

The Esker – March 2011

The First Photo

High Cup Nick – Brilliant!



Pic – Phbase – the greypanther



Pics – Dufton website

The First Word

It's been a terrific few weeks of racing, a double header weekend of High Cup Nick and Commondale Clart, where competitors were blessed by the weather and a win for Esk Valley. The seemingly endless days of cloud finally cleared and from the west so uniquely of late, each event was shone upon. Then our newest event, Glaisdale Rigg, held over a cracking course based on the Glaisdale valley.

Need to know

AGM – Don't forget, 8.15pm - 29th March, Royal Oak, High Green, Great Ayton. 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. Please contact Dave Parry to confirm sandwiches and chips and anything you would like discussed. ***It's your club, so it will be really great to see you all.*** For anyone fancying a run beforehand as its Tuesday night head torch training, we'll be setting off at 7.00pm for a trot round the Captain Cook's course.

Training – Tuesday 22nd March – 7.00pm – Black Swan, Kirkby in Cleveland. Tuesday 29th March – 7.00pm – Royal Oak, Great Ayton and AGM.

Keep an eye out for April's Tuesday night venue, coming soon.

Guisborough Moors Race – Pre-entry form now available, save yourself some money.

<http://www.eskvalleyfellclub.org/index.htm/files/moorsentryform.pdf>

Results

High Cup Nick (26/02/2011) – Esk Valley gained their first race victory of the year, with a terrific performance and victory over a challenging course for Matthew Clark (Richard's son) in the Under 8 race, really well done Matthew. Not to be outdone, over in the Junior Girls U12's, Sarah McGough – New Marske Harriers claimed 4th closely followed by Alana Conner – Esk Valley in 5th. In what turned out to be a first rendezvous of the season for some of British Fell Running's leading lights eight Eskers made the senior race start and finish of the first away day club championship race.

The race takes in the striking topographical feature of High Cup Nick, mid and high point of the race is reached by a treacherous climb up the Gill at the head of the valley, and what follows is a joyous 4 mile descent along the Pennine Way to Dufton village. In a race won by Ricky Lightfoot, Joe Johnson was first Esker home in a tremendous 36th position (1hr 18min 4 sec) over the 9 mile course, followed by Richard Clark (57th), Phil Conner (61st), Dave Dedman (77th), Mike McGough (78th), Andy Johnson (94th) good to see you back in the running, David Gibson (129th) and ever present Chris Jamieson (145th), from 161 finishers.

Comondale Clart (27/02/2011) – The day dawned bright and sunny! for the tenth Winter Series counter, first NECCA Championship counter and for the 156 finishers terrific turnout, though not sure Dave P, can cope with many more! New records all round with Lewis Rodgers of Loftus and Whitby leading home in a new open record of 35min 35sec and not to be out done Morag Stead of Northumberland Fell Runners lead home the ladies race in a new overall record of 41min 44sec.

Being a double header weekend Esk Valley loyalties were split, though 11 made the results sheet, including David Gibson and Chris Jamieson who competed in both! Cameron Taylor kept up his good form, leading home the Esk Valley contingent, in a slightly below par relatively speaking 17th place, and new Esker overall and junior record of 39min 57sec. New member Paul Peacock was next up in 25th and new M40/M45 record of 40min 20sec, well done! Andy Lake (46th) and Dean Stockwell (50th) brought home Esk Valley A to a 6th place finish.

Next up was Richard Lindsay (64th) followed by on their second outings of the weekend David Gibson (95th) and Chris Jamieson (104th), with Joe Williams (107th), Ian Harmer (111th), Sid Bollands back in the running in (139th) and Ian Robinson (143rd).

Black Combe (05/03/2011) – 8 miles/3400' climb, another Lakeland date for Chris Jamieson and from those stats a toughie, Chris finished the race in 2hr 4min 12sec another EVFC record in the bag.

Glaisdale Rigg (13/03/2011) – A completely new race for the Winter Series, based on the testing terrain found in and above the Glaisdale valley. The short downhill start belied the 3 and half miles of mostly ascent that followed, then came a very runnable descent off the trig point with another tough climb through the forbidden forest at the head of the valley. The return leg was an undulating North Yorkshire trek with a go as fast you dare descent to the finish. Read Phil Green's write-up on NFR's website:

<http://www.northumberlandfellrunners.co.uk/html/racereports/2011/Glaisdale.html>

New race first time records. Paul Butler who led from the off, took the win for Loftus and Whitby in 59min 38sec, L&W took the team win too, grabbed the swag and then went for their afternoon run at the Richmond Cross Country, where I think bodies were a little jaded! The ladies race was won by Fiona Blackett of Durham Fell Runners, hope you are recovering from the nasty fall on the final descent.

