

## **Yomp Mountain Challenge June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2007 - Report**

Stephen Moffat is a well know runner in Upper Eden. A member of the Howgill Harriers, he has inspired numerous people, especially youngsters, to take up the sport. After many years of placing 2nd, and even a joint 1st, Stephen finally took the Wild Boar Cup for himself when he clinched victory in the 25th annual yomp organised by Upper Eden Rotary. It is fitting that a great local hero placed first in this challenging event on its 25th anniversary.

Cheryl Moffat, Stephen's daughter, took the Nine Standards Cup for the fastest female runner on the 11.5 mile course which features a very steep and relentless climb from the foot of Mallerstang to the limestone plateau above Tailbrigg. Emma Birnie held the position of fastest female on the full course scooping the Mallerstang Cup for yet another year and helping her team, Bellahouston Road Runners, lift the K Shoes Shield for the fastest team. Nuns on the Run certainly had the winning habit, taking the Aisgill Summit Cup.

The 11.5 mile course saw two all time records set when Catering Support Regiment A member D Waterhouse took the trophy for fastest male overall with a scorching time of just 1 hour 39 minutes, and the team he was a member of Yomped home in a best three time of 5 hours 33 minutes. The Short, (6.25 miles!), Yomp was won by local Howgill Harrier Jack Walton in just 57 minutes.

Jack, 11, looks set for some great results in future events. Incoming Rotary Vice President Roger Jacobs completed the full course in 9 hours 33 minutes and 4 blisters!

Nearly 500 people enjoyed a well organised event in good weather which defied the terrible forecast for the day. The term Yomp was christened during the Falklands crisis and representatives from the Regular and Volunteer forces took part once again. Runners on the Short Yomp were taken on a 1946 Leyland Tiger Coach to their starting point on the limestone plateau below Nine Standards, thanks to Cumbria Classic Coaches.

Participants benefited from Orthopaedic Massage treatments provided by practitioner Josephine Lade LCSP (Assoc), contactable on 015396 23696. The event took place thanks to generous sponsorship by T R Handley, hauliers, Cumbria Kendal Scaffolding, and invaluable support from around 90 volunteer helpers on the day. St John's Ambulance provided medical support, Air Training Core provided radio cover, and Kirkby Stephen Mountain Rescue were on standby to address any issues on the fell. The Rotary Club would like to give a heartfelt thank you to ALL those who have helped make this premier event for Upper Eden a success once again.