

B.O.F.R.A.
BRITISH OPEN FELL RUNNERS ASSOCIATION

GUIDES BOOK

1999

MAIN SPONSORS
MERRITT & FRYERS LTD

B.O.F.R.A.
1999 SPONSORS

MERRITT & FRYERS LTD - SKIPTON

(Main Sponsors)

FORESTERS ARMS - GRASSINGTON

MR. & MRS. D. WAITE

JENNINGS BROTHERS PLC - COCKERMOUTH

YEWDAL HOTEL - CONISTON

LISTERS ARMS - MALHAM

HELM HILL RUNNERS - KENDAL

RAWDON SMITH TRUST - CONISTON

TETLEY'S - LEEDS

ROGER INGHAM - SKIPTON

TILCON - GRASSINGTON

JACKSON'S - CRACOE

JOHN CARLISLE - CRACOE

JOHN PEDLEY - MOORCOCK

CLIFFORD LAWSON - EMBSAY

JAMES HUDSON - MALHAM

READICUT - OSSETT

WELCOME TO THE 1999 B.O.F.R.A. PRESENTATION DINNER

I am indebted to Merritt & Fryers, our main sponsors, who are represented by Ann & Geoff Fryers. The array of trophies you see before you is due to the company's generosity. I thank them both for their attendance this evening to present the Champion's with their awards. Once again, many thanks for your sponsorship in 1999 and hope I can count on their support in the future.

I also welcome, Rita & (Pizza) Phil. from the Foresters Arms. They generously sponsor the fell race at Grassington and their hostelry is well worth a visit for good food and drink after a fell race. (The committee can vouch for this.)

Anyone visiting Alva on Show day will recognize our next guest. Craig is always in attendance doing his duty, as Secretary, and we welcome him here tonight.

To complete our guest list, please welcome, Jackie and Derek Waite. I am indebted to them both for their sponsorship at Burnsall in 1999 and hope I can count on their support in the future.

I now move onto the committee, who again, have provided the Association with a full complement of races during the season. All have worked very hard on your behalf, no one more so than, Les Storton, who anyone who obtains the Craven Herald each Friday will have read Les's fully detailed reports. I thank you Les.

I also wish to thank Pat for her commitment to B.O.F.R.A. Her work behind the scene's is unending. Thanks Pat.

My thanks to anyone who has contributed to the smooth running of this Association, whether committee or helper.

My congratulations to the winners of their age group championships and wish you all the best for the year 2000.

Please try to attend the Annual General Meeting which will be held at the Eagle & Child on January 16th 2000.

Colin H. Beck
B.O.F.R.A. Secretary

B.O.F.R.A.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WILL BE HELD AT

THE EAGLE & CHILD
(STAVELEY- CUMBRIA)

ON

SUNDAY 16th JANUARY 2000

AT 2.30pm

(After Kendal Winter League's Staveley Fell Race)

**ALL ITEMS FOR AGENDA TO BE IN WRITING AND IN
THE HANDS OF COLIN BECK (SECRETARY) BY:-
FRIDAY 24th DECEMBER 1999
B.O.F.R.A. SEASON**

Another Season comes to a close with the last Championship race being at Buttermere. It doesn't seem two minutes ago Billy Procter was ecstatic at winning the first race at Sedbergh at the twentieth time of trying. Well Done to all our Champions it's a long season and you have had to work very hard. May I say thank-you to the B.O.F.R.A. Committee, who too this season, as in other seasons, have worked very hard, traveled a few thousand miles, had endless telephone calls and have got a lot of pleasure seeing families enjoying themselves. Obviously it is our aim to promote and to provide fell racing in it's traditional way, so it's thanks to all the athletes who have turned out this season, so we can continue to do just that.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the people who have helped during the season at the fell races. At times this is invaluable. To have the relaxed atmosphere and yet have the competitiveness of the runners, together with the races run on a very professional basis, all makes for great days out all summer.

Congratulations to Kate Rogan, Kelli Roberts and James Mason for being picked to run for England.

May I wish you all a very healthy and happy year 2000 and hope to see you all again next year.

Yours in Sport

Les Storton
B.O.F.R.A. Treasurer.

"WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT"

At the Annual running of the Malham Charity Relay Fell Race 24th October "you guessed", it rained again. If we run this race in the middle of a heat wave, you could bet your bottom dollar "Yes it would rain". Seven teams of four competed, although the captain of two of the teams, had to run twice i.e. Ted Mason and Alan Life. It was Ted Mason's team of Naomi Biddle and Barry Scholes who were to become the winners in 1999. Thanks to all the competitors who took part this year. An amount of £150 has been donated to the Brooklands Special School in Skipton, North Yorkshire.

