

Yomp Mountain Challenge June 5th 2011 - Report

Despite biting cold conditions and strong headwinds this proved to be a year when records were broken. Last year's record smashing run on the Half Yomp by local Howgill Harrier Carl Bell was repeated by him this year on the full course. Carl took 8 minutes off the previous course record of 2hrs 51 minutes held by Paul Tuson since 1989, to finish in an astounding 2hrs 43 minutes. Spectators at the finish burst into spontaneous applause appreciating this was a significant event in local sporting history. However, not to be outdone Carl's partner, Jenn Mattinson, succeeded in setting a new course record for the fastest female on the Half Yomp in a time of 1hr 49. Sadly Jenn's Nanna, Mary Metcalfe, passed away the day after the Yomp and Carl and Jenn had hoped to tell her how they did – Carl has asked that we dedicate his win to her memory – he had told Mary he would think of her pain and suffering when he was hurting on the run to help him through, and this he did. She would be proud of you both.

Fastest female on the full course was S Savage in 4h 16, and fastest local female A Roche with 4h 25. Fastest under 16's were E Thomas, 5h 47, for the boys and Amy Davis and Tessa Higgs running as the Hawaiian Hillbillies for the girls. The Nine Standards Veterans Cup went to M McKenna, in 4h 34. There was strong representation by the Forces, Britannia Royal Naval College taking the Warcop Cup for fastest regular services team, and Team B Rifleman the Roman Fell Cup for fastest volunteer reserve team. The Howgill Harriers team, including Carl Bell, Stephen Moffat and J Chapman scored a total time of 10h 48 to take the K Shoes Shield for fastest overall team. Fastest non-local team were the Dragons in 12h 49.

Fastest on the Half Yomp this year were brothers P and A Hanna coming in together at 1h 38, and fastest female with a new course record was Jenn Mattinson, 1h 49. These 3 competitors made the winning team Howgill Harriers A, beating the previous team record by 1min with 5h 05. Fastest under 16 male was Jack Walton in 1hr 51 and fastest under 16 female E Proctor, 2h 50. The veterans result went to Rotary club of West Lakeland president Malcolm Knight, 2h 26. Kirkby Stephen Grammar School showed a strong field in the half yomp raising funds for sports equipment for their new sports hall, over 50 students and teachers taking part.

The Short Yomp enjoyed good support, Cumbria Classic Coaches kindly provided two vintage vehicles to ferry participants to the start at the top of Tailbridge Hill. Sarah Atkinson again won the under 12s in 52mins, and Charlie Roper the boys under 12 in 1h 18. Ian Wells took the boys 12 to 15s in 57mins and Alice Scatterry the girls in 1h 45. Fastest overall Short course winners were S Atkinson, 53mins, just behind his daughter Sarah Atkinson in 52mins.

The Rotary Club of Upper Eden organise this successful community event each year with the help of many local volunteers, commemorating the famous Yomps of the British Forces during the Falkland Islands war of 1982, and raising substantial sums of money directly and indirectly for charitable causes, this year including Shelterbox, Prostate Cancer and Penrith Alzheimer's. Assistance on the day is ably provided by Kirkby Stephen Mountain Rescue, St John's Ambulance, Appleby Air Training Corps and Kirkby Stephen Scouts.

We are extremely grateful for the sponsorship of J T Atkinson, Builders Merchants, who's generous sponsorship, in conjunction with a donation from Westmorland towards the catering, ensured all the costs of hosting the event were met so that all entry fees go directly to charity.

John Andrew
President and Yomp Chairman
Rotary Club of Upper Eden