



Round Ripon Ultra

Studley Roger

2nd October, 2010

The first and very successful running of the Round Ripon Ultra was won in convincing style in a remarkable time of 5:11:03 by the very local boy, Dave Jelly who lives in the village that played host to the event.



The village hall in Studley Roger was a great setting for the Race HQ with the start finish line just outside. The weather which had been very wet and windy leading up to the weekend really played ball for the day of the race; a generally sunny day with temperatures in the mid-teens which was ideal for running. The field headed off for a short run through Ripon before heading into the stunning

North Yorkshire countryside and to the first checkpoint at North Stainley where the now famous Go Beyond cake, drinks and jelly babies were waiting to help them on their way. The route predominantly uses the northern section of the Ripon Rowel anti clockwise and from North Stainley the route followed the river

Ure to West Tanfield and then onto Hawkeswell and Common Woods before heading into Marsham for CP2. By this stage a leading group had formed containing Dave Jelly, Fraser Hirst, Robert Smith, William Foreman and Chris Cotton with leading lady Isobel Knox still keeping in touch. The course from this point now became trickier both in terms of terrain and navigation.



Following some nasty some energy sapping climbs mostly on road it was onto checkpoint 3 near the Druids Temple where savoury snacks were added to the usual CP fare, the field then heading south across some mixed terrain and attention to detail on the navigation became very important, which caught one or two out.



Things were starting to look very interesting with the girls and after five and quarter hours of running by CP 4 only two minutes separated the top four of Isobel Knox, Jennifer Dick, Carol Morgan and Emma David. These four ran more or less together until the finish where Isobel (second from right) held her lead finishing in 6:49:33, 50 seconds ahead of Jennifer (far right). Carol (second left) and Emma came in together only 23 seconds back which is quite remarkable

after nearly seven hours of running.

Dave Jelly (right) really kicked for the finish after CP 4 turning a 4 minute advantage into more than 18 by the finish. William Foreman (centre) still had a great run to finish second in 5:29:46 with Chris Cotton finishing only 58 seconds back in third. Nick Wilson also managed to get under 6 hours which on this course is heroic



The general consensus of opinion that stunning route together with good car parking next to the race HQ, well stocked check points and free refreshments before and after the race; this should be a regular in the Ultra Racing calendar and so roll on 2011!