1st - 25.03

Ted Mason
Naomi Biddle
Barry Scholes

2nd - 26.22

Alan Life
Sheryl Slater
Steven Hounslow

3rd - 27.22

Karen Slater
David Shepherd
Joe Richardson
Matthew Parker

SENIORS

(Statistician - Barry Scholes)

1	Andy Wrench	345 (12)	39	Stuart Reid	88 (4)
2	Ted Mason	313 (12)	40	Jeff Emmott	85 (4)
3	Billy Procter	300 (12)	41	Colin Schofield	76 (4)
4	Andy Holden	256 (12)	42	Colin Jones	72 (4)
5	Antony Shepherd	244 (12)	43	Gary Bastow	60 (4)
6	Alan Life	243 (12)	44	Terry Robinson	42 (4)
7	Paul Rogan	230 (12)	45	Ken Shuttleworth	36 (4)
8	David Hird	210 (12)	46	Paul Lodge	32 (4)
9	David Fell	203 (12)	47	Paul Burnett	28 (4)
10	Damien Scholes	193 (12)	48	David Ablitt	21 (4)
11	Steven Hounslow	188 (12)	49	Carroll Graham	14 (4)
12	Barry Scholes	164 (12)	50	James Wadsworth	67 (3)
13	Stephen Dean	153 (12)	51	Ben Procter	63 (3)
14	Joe Richardson	129 (12)	52	Alistair Dunn	38 (3)
15	Kevin Rogan	111 (12)	53	Peter Mallalieu	26 (3)
16	Andrew Biddle	91 (12)	54	Brian Robinson	24 (3)
17	Shaun Hartley	60 (12)	55	Kevin Hopkinson	10 (3)
18	Colin Valentine	246 (11)	56	Terry Trueman	8 (3)
19	Brett Weeden	105 (11)	57	Gary Devine	57 (2)
20	Neil Bland	80 (11)	58	Patrick Boyd	44 (2)
21	John Thompson	67 (11)	59	Mark Salkild	38 (2)
22	Barry Slater	140 (10)	60	John Hope	35 (2)
23	Dean Thompson	38 (9)	61	Trevor Rutherford	27 (2)
24	Graham Hawkins	178 (8)	62	John Preston	4 (2)
25	Johan Meyfroidt	146 (8)	63	Roger Dewhirst	2 (2)
26	Alan Riley	88 (8)	64	Robert Hope	30 (1)
27	James Webb	26 (8)	64	Mark Kinch	30 (1)
28	Steven Miles	20 (8)	66	Sam Wadsworth	24 (1)
29	Norman Drinkall	198 (7)	67	Peter Stubbington	21 (1)
30	John Hey	173 (7)	68	Neil Dyson	13 (1)
31	Darren Brame	171 (7)	68	Lee Procter	13 (1)
32	Matthew Hird	71 (7)	70	Richard Sewell	12 (1)
33	Mark Roberts	166 (6)	71	Colin Urmston	11 (1)
34	Colin Moses	133 (6)	72	Martin Wood	4 (1)
35	Peter Doyle	70 (6)	72	Alan Westworth	4 (1)
36	Norman Walker	47 (6)	74	Bill Smith	2 (1)
37	Robert Cryer	28 (6)	74	Philip Robinson	2 (1)
38	Paul Webber	24 (5)	76	Richard Oates	1 (1)

VETS - OVER 45 YEARS OLD

(Statistician - Barry Scholes)

1	Paul Rogan	351 (12)	14	Ken Shuttleworth	85 (4)
2	David Hird	337 (12)	15	Carroll Graham	78 (4)
3	David Fell	323 (12)	16	David Ablitt	75 (4)
4	Steven Hounslow	307 (12)	17	Peter Mallalieu	65 (3)
5	Barry Scholes	287 (12)	18	Kevin Hopkinson	60 (3)
6	Joe Richardson	274 (12)	19	Terry Trueman	57 (3)
7	Andrew Biddle	241 (12)	20	John Hope	60 (2)
8	Neil Bland	235 (11)	21	Roger Dewhurst	33 (2)
9	Alan Riley	182 (8)	22	Richard Sewell	25 (1)
10	Jim Webb	150 (8)	23	Neil Dyson	22 (1)
11	Peter Doyle	136 (6)	24	Alan Westworth	18 (1)
12	Norman Walker	131 (6)	25	Richard Oates	16 (1)
13	Paul Webber	99 (5)	25	B. Smith(Liverpool)	16 (1)

VETS - OVER 40 YEARS OLD

(Statistician - Barry Scholes)

1	Billy Procter	360 (12)	8	Colin Schofield	106 (4)
2	Antony Shepherd	328 (12)	9	Gary Bastow	96 (4)
3	Kevin Rogan	294 (12)	10	Brian Robinson	69 (3)
4	Brett Weeden	262 (11)	11	Mark Salkild	51 (2)
5	John Thompson	253 (11)	12	Peter Stubbington	30 (1)
6	Barry Slater	243 (10)	13	Martin Wood	24 (1)
7	Jeff Emmott	110 (4)			

LADIES

(Statistician - Barry Scholes)

1	Karen Slater	360 (12)	5	Kate Rogan	111 (4)
2	Sue Weeden	312 (12)	6	Jennifer Shuttleworth	87 (3)
3	Carol Life	270 (10)	7	Nancy Westworth	27 (1)
4	Yvonne Procter	133 (5)	7	Sally Corbin	27 (1)

SECOND DIVISION

(Statistician - Les Storton)

1	Paul Rogan	468
2	Barry Scholes	443
3	Karen Slater	399
4	Steven Hounslow	397
5	Kevin Rogan	385
6	Joe Richardson	382
7	David Fell	371
8	Stephen Dean	356
9	Andrew Biddle	320
10	Damien Scholes	298

THE REG HARRISON FELL RUNNING TROPHY

Presented to

(The Most Outstanding Junior)

