



Round Ripon Ultra

Studley Roger

1st October 2011

There were a few changes to the Round Ripon ultra on it's return to North Yorkshire. But the mixture of fantastic scenery, well stocked checkpoints and some astounding times and performances shone through once again. Paul Peacock finished strongly closely followed by Colm McCoy and William Foreman who having claimed second place last year must surely have his sights set on the top rung of the podium in 2012.



The race started in overcast and slightly chilly weather as the clear overnight skies resulted, initially at least, in a cool autumn morning. By the first checkpoint 6 runners had established a strong lead of over 4 minutes as Paul Peacock, Colm McCoy, William Foreman, Nick Thomas, Derek Parrington and Craig Anderton arrived together. Shortly after this as the temperature started to rise the early pace started to tell for many runners. The lead group of 6 was whittled down to 4 by 16 miles as Derek and Craig lost contact with the leaders, and William Foreman also lost contact as the race continued arriving at the fourth checkpoint 3 minutes adrift of Paul, Colm and Nick. By now these four were nearly half hour ahead of the field and with only 7 miles to go a course record looked odds on. By the finish in Studley Roger however the unseasonably hot conditions had contrived to keep the course record intact as Paul Peacock finished 56 seconds outside the benchmark set by Dave Jelley in 2010. Behind him Colm held on to claim second place with William Foreman overtaking Nick Thomas in the last few miles.



Runners were treated to great views

In the ladies race the early pace was set by Steph Scott and Wendy Marks both arriving at 7½ miles well under the hour mark. Steph maintained her speed through the second checkpoint at one point extending her lead to over 15 minutes. On the day however it was not meant to be, Hannah Douglas passed her on the hill up to Ilton. Having taken the lead Hannah went from strength to strength building a strong lead over the second half of the race to finish in a commanding first place in 7:08:55. Hilary Farren also moved through in the latter stages to take a well deserved second place pushing Amanda Carter down into third in the last few miles, all three ladies running this race for the first time.

New for 2011 a relay format accompanied the full ultra allowing teams of 5 runners to savour the splendid scenery and the relaxed atmosphere of ultra running without the need to take on the full individual distance. The relay lead swapped hands several times throughout the day. Ripon Runners used their local knowledge well to finish the opening leg in first place before team Decad fought back setting the fastest second leg and held this lead until the final 7 mile section. Ultimately Ripon Runners team of Karen Jones, Victoria Clayton, Jackie Turner, Tracey Stainthorpe, & Mel Dukta led the relay field home posting a combined time of 6:35:22.

With temperatures in excess of 28 °C and bright cloudless skies the views from the highest points of the course were breathtaking as runners were treated to extensive views across North Yorkshire's moors towards the coast.

Our thanks go out to UP & Running for their race sponsorship, Kyle Spencer from Yukan Fitness who provided much needed massage for tired limbs at the finish and Corby photography who battled the bright sun catching your achievements in all their glory throughout the day. Race results are available on www.gobeyondultra.co.uk and with nothing but praise for the course and race organisation, 2012 is set to see a record number return to tackle this charming ultra.



William Foreman closing in on the finish