

English Championships 2004 - Report by Madeleine Watson

The English Championships started in March with the Noonstone fell race near Todmorden, followed by the Three Peaks race in April celebrating its 50th anniversary. We stayed in Yorkshire for Buckden Pike in June and then headed up to the Lakes for the next two races, the Kentmere Horseshoe in July and Borrowdale in August. The series finished with Shelf Moor near Glossop in September. We were blessed with good weather for most of the English Championship races this year, although the country fair at Buckden Pike was a bit of a wash-out, and Borrowdale and Shelf Moor looked rather hot for competing in.

For the senior men there were 5 different winners of the individual races – Ian Holmes won at Noonstone, Simon Booth at Borrowdale, Andy Peace at The 3 Peaks, Tim Austin at Shelf Moor and Simon Bailey who managed two wins at Buckden Pike and Kentmere. These 2 wins for Simon, along with seconds at Noonstone and Borrowdale, secured him the championship. Ian Holmes was second, Simon Booth third and Rob Jebb fourth, all very close in points. Dave Neill came through at the end into 5th place. Tim Austin finished on a high, winning Shelf Moor, but suffered in the overall rankings from a relatively poor score at Noonstone and not running at Kentmere. Paul Thompson (9th) and Tim Werrett (10th) were the only ones in the top 10 to run in all 6 championship races. Others who missed out by not having a short race were Nick Sharp, Jim Davies and Phil Davies.

The Vet 40 category was won quite convincingly in the end by Dave Neill, who won 4 out of the 6 races. Mark Roberts won the other 2 but his 3rd place at Buckden and not running Shelf Moor ensured the championship went to Dave. Craig Roberts was third. Malcolm Fowler and Shaun Livesey moved up late on, both needing Shelf Moor to complete 4 races. They finished on equal points in 4th.

There was no doubt that Steve Jackson was going to get the Vet 50 category prize. He won all 5 races in which he ran. Duncan Overton won the other race, which combined with 2 seconds and a third gave him second overall. Bernie Grant was third overall and Dave Tait 4th. Reg Clucas finished 6th despite not having a long race. Dave Spedding only had 3 races.

Another clear winner was Geoffrey Howard in the Vet 60 category. He won 5 out of the 6 races too. Peter Covey won the other one, coming second overall. John Nuttall was 3rd.

The Vet 70 category was the best 3 out of 4 short and medium races. Gordon Booth won at Noonstone and Buckden Pike, and was second at Kentmere. This gave him overall lead. Barry Thackery and Derek Clutterbuck finished equal second.

For the Ladies, Lou Sharp won the first four races, leaving her victory as Ladies' champion in no doubt. Sally Newman, injured at the beginning of the season, came second in Buckden, Kentmere and Borrowdale and won at Shelf Moor, giving her second place overall just ahead of Sharon Taylor. Sharon won at Borrowdale, was 2nd at Noonstone and the Three Peaks and was 3rd at Buckden. Maureen Laney also came through at the end, having missed the first two races.

The Ladies Vet 40 saw lots of changes in the leader, even up to the last race. Sue Beconsall won the first 2 races, but these were the ones which Sally Newman and Maureen Laney missed. Sally won the rest of the races to win overall. Sue held on for second overall and Maureen was third.

Clayton le Moors Harriers dominated the top of the Ladies Vet 50. Wendy Dodds had been leading right up until the last race. She won the first 2 races but then Maureen Laney took over winning the races. Maureen ended up overall winner, Wendy 2nd and Katy Thompson 3rd.

The Ladies' team championship was decided after 4 races, with 4 straight wins for Bingley. Ilkley were only 1 point ahead of Calder Valley going into the last race. At Shelf Moor, despite Ilkley closing in first, the Calder Valley team had the the lower point score and thus moved ahead of Ilkley in the final scores. Dark Peak in 4th and Clayton le Moors in 5th were close.

The Men's team winners were Borrowdale, suitably secured as winners after the Borrowdale race. Pudsey & Bramley were 2nd, having won both of the short races. Mercia, Bingley and Ambleside were 3rd, 4th and 5th respectively, separated by only 1 point each.

The Men Vet 40 team created a good competition. Bowland looked likely winners after 5 races and duly won the team prize at Shelf Moor to clinch the championship. Pennine and Borrowdale finished on the same number of points, but individual scores just gave Pennine the 2nd place and Borrowdale 3rd.

The Men Vet 50 team was the closest of the team events. Only 1 point separated Clayton le Moors and Horwich after the first 5 races. A win for Horwich at Shelf Moor gave them the lead overall. Cumberland were 3rd.

Full results are available on the FRA website. Many thanks to all organisers, results teams and fell runners who put me straight about results along the way !

MEN OPEN

1	Simon Bailey	Mercia	202
2	Ian Holmes	Bingley	195
3	Simon Booth	Borrowdale	193
4	Rob Jebb	Bingley	191
5	Dave Neill	Staffs Moorlands	173
6	Andy Peace	Bingley	167
7	Mark Roberts	Borrowdale	163
7	Tim Austin	Dark Peak	163

MEN VET 40

1	Dave Neill	Staffs Moorlands	168
2	Mark Roberts	Borrowdale	161
3	Craig Roberts	Kendal	152
4	Malcolm Fowler	Pennine	141
4	Shaun Livesey	Bowland	141
6	Nick Spence	Borrowdale	129
7	Andrew Davies	Borrowdale	126
8	Billy Procter	Helm Hill Runners	125
9	Steve Jackson	Horwich	120
10	Chris Reade	Bowland	119

MEN VET 50

1	Steve Jackson	Horwich	128
2	Duncan Overton	Keswick	118
3	Bernard Grant	Harrogate	114
4	Dave Tait	Dark Peak	102
5	Geoffrey Howard	Ilkley	92
6	Reg Clucas	u/a	82
7	Pete Booth	Clayton-le-Moors	81
8	Derek Schofield	Rosendale	77
9	Dave Spedding	Keswick	76
10	Kieran Carr	Clayton-le-Moors	75
10	Keith Holmes	Dark Peak	75

MEN VET 60

1	Geoffrey Howard	Ilkley	88
2	Peter Covey	Pudsey & Bramley	77
3	John Nuttall	Clayton-le-Moors	74
4	Dennis Lucas	Rochdale	62
5	Tony Minikin	Keighley & Craven	61
6	Geoff Fielding	Rosendale	58
7	Bill Wade	Holmfirth	49
8	Geoff Webster	Valley Striders	38
9	Peter Walkington	Horwich	35
9	Don Ashton	Darwen Dashers	35

MEN VET 70

1	Gordon Booth	Longwood	33
2 =	Barry Thackery	Dark Peak	26
2 =	Derek Clutterbuck	Todmorden	26
4	Colin Henson	Dark Peak	24
5	Alex Menarry	Durham	12
6	Jack Escritt	Cumberland	6
7	Brian Leathley	Clayton-le-Moors	5
7	Harry Catlow	Cumberland	5

LADIES OPEN

1	Lou Sharp	Keswick	128
2	Sally Newman	Calder Valley	119
3	Sharon Taylor	Bingley	118

4	Sue Beconsall	Bingley	105
4	Maureen Laney	Clayton-le-Moors	105
6	Kirstin Bailey	Bingley	94
6	Sue Dolan	Harrogate	94
6	Helen Sedgwick	Ilkley	94
9	Alice Brockington	Dark Peak	89
10	Alison Eagle	Ilkley	85

LADIES VET 40

1	Sally Newman	Calder Valley	88
2	Sue Beconsall	Bingley	80
3	Maureen Laney	Clayton-le-Moors	72
4	Sue Dolan	Harrogate	70
5	Aly Raw	Darlington	67
6	Alison Eagle	Ilkley	65
7	Wendy Dodds	Clayton-le-Moors	57
8	Philippa Leach	Dark Peak	52
9	Jane Meeks	Keswick	36
9	Gill Harris	Mercia	36

LADIES VET 50

1	Maureen Laney	Clayton-le-Moors	48
2	Wendy Dodds	Clayton-le-Moors	42
3	Katy Thompson	Clayton-le-Moors	32
4	Hilary Bloor	Dark Peak	25
5	Linda Hayles	Calder Valley	20
6	Rachael Gooch	Ilkley	14
7	Cathy Colam	Keswick	12
8	Ann Watmore	Dark Peak	11
9	Sheila McNulty	Radcliffe	10
10	Margaret Chippendale	Pennine	9
10	Sarah Hargreaves	West End Runners	9

MEN OPEN TEAM

1	Borrowdale	45
2	Pudsey & Bramley	41
3	Mercia	32
4	Bingley	31
5	Ambleside	30
6	Dark Peak	21
7	Clayton-le-Moors	20
8	Bowland	19
9	Pennine	12
10	Keswick	9

MEN VET 40 TEAM

1	Bowland	42
2	Pennine	37
3	Borrowdale	37
4	Clayton-le-Moors	30
5	Horwich	28
6	Dark Peak	24
7	Cumberland	23
8	Kendal	13
9	Holmfirth	12
10	Helm Hill Runners	8

MEN VET 50 TEAM

1	Horwich	45
2	Clayton-le-Moors	41
3	Cumberland	35
4	Dark Peak	30

5	Pennine	19
6	Kendal	17
7	Keswick	14
8	Ilkley	14
9	Bingley	14
10	Holmfirth	12

LADIES OPEN TEAM

1	Bingley	48
2	Calder Valley	36
3	Ilkley	33
4	Dark Peak	30
5	Clayton-le-Moors	28
6	Keswick	18
7	Borrowdale	12
8	Holmfirth	12
9	Pennine	10
10	Todmorden	7