Christopher Doyle

THE DJ SCOTT TROPHY

Presented to

(The Most Improved Junior)

Hannah Paget

UNDER 17s BOYS

(Statistician - Kevin Rogan)

1	James Mason	240	(12)
2	Ben Procter	222	(12)
3	Adam Whaites	192	(12)
4	Martin Hounslow	181	(12)
5	Sam Hounslow	179	(12)
6	Tom Kidger	136	(9)
7	Adam Foster	31	(2)
8	Martin Swainson	27	(2)
9	Ben Weeden	17	(1)

UNDER 17s GIRLS

(Statistician - Kevin Rogan)

1	Sally Shepherd	213	(12)
1	Karen Bowe	213	(12)
3	Naomi Biddle	191	(12)
4	Kate Rogan	200	(10)
5	Nicole Slater	74	(5)

UNDER 14s - BOYS

(Statistician - Martyn Cryer)

1	Christopher Doyle	240	(12)
2	Andrew Wilkin	219	(12)
3	Luke Paget	191	(12)
4	Sam Watson	173	(12)
5	Tim Oates	143	(12)
6	Carl Robinson	130	(10)
7	Daniel Thompson	120	(10)
8	Jack Weeden	75	(6)
9	James Rowley	61	(5)
10	Matthew Stuart	47	(3)
11	Ben Weeden	46	(3)
12	Richard Schofield	31	(3)
13	Adam Foster	30	(2)
14	Adam Crowe	28	(2)
15	Thomas Elliott	17	(1)

UNDER 14s - GIRLS

(Statistician - Martyn Cryer)

1	Kelli Roberts	240	(12)
2	Sheryl Slater	207	(12)
3	Gemma Dean	193	(12)
4	Karen Bowe	69	(4)
5	Rebecca Drake	28	(2)
6	Alison Foster	26	(2)
7	Chloe Rodham	17	(1)

UNDER 12s - BOYS

(Statistician - Steven Hounslow)

1	Caleb Wetherell	228	(12)
2	James Walker	216	(12)
3	Grant Robinson	207	(12)
4	Ben Davies	197	(12)
5	David Shepherd	177	(12)
6	Harry Thompson	157	(12)
7	Ryan Thornborrow	145	(12)
8	Matthew Parker	126	(12)
9	Lee Wood	119	(12)
10	Adam Wood	84	(12)
11	Jonathan Wilkin	105	(11)
12	Adam Watson	68	(11)
13	Jonathan Walker	71	(7)
14	Adam Crowe	67	(6)
15	Jack Thompson	49	(6)
16	Kyle Biddle	28	(5)
17	Jack Weeden	44	(4)
17	James Wilson	44	(4)
19	Francis Trueman	22	(3)
20	John Marsh	17	(2)
21	Simon Bolland	14	(1)
22	Jonathan Brownlee	11	(1)
23	Harry Croft	6	(1)
24	Ashley Rutherford	5	(1)
24	Thomas Drake	5	(1)
26	Craig Robinson	4	(1)

UNDER 12s - GIRLS

(Statistician - Steven Hounslow)

1	Hannah Paget	237	(12)
2	Janie Oates	213	(12)
3	Hannah Roberts	201	(12)
4	Grace Biddle	174	(12)
5	Katie Robinson	168	(12)
6	Grace Robinson	164	(12)
7	Laura Dean	73	(6)
8	Emma Stuart	80	(4)
9	Samantha Drake	44	(3)
10	Emma Thompson	15	(1)
11	Rebecca Thompson	13	(1)

SENIORS

As the curtain comes down on the 1999 B.O.F.R.A. season I watched the seniors run at Buttermere on one of the best days we've had there for a good few years. I have always run here, so being sidelined gave me the opportunity to watch a spectacular fell race for onlookers, with Ted Mason securing a well earned win.

This season has been plagued with injuries at the top end of the field with Norman Drinkall starting the season in brilliant form only to pick up a bad ankle injury at Kettlewell and Graham Hawkins who featured high up in the races picking up an ankle injury at Grassington. Hopefully next year will bring them better luck. Norman had three wins at Coniston, Cracoe and Rusland, with last year's champion, Mark Kinch, only running once to win at Alva.

This year we have a new B.O.F.R.A. Champion in Andy Wrench, who despite, pressure at the top end put together some great results with wins at Helm, Kettlewell, Kirkby, Cray, Moorcock and Embsay. He also ran last year's Champion to within 10 seconds at Alva - CONGRATULATIONS ANDY on winning the Championship, you are a worthy winner and hopefully you will grace our fields next year!

This year's runner-up has really turned on the pressure as the season's gone on. Ted Mason ran our races as a Junior and this year has really matured as one of the top runners with wins at Hawskwick and Buttermere and numerous top three places in the Championship races. He earned himself second place in the table - WELL DONE TED.

Third place goes to one of our best Veteran runners, Billy Procter, who started the season with a win at Sedbergh. Billy has had some fine results in the summer places and featured in the prizes more often than not - WELL DONE BILLY!

Fourth, fifth and sixth spots go to Andy Holden, Antony Shepherd and Alan Life, who are regular supporters of our races and feature high up in the placings. Seventh, eighth and ninth have had some keen battles fought between them i.e. Paul Rogan, Dave Hird and Dave Fell. The last top ten placing was decided at Buttermere. I write with pride this goes to Damien Scholes - WELL DONE LADS!

