



Round Ripon Ultra

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5th October 2013

A relaxed atmosphere and some fast running resulted in Course records in both the men's and ladies races. At the start of the Round Ripon race in 2013 runners were rewarded with near perfect conditions as clear skies rewarded the runners with breath-taking views across the moors and provided ideal conditions for a fast and scenic race through some pretty Yorkshire countryside. As far as I know the furthest traveller for the Round Ripon in 2013 was Rick Baxter from Essex returning after a year off in 2012.



Almost 100 runners set off in high spirits

The conditions were not wasted by the leading runners as 7 runners headed out of Ripon and followed the river Ure north towards Masham. Defending champion Robin Carter from Rolls Royce Harriers broke free on the climbs up to Ilton with local runner Billy Foreman just 1 minute back at druids Temple, hoping to improve on his previous third place finishes, and 2012 winner Paul Peacock, Nathan Crossley and Richard Pattinson close behind together in third.

Positions were consolidated over the next 8 miles as Robin extended his lead to 5 minutes and Paul lost the attention of Nathan & Richard, and started closing in on second place. Over the closing miles Robin Carter pushed home his advantage finishing first in a new course record of 4:41:49. Paul Peacock caught and passed Billy Foreman to finish 2nd as he had 12 months earlier, this time in 4:45:32, a time which would have been good enough to win in any of the previous years. Billy Foreman, despite improving his own performance by almost half an hour had to settle once again for third place overall. In the process winning a personal battle with the inaugural race winner to be the first Ripon Runner to complete the course in under 5 hours.

The ladies race proved to be an equally fast paced affair and with leading ladies from Horsforth, Swaledale and Harrogate Harriers there was club pride to fight for as well. Lindsey Clegg looking to repeat her win from 2012 arrived at the first checkpoint with the leading men. Elizabeth Reeves and Karen Nash arrived 6 minutes later also in high positions overall with a further group containing 5 ladies coming in just 5 minutes later.



Clear skies and spectacular scenery

Lindsey continued in impressive fashion, consistently arriving at each checkpoint almost 30 minutes inside her times from 12 months ago and smashing her course record by 25 minutes to finish in 7th place overall in 5:41:00 a ladies course record that will take some beating. Elizabeth Reeves ran strongly to finish 2nd lady, inside the previous course record and 17th overall, and with Jacqueline Keavney from Swaledale Road Runners finishing quickly and moving up from 5th place at the final checkpoint to make it 3 ladies inside the top 20 overall in third place, almost a whole hour inside her mark from 2012 !

Behind the leading runners almost 100 runners completed the distance, many for the first time, with the stunning scenery, relaxed atmosphere, and enthusiastic support receiving universal acclaim.

Ripon Runners held on to the Team Trophy with strong performances from their top 4 runners, all inside 6 hours. Swaledale made them sweat with formation running seeing 3 team mates come home together just after the 6 hour mark but by the time the final runners came home the team of Billy Foreman, Ray Raper, Simon Merrin, Nick Wilson and Jill Holt held on to their title fairly comfortably .

Our thanks go out to the Sleningford Watermill and The Bivouac at Druids Abbey for their race support.

Race results are available on www.gobeyondultra.co.uk and with nothing but praise for the course and race organisation, 2014 is set to be another great year.

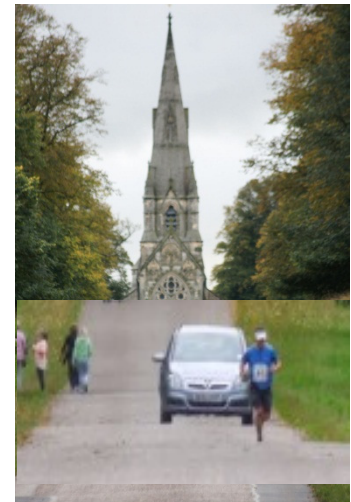


A well deserved rest.....

2nd Paul Peacock

Winner Robin Carter

3rd Billy Foreman



The final yards past through the deer park.