5, placing 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th. Leading lady was Shelli Gordon in 76 minutes, who led New Marske Harriers to another ladies team victory.

There was a tremendous turnout of 21 Esk Valley Runners, Dave Smith led home in 7th in a new Esk Valley open and M40 record (67m 56s), from Cameron Taylor who claimed an excellent top 10 finish in 8th and another Junior Record. Backing up well to help the Eskers claim a 3rd place in the team competition were Simon Ashwell who kept on course to a 15th place and new member John Widdrington in 16th.

Showing an increasing strength in depth in the team competition, Esk Valley were the first of B's in 6th, Richard Clark (26th), Stuart Backhouse (35th), Mike McGough (36th), and Phil Conner (41st) and the 'C' team claimed 7th Dean Stockwell (43rd), Carl Forbes (45th), Matthew Coleby (46th) and Clive Thornton (48th).

The remaining 9 Eskers to finish the event were, Mark Naylor (51st), Andy Lake (52nd), Kevin Holmes who recovered from a tumble to claim 63rd, Bob Lillie (75th) in a new Esk Valley M55 record, John Williams (82nd), Joe Williams (89th) Chris Jamieson (96th), Ian Harmer (99th) and Ian Robinson (106th). Well done all.

New Competition – The Four Seasons

A bit of lateral thinking and Ian Robinson has devised a new competition the Four Seasons. It is based on the four events that start in Guisborough; Spring – Gisborough Moors, Summer – Guisborough Grunt +, Autumn – The Three Tops and Winter – Guisborough Woods. Winners will be decided on the quickest total time for the four events, we'll keep you updated.

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

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