The list could go on but all I can do is congratulate everyone who has competed in our races and thank you for your support, either as a runner or a supporter.

Finally, a big thank you to the people behind the scenes of the B.O.F.R.A. committee, who without their commitment, either on the line, on the summit, raising sponsors, organizing prizes, the dreaded paperwork - the list goes on. We would not have a Championship without these people, who are the backbone of B.O.F.R.A.

Yours in Sport
Barry Scholes

VETS - OVER 45s

This is probably the hardest competed age group and up to Burnsall, the keenest fought of all. The start of the season saw last year's joint over 45 Champions, Paul Rogan and David Fell, first and second at Sedbergh and Joe Richardson, third. As the season has gone on, Paul Rogan, who has won this year's over 45 title, was put under pressure as the season went on by Steve Hounslow, who had a brilliant first season with B.O.F.R.A. with David Fell and David Hird, his closest rivals.

This year David Hird who missed some of the early races, but has run better than ever, to gain his runners up place. David Fell came through for third spot with fourth, fifth and sixth places going to Steve Hounslow, Barry Scholes and Joe Richardson. There were 25 over 45s that competed in races over the season, so the title was certainly, the one to win. - WELL DONE PAUL! and WELL DONE to everyone who competed in them.

VETS - OVER 40s

This age group has been dominated by last year's Vet 40s Champion, Billy Procter, who not only achieved maximum points to retain his crown, but has really looked in a class of his own. - WELL DONE BILLY!

Antony Shepherd has had some brilliant runs and has run stronger and faster as the season has gone on. He certainly earned his runners up spot. Looking back on recent season's (i.e. Pre-Billy) on his performances he would be the over 40s Champ. - WELL DONE ANTONY.

Third place goes to Kevin Rogan who has been consistent in his results and deserves his third spot. - WELL DONE KEVIN. Fourth, fifth and sixth places to John Thompson, Barry Slater and Brett Weeden, who have all had good results this season - WELL DONE LADS!

LADIES

Karen Slater has, once again, come out and shown her class, not only showing the ladies a clean pair of heels, but a lot of the senior men in the Championship races. Her title was in the bag after we ran at Moorcock with maximum Championship points. - WELL DONE, KAREN.

Runner up place goes to Sue Weeden who has run consistently all season and really looks to enjoy her running. - CONGRATULATIONS, SUE. Third and fourth places go to Carol Life and Yvonne Procter who have supported B.O.F.R.A. races, and like the other ladies, added a lot of glamour to our races. - WELL DONE ALL OF YOU.

Yours in Sport
Barry Scholes.

UNDER 17s BOYS 1999

(Statistician - Kevin Rogan)

Completing a hatrick of Under 17s Championships and his third title in a row is James Mason taking maximum points in his 12 qualifying races showing excellent form right throughout the season. WELL DONE JAMES. - 240 POINTS.

In second place again for the second year is Ben Procter. Ben got maximum points at 6 races and 17 points at the other 6. He was never more than seconds away from James and even managed to beat him at Sedbergh, definitely a chip off the old block. 222 points.

Adam Whaites, last year's Under 14s Champion showed he could cope extremely well with the extra distance of the Under 17s courses, having excellent runs at Cracoe, Muker and Hebden, ending up with 6 seconds and 6 thirds. 192 points.

Martin Hounslow again coped with the transgression from Under 14s to Under 17s brilliantly. He has shown true grit right throughout the season with especially good runs at Cray, Farleton and Buttermere. 1 win, 2 seconds, 2 thirds, 6 fourths, and 1 fifth. 181 points.

Sam Hounslow beat brother Martin in 8 of the races, they came together but with Martin gaining good places in Sam's absence. It was all down to the last race at Buttermere with route choice proving Sam's undoing. Nevertheless Sam again has trained and worked hard all season showing great promise for the future. 1win, 1 second, 4 thirds, 5 fifths and 1 sixth. 179 points.

Tom Kidger did nine races and ran well in them all, in particular, Hawkswick, coming second to Ben and in front of Adam, 2 seconds, 5 thirds, 1 fourth and 1 fifth. 136 points.

Andrew Foster did 2 races an excellent second at Sharphaw and fourth at Cracoe. 31 points.

Martin Swainson did 2 races, fourth at Muker and fifth at Hebden.

Ben Weeden moved up to the Under 17s late in the season and managed a second at Buttermere.

UNDER 17s GIRLS 1999

(Statistician - Kevin Rogan)

Joint winners this year are Sally Shepherd and Karen Bowe, giving an exciting conclusion to the season. Both girls giving everything in each race they did. Karen gaining wins at Muker, Moorcock, Embsay, Wasdale and Buttermere, followed with 4 seconds and 3 thirds. Sally getting wins at Hawkswick, Hebden and Burnsall with a further 9 seconds. 213 points.

Naomi Biddle proved to be the one that could upset the applecart, showing some excellent climbing ability and worrying the other girls on more than one occasion, taking a win at Rusland with 3 seconds and 8 thirds. 191 points.

Kate Rogan, last year's Champion carried on last year's form by winning all 10 races she competed in until being lost to the Senior ladies after Ambleside. 200 points.