A back to form Cameron Taylor again led home for the Eskers in 9th place (63m 21s – MO and MJ rec.), Dave Smith followed in 12th (65m 44s – M40 rec.), making up a terrific team finish of 2nd overall came Joe Johnson (17th) and Paul Peacock (20th – 69m 5s – M45 rec.). Leading the B team to a 4th place team finish was Huw Lippiatt (30th), course designer – Richard Clark (33rd), new club member – Richard Thackray (39th) and Clive Thornton (40th). In a really good showing 16 Eskers made the trip, new EVFC member local resident Shirley Tyrell (97th – Female rec.).

The EVFC C team gained a 7th place finish, Andy Lake (41st); Mark Naylor (43rd); Dave Gibson (71st) and Bob Lillie (74th – 85m 27s – M50/55 rec.). Ian Harmer (85th), Chris Jamieson (88th) – 17th race of the season! And Ian Robinson (91st) made up the Eskers.

The Glaisdale has the makings of another North Yorkshire classic, thanks must go to the Arncliffe Arms, who's post race spicy chilli really hit the mark.

Winter Series Standings

Eleven races down, two to go; we have winners in most categories;

Women Overall	Shelli Gordon – New Marske Harriers
Male Junior	Cameron Taylor – Esk Valley Fell Club
Male Senior	Dan Middlemas – Loftus and Whitby
Male O45	Richard Bewell – Wetherby Runners
Male O55	Karl Edwards – Hartlepool Burn Road – Five wins and one second place
Male O60	Neil Scruton – Scarborough AC – Six straight category wins
Male O65	Ernie Huck – Thirsk and Sowerby – Six straight category wins
Male O70	Ronnie Sherwood – New Marske Harriers – Six straight category wins
Female Junior	Charlotte Edge – Scarborough AC
Female Senior	Shelli Gordon – New Marske Harriers – Second title for Shelli
Female O45	Denise Tunstall – Durham Fell Runners - Five wins and one second place
Female O50	Janet Cordingley – Knavesmire AC
Female O55	Sue Haslam – Scarborough AC
Female O60	Pat Kirkby – Thirsk and Sowerby

Categories to be decided

Male Overall	Three way battle, only Paul Butler, Dan Middlemas or Jim Mann can win now.
Male O40	Paul Butler leads, our own Dave Smith needs two category wins really to take the title.
Male O50	Six still in with a shout, Chris Ellis and Gordon Brown current joint leaders, Stewart Mechie, Gary Thoms, Barry Atkinson or Paul Kelly can still snatch it.
Female O40	Kay Neesham is favourite, Nicola Kent needs to complete and win in the remaining two events to take the title.

Team Events

It would be great if we could make our mark in some of the Team Events, next up this season is the Cleveland Way Relay (Sunday 26th June), it's a day long 110 mile epic, starting on Filey seafront at 5.00am and finishing in Helmsley in time for Fish and Chips. We'll need 16 runners ideally (one female is compulsory), plus a couple of reserves, legs vary in length between about 5 and 8 miles.

Up and Coming

SUN 27 MAR 2011 – BLAKEY BLITZ – AM – 10.30am – 10m/2500' – Venue: The Lion, Blakey Ridge, near Castleton, North Yorkshire GR 678998 £6.00 Advance entry or £6.50 on the day. FULL KIT/EQUIPMENT MUST BE CARRIED. 3rd Club Championships counter and 12th race in the Northern Runner/NEHRA/Esk Valley Winter Series, grab those points whilst you can. The toughest of the season – Blakey Blitz!

SUN 10 APR 2011 – GISBOROUGH MOORS – BL – 11.00am – 12.5m/2600' – Venue: Guisborough Rugby Club, Belmontgate, Guisborough, Cleveland GR 626155 £7.00 advance entry or £8.00 on the day. Junior race 3m – U14/U16/U18 and shorter 6m version for all. The 13th and final event in the Northern Runner/NEHRA/Esk Valley Winter Series and first race 'Spring' in our new competition the Four Seasons.

Next Time – AGM report and Club Championships update

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