

Yomp Mountain Challenge June 1st 2014 - Report

Sunday the 1st of June saw the 32nd running of the Yomp on the fells around Kirkby Stephen. The day dawned fine and bright – the second miracle in two years! With the course fully waymarked, it was time to see how many would turn up to compete in the annual event. Turn up they did, 480 in all, varying from 5 year olds on the Short course to very serious runners out to beat Carl Bell's record on the Full Course. The first competitors arrived at 7am for registration, with the first, walking competitors checking out on the full 23 mile course from 8am onwards, followed by runners at 9am. Half course walkers also started at 9am, with runners at 9.30.

Short Course entrants registered at Kirkby Stephen Grammar School and were then bused to the start point at Tailbridge, in two double decker buses supplied by Cumbria Classic Coaches.

With over 20 running clubs entering, which was more than previous years, the full course numbers were 238, a substantial increase over 2013. The half course numbers were 125 and the short course at 117.

Once again, Sport Ident supplied both booking and timing system, a system that offers a “real time” results service, as finishing competitors have their times processed within 12 seconds and a printed record of their race timings, along with a printed certificate.

Results

The Full Yomp winner was Jonathan Melia of Team Raidlight UK in a time of 3hours, 25 minutes, and 59 seconds, followed in second place by Paul Neild in 3:27:23, with Stuart Stoddard third in 3:28:13. First woman was Steph Scott, 18th overall of Northumberland Runners in 4:09:30. The first local runners home were both from the Howgill Harriers, Adrian Harvey, 8th overall in 3:36:47 and in the women's race, Adele Roche, 70th in a time of 4:58:04. The veteran over 60 race went to Richard Hindle in 5:15:40.

Fastest team overall was the Northumberland Fell Runners, their first three finishers, William Hawsley, David Armstrong and John Tollett completing in a combined time of 11:38:34, followed in second place by Howgill Harriers Adrian Harvey, Jon Richardson and Stephen Moffat in 12:54:11.

The Half Yomp was completed in just 1 hour, 54 minutes and 43 seconds by winner Adam Barr. Two and a half minutes behind in second came Jonathan Welch in 1:57:15, and third in 1:57:56 was Nicholas Bowden of Reepham Runners. First woman home was Alison Clark in 2:07:45 (7TH overall). Other notable times were Alan Jackson, (Howgill Harriers Premium) fastest over 60 veteran, 11th in 2:20:22, Fastest female under 16: Alice Fawcett, 48th in 3:42:05, and fastest under-16 male Oscar Maatta of Jarrow & Hebburn AC, 53rd. in 3.53.49.

The team prize went to Howgill Harrier's Eddie Close, Neil Thompson, Cheryl Moffat and Angela Shuttleworth, with the first three combined time of 6:30:52, the Howgill Harriers Premium team of Alan Jackson, Kellie Bradburn-Sims and Menna Lewis were not far behind in 7:15:31.

Rotary District Governor Kevin Walsh and his partner Wendy Aldred also both completed the half course in under 5 hours!

The Short Yomp was keenly fought by our younger competitors. First home was Jordan Rawlins of Crook AC who was both overall winner and under-16 winner in 50 minutes, 35 seconds. Second overall, and first under-12, was Finley Rose in exactly 59 minutes. Laura Wallbank of Rothwell Harriers took the female prize in 1:18:44 ((15th position overall)). Fastest under-16 female was Sally Cowling in 1:39:46 (30th), and under-12 female Eleanor Bowness in 1:42:45 (31st).

A very keen team from Kirkby Stephen Primary School (Oliver Rose, Alistair Barr, Isaac Robinson and Bobby Ivanson) ran away with the Pendragon Cup for the fastest primary school team, their first three combined time being just 3 hours, 13 minutes and 43 seconds.

The last weary finishers on the Long course came home in good order at 6.30pm, at the conclusion of a very successful day. The Yomp is a major fund raiser fund raiser for the Upper Eden Rotary Club with, the profits this year going to:

- Motor Neurone Disease Association
- Stroke Association
- Multiple Sclerosis Society
- Kirkby Stephen & District Cancer Research Group

The Yomp could not take place without the fantastic efforts of the helpers, both Rotary members and many others from the community. Signing and flagging three courses with a combined length of 40 miles; marshalling 11 checkpoints, some of them in the highest and most remote spots in our local fells; organizing, feeding and watering nearly 500 people, took a lot of effort from a lot of people, so thanks to you all. Thanks must also go to Kirkby Stephen Mountain Rescue team, both for use of their base, and for keeping a watchful eye on the competitors on the fells.

The Rotary Club also thank the main Sponsor, J T Atkinson and their Kirkby Stephen Manager, Alan Barr, who not only helped to oil the wheels of the event, but also produced some fine competitors to take part. Thanks also go to Cumbria Classic Coaches for transporting the short course competitors to Tailbridge on two of their buses

Ben Lyon
Yomp Committee Chairman,
Upper Eden Rotary Club.