Nicole Slater came back at Hawkswick and did a further 4 races, showing she can still run really well and always with a smile. Well done Nicole. 1 second, 1 third and 3 fourths. 74 points.

Congratulations to all of you, once again showing you can still enjoy your sport, even under the pressures that education brings at your age and not to mention other distractions (or attractions in some cases.)

You are all at an age where you have to train harder to achieve results and a lot of your age fall by the wayside in the process. WELL DONE and keep going and the Seniors better watch out next year, because there's some excellent talent on it's way.

Kevin Rogan.

UNDER 14s BOYS 1999

Christopher Doyle wiped the floor clean with his fourteen firsts, which gave his fellow competitors a hard act to follow. His speed and endurance left his rivals in his dust and a worthy Championship winner. WELL DONE.

Andrew Wilkin fought hard against tough opposition and managed to pick up five of the six firsts Christopher didn't compete in, plus twelve second places and two thirds. He almost did the full B.O.F.R.A. program with the nineteen races he did with the only race missed being Hawkswick.

Luke Paget put his all into every race he did, but always had his adversaries of Christopher and Andrew ahead of him. However, I am sure he felt great pleasure at Wasdalehead when he got the better of Andrew and was second to Christopher putting Andrew into third place. He took the only other first place at Hawkswick and had three second places, nine thirds and four fourths.

Sam Watson put a good challenge to all this adversary and was always snapping at Luke's heels. He was always close, but just wasn't able to take over the higher position. He had a second behind Luke at Hawkswick, four thirds, five fourths, three fifths and two sixths.

Tim Oates was a new challenger this season, and he put his all into his racing and takes fifth place this season. His best place was at Hawkswick when he got his fourth place. I think he will be in a high position next season and should be watched. Besides his fourth, he had four fifths, three sixths and two sevenths, an eighth and a ninth.

Carl Robinson only did ten races which resulted in three fourths, five fifths, one sixth and one seventh.

Daniel Thompson did ten races before being lost to the Under 17s. His best position was a third at Sedbergh, one fifth, five sixths, two sevenths and an eighth.

Jack Weeden joined the Under 14s half way through the year and did six races which secured two fourths, two fifths, a sixth and a ninth.

James Rowley did improve as the season went on and finished on a high with a third at Hawkswick, he also got a fourth at Cracoe, plus a seventh and a tenth.

Matthew Stuart did 3 races in this year's Championship which resulted in 47 points.

Ben Weeden went up into the Under 17s, but did three races including a second at Kettlewell, third at Sharphaw and fourth at Rusland.

Richard Schofield did three races and got 31 points.

Adam Foster was also lost to the Under 17s and did two races including a second at Cracoe and a fifth at Sharphaw.

UNDER 14s BOYS - continued

Adam Crowe joined the Under 14s this latter half of the season and did two fourth places and 28 points.

Thomas Elliott was the only other runner and only did one race in which he came second at Helm. He managed to gain 17 points.

UNDER 14s GIRLS 1999

As with the boys, one person dominated the scene. Kelli Roberts set her seal on this year's Championship after staking her claim right from her first race at Coniston. She proceeded to claim every race and she did 13 races which gave her 13 firsts. The overall positions in the races gave interesting readings too, with 4 x 3rds, 1 x 4ths, 5 x 5ths, 2 x 6ths and 1 x 7th. This gave many a surprise to the lads.

Sheryl Slater had a battle on her hands, but showed up well against stiff opposition to take second place with 1 x 1st at Hawkswick, 11 x 2nds and 2 x 3rds.

Gemma Dean showed great determination in every race she did, but against stiff opposition she could only manage to secure third position. She did get three firsts namely at Kettlewell, Ambleside and Embsay, 7 x 3rds and 4 x 4ths.

Karen Bowe left us to go to the Under 17s, but not before she scored a first at Sedbergh and seconds at Coniston and Cracoe and a third at Helm.

The remaining girls only did one or two races and they were Rebecca Drake with a third at Hebden and a fifth at Cracoe.

Alison Foster had a fourth at Sharphaw and a sixth at Cracoe.

Chloe Rodham did only one race, but was a second at Helm which gave her points of 17.

WELL DONE GIRLS.

There wasn't as many of you this Championship year but the ones that did compete gave us good sport.

WELL DONE ALL and if you start the new season in the Under 17s - **GOOD LUCK.**

We look forward to receiving the new challengers next year.

Best wishes for Christmas and the year 2000 and we'll see you all on the line.

Martyn Cryer.

As our 1999 Season comes to a close we can all sit back and recall some excellent races in both the boys and girls Under 12s Championships. The weather this year has been fairly kind to us and enhanced everyone's enjoyment, runners and spectators alike.

UNDER 12s - BOYS

Twenty six boys enthusiastically took part in this years Championship, with ten of the runners completing the required number of races. The winner of the Championship wasn't decided until the last few races, the talent of all runners was very apparent, in fact, it was never a certainty to who would win.

After such great commitment by all the boys it was Caleb Wetherell, in his first season with B.O.F.R.A. who came through as Champion. Caleb, who is 10 years of age and still has another season in this age group, just showed what a true gutsy Champion he is, racing to the very end in all of his races, making it very hard for the other boys to keep with him. Caleb's results were, First, 8 times, second 4 times. The total number of points collected best of 12 were 228. Well done Caleb and best wishes to you in the next year's races.

Runner up was James Walker, aged 11 years, with a total of 216 points, James came First 6 times, second 3 times and third 3 times. One of James's best remembered races was at Alva. As we can all recall it was a very hot and sticky day, adding to the difficulty of the race, but James ran exceptional and came in first position with a time of 10.50. Well done James. Next year James will move to the Under 14's, good luck for next year.

Grant Robinson who finishes the Championship in third position shows great improvement from last year. Finishing very closely behind his competitors in each race. Grant finishes with a total of 207 points. First 3 times, second 6 times and third 3 times. Grant put in an excellent race at Kettlewell, where he broke the record in a time of 7.07. This year will be Grant's last year in this age group and will move to the Under 14's. We wish you all the best, Grant and good luck.

Finishing in fourth place Ben Davies race 12 races, finishing with a creditable 197 points. Very close, only 10 points behind third place. Ben who is still only 10 years of age will have another opportunity next year in this age group. Good luck Ben and well done.

Finishing in fifth place, David Shepherd showed lots of enthusiasm and completed the 12 races, always putting lots of effort into his running. He was able to collect 177 points. David will stay in this age group next year, good luck David.

Our congratulations to all runners who are listed below. These runners also completed the 12 races and showed lots of determination, they helped to make each race exciting. Well done and we hope to see you next year.

Finishing sixth place Harry Thompson ran 12 races finishing with 157 points.

Finishing seventh place Ryan Thornborrow ran 12 races finishing with 145 points.

Finishing eighth place Matthew Parker ran 12 races finishing with 126 points.

Finishing ninth place Lee Wood ran 12 races finishing with 119 points.

Finishing tenth place Adam Wood ran 12 races finishing with 84 points.

A thank you, as well, to all who took part in the B.O.F.R.A. races. These include Adam Watson, Adam Crowe, Jonathan Walker, Jack Thompson, Jack Weeden, James Wilson, Kyle Biddle, Francis Trueman, John Marsh, Simon Bolland, Jonathan Brownlee, Harry Croft, Ashley Rutherford, Thomas Drake, Craig Robinson and Jonathan Wilkin.

UNDER 12s - GIRLS

Eleven girls enjoyed this year's Championship and 6 enthusiastically completed 12 races. All girls showed lots of determination and skill, everyone will agree that all the races were enjoyable to watch.

Hannah Paget became Champion of the girls competition, finishing with 237 points. First 11 times, second 1 time. Hannah ran in last year's B.O.F.R.A. but only completed 6 races. This season Hannah showed lots of dedication and completed all 12 races. Accumulating some excellent results and winning the Championship comfortably. Hannah will enjoy competing in the same age group next year. Good luck Hannah.

Runner up in the girls was Janie Oates, who in her first season with B.O.F.R.A. ran well. At the beginning of the season Janie was a strong contender for the leadership. During the season she continued to show determination completing the season with 213 points. First 3 times, second 9 times.

In third place went Hannah Roberts with 201 points. First 3 times, second 4 times, third 3 times, fourth 2 times. Hannah had some good results especially at the beginning of the season. Hannah will run in the Under 14's next year. Good luck and we hope you do well.

In fourth place Grace Biddle. Grace joined the B.O.F.R.A. season at Kettlewell finishing second, a good start. Grace who is 10 years of age will run in the same age group. Good luck Grace. She completed 12 races with 174 points. Second 2 times, third 4 times, fourth 3 times, fifth 2 times, sixth 1 time.

In fifth place was Katie Robinson, who completed the 12 races. Katie started her season at Sedbergh and had her best result there, finishing in second place. Katie who is 10 years of age has another go in this age group next season. Keep going Katie. Well done. Katie finished with 168 points, second 1 time, third 1 time, fourth 6 times, fifth 4 times.

Sixth place was Grace Robinson, completed the 12 races and has another go in this age group next year. Grace showed lots of determination throughout the season and always gave her best. Well done Grace and good luck for next year. Completed the season with 164 points.

Congratulations to all runners who took part in this season's races. Our wishes go to you all and well done for making each race more exciting and enjoyable. Good luck to you all next year. Laura Dean, Emma Stuart, Samantha Drake, Emma Thompson and Rebecca Thompson.

Steven Hounslow.

PROCTER AT LAST

The Merritt & Fryers British Open Fell Runners Association's 1999 Championship season started with its first race at Sedbergh Gala last Saturday 29th May.

Thirty-seven seniors lined up for the race that goes straight up the face of Winder fell. Billy Procter, Norman Drinkall and, last years winner and record holder, Andy Wrench led the runners out of the Gala field and onto the first part of the fell, these three were to open up a slight lead over the rest of the field, as they entered onto the steepest part of the fell, but were still being pushed to the limit just behind led by John Hey, Colin Valentine, Johan Meyfroidt and Andy Holden. Procter from Kendal, running in the race for the twentieth time and never before having won it, started to gradually open up a lead on Drinkall and Wrench. Nearing the summit Procter put one last spurt in which look him clear to turn at the top in 13mins. 15 seconds. Now what Procter had to do was descend as well as he had climbed, which he dually did, to win the race at the twentieth time of asking in 17mins. 23 seconds just fourteen seconds outside the record. Drinkall finally getting the better of Wrench to finish second in 17-42, Wrench third 17-51, Hey fourth 18-09, Valentine fifth 18-58, Meyfroidt sixth 19-15, Holden seventh 19-21. The first Vet was Procter the winner of the race, second Antony Shepherd 20-37, third Paul Rogan 20-40. The first lady, with a brilliant time of 20-55 was Karen Slater from Kelbrook, second Jennifer Shuttleworth 25-39 and third Katrina Ford 30-47.

The Under 17s winner was Lee Siemaszko of Kendal in 9-01, second Ben Procter 9-41, third James Mason 10-00. First Girl Kate Rogan of Barnoldswick in 12-25, second Sally Shepherd 13-51. The winner of the Under 14s was Christopher Doyle of Ulverston in 8-14, second Andrew Wilkin 8-49, third Shamus Whitehead 9-50. First girl Karen Bowe of Kendal in 10-04, second Sheryl Slater 10-37, third Gemma Dean 11-43. The Under 12s winner was Jamie Walker of Keswick in 5-23, second Ben Davies 5-26, third David Shepherd 5-29. First girl Flora Whitehead of Sedbergh in 7-05, second Hannah Roberts 7-16, third Katie Robinson 7-37.

DRINKALL TRIUMPHS AT CONISTON

The second race in the Merritt & Fryers B.O.F.R.A. 1999 Championship took place last Sunday at Coniston Gullies in Cumbria. Forty seniors took to the start line including last weeks Sedbergh winner, Billy Procter, looking for a repeat performance. Procter went into the lead from the start and led the runners onto the fell. His lead was to be short lived, as Norman Drinkall, Colin Moses, Colin Valentine and John Hey started to draw level. Drinkall at this point, proving the stronger as he opened up a five yard lead, on the rest. Still snaking up the fell, the positions behind Drinkall were changing all the time with John Hey coming from fourth place into second to take up the challenge on Drinkall. As the runners neared the summit Drinkall's lead seemed to increase, at this point the runners go out of sight momentarily as they run across the top of the fell. The treacherous descent of the Gullies has, more than once in the past, seen leads change hands, but not on this occasion. Drinkall from Greenodd, Cumbria, crossing the finishing line nearly a minute clear of Hey in 15.14 and 16.13 respectively. Procter having this week to settle for third place 16.33, just five seconds in front of the ever improving Valentine 16.38, fifth Moses 16.53, Stephen Hicks 17.02, seventh Andy Holden 17.14. First Vet. Billy Procter from Kendal 16.33, second Mark Salkild 17.50, third Gary Bastow 18.02. First lady was Karen Slater from Kelbrook 10.37, second Carol Life 25.58, third Christine Preston 29.14.

The Under 17s winner Lee Siemaszko of Kendal in 9.54, second Ben Procter 10.39, third Adam Whaites 11.16. First girl Kate Rogan of Barnoldswick 13.26, second Sally Shepherd 15.55.

The Under 14s winner Christopher Doyle of Ulverston in 6.03, second Andrew Wilkin 6.29, third Thomas Elliott 6.34. First girl Kelli Roberts of Kendal in 6.46, second Karen Bowe 7.21, third Sheryl Slater 7.54.

The Under 12s winner David Shepherd of Settle in 4.52, second Ben Davies 4.59, third Caleb Wetherell 5.01. First girl Emma Stuart of Threlkeld in 5.40, second Jamie Oates 5.53, third Hannah Roberts 6.34.

The Under 9s winner was Craig Robinson of Keswick in 2.48, second Jack Thompson 2.52, third Cameron Roberts 2.53. First girl Emma Thompson 3.05, second Rosie Stuart 3.10, third Rebecca Thompson 3.16.

CRACOE

The Merritt & Fryers B.O.F.R.A. 1999 Championship moved on to Cracoe, North Yorkshire last Sunday with 62 Senior competitors. With just a gradual gradient to start with, Alfie Atkinson of Keighley and last weeks winner Norman Drinkall of Greenodd soon had the field well stretched out before the first two fields had been covered. Over the wall and onto the rough ground Atkinson and Drinkall were soon joined by Willie Smith, John Hey, Boff Whalley, Jeff Emmott, Darren Brame and Sam Wadsworth, but Atkinson and Drinkall still lead the field as the runners entered onto the steepest part of the fell, this is where the lead changed hands several times before eventually Smith turned the pinnacle in first place just yards clear of a group of runners. Smith seized the opportunity of turning first by powering his way down the steepest part of the fell but Drinkall, who had slipped from first to fifth, started to haul Smith in and overtook him before they climbed back over the fell wall. Smith's second position now looked in danger as Hey drew alongside, but with the two battling for second Drinkall with another fine display of fell running crossed the finishing line first in 21.57, Smith just holding onto second from Hey 22.03 and 22.05, Whalley fourth 22.10, Jeff Emmott of Cowling, fifth and first Vet 22.19, Brame sixth 22.29 with early leader Atkinson slipping back to seventh 22.45. Second Vet was Billy Procter in 23.11, third Colin Schofield 23.19. First lady was Karen Slater of Kelbrook with a very fast time of 25.17, second Carol Life 33.57 and third Yvonne Procter 34.57.

In the Under 17s James Mason of Grassington came in first 23.40, second Ben Procter 24.30, third Adam Whaites 24.35. First girl Kate Rogan of Barnoldswick 28.45, second Sally Shepherd 32.07 third Naomi Biddle 32.15.

The winner of the Under 14s was Andrew Wilkin of Windermere 12.43, second David Bode 13.15, third and first girl was the brilliant Kelli Roberts of Kendal 13.22, second girl Karen Bowe 13.45, third Sheryl Slater 13.47.

The Under 12s winner was Caleb Wetherall of Cowling 8.59, second Grant Robinson 9.07, third Ben Davies 9.25. First girl Hannah Roberts 10.37, second Janie Oates 11.27, third Kirsty Nolan 11.35.

Under 9s winner Harry Croft of Hebden 3.16, second Jonathan Walker 3.18, third Ashley Wright 3.23. First girl was Emma Thompson 3.48, second girl Rebecca Thompson 4.20.

WRENCH AT THE HELM

Helm fell race in Kendal, Cumbria was the latest venue for the Merritt & Fryers B.O.F.R.A. Championship. The winner of the last two championship races, Norman Drinkall of Greenodd was amongst the thirty four senior runners, hoping he could make it a hat trick of wins. Helm is a series of four stiff climbs with the steepest being the third. Drinkall led the runners over the first of the four hills but the distance covering the first ten runners was just a few yards. Drinkall still led as they started to climb the steepest climb of all, this is where Andy Wrench and Andrew Symonds came to join the pace-setter but still Drinkall held them at bay. The race for fourth place at this stage was between Steven Savage, David Houlsworth, Darren Brame and John Hey, but try as they did they could not bridge the gap towards the first three. As the leaders levelled out for the fast run for home Wrench of Todmorden quickly showed his superiority with a brilliant turn of foot to pull thirty yards clear of Drinkall and Symonds to coast home in a very fast time of 22.40. At the finishing line there was only one second between Drinkall and Symonds, with Drinkall getting the upper hand, 22.57 and 22.58. Savage came out best of the chasing pack being fourth in 23.31, Houlsworth 5th 23.43, Brame 6th 23.52, Hey 7th 24.15. The winner of the Vets was David Houlsworth of Kendal 23.43, 2nd Billy Procter 24.34, 3rd Antony Shepherd 26.04. First lady was Jennifer Shuttleworth of Kendal in 30.58, 2nd Yvonne Procter 36.48, 3rd Sue Weeden 40.55.

The winner of the Under 17s was Lee Siemaszko from Kendal in 12.43, 2nd James Mason 13.27, 3rd Ben Procter 14.03. First girl Kate Rogan of Barnoldswick in 16.48, 2nd Sally Shepherd 18.02.

The winner of the Under 14s was Andrew Wilkin of Windermere in 11.37, 2nd Thomas Elliot 11.43, 3rd and first Girl Kelli Roberts of Kendal in 12.10, 4th Luke Paget 12.11. Second girl was Chloe Rodham 13.13, 3rd Karen Bowe 13.27.

The winner of the Under 12s was Grant Robinson of Keswick 9.16, 2nd Ben Davies, 9.22, 3rd Caleb Wetherell 9.29. First girl was Emma Stewart of Threlkeld in 10.42, 2nd Janie Oates 11.25, 3rd Grace Robinson 11.55.

The winner of the Under 9s was Jonathan Walker of Keswick in 1.43, 2nd Lewis Robinson 2.05 and 3rd and first Girl Rosie Stewart of Threlkeld in 2.06.

HOPE WINS AT SHARPHAW

Back on the fells after a decade or so, Craven's Mick Hawkins returned to try and reclaim the crown he last wore in 1984. He led at the turn with Robert Hope, Alfie Atkinson, Mark Roberts and Robert Hudson moving up close. The tailwind to the turn became a full frontal and Hope challenged Hawkins for the lead and forced his way into pole position. The extra exertion into the wind couple with the blistering outward pace took its toll on Hawkins who unexpectedly ground to a halt and dropped out of the race leaving Kendal's Roberts and Atkinson to keep up the pressure from behind. Hope came in 27.33 with Roberts second 14 seconds adrift and Atkinson third almost a minute down on Roberts, fourth Hudson in 29.04 Jeff Emmott fifth and first Veteran in 30.08. Hellifield's Sarah Dugdale was first in the Ladies in 40.07, Carol Life second and Sue Weeden third.

Under 17s winner was James Mason of Grassington, second Andrew Foster, third Adam Whaites. First girl Kate Rogan of Barnoldswick, second Sally Shepherd, third Naomi Biddle.

Under 14s winner was Christopher Doyle of Ulverston, second Andrew Wilkin, third Ben Weeden. First girl was Kelli Roberts of Kendal, second Sheryl Slater, third Gemma Dean.

Under 12s winner was Caleb Wetherell, second Grant Robinson, third James Walker. First girl was Jamie Oates of Kendal, second Georgina Waddington, third Anna Anderson.

Under 9s winner was Jonathan Walker of Keswick, second Harry Croft, third Craig Robinson. First girl was Emma Thompson of Colne, second Rebecca Thompson.

RECORD BREAKERS AT KETTLEWELL

The Merritt & Fryers B.O.F.R.A. Championship had its second race in a week in North Yorkshire at Kettlewell last Sunday. Andy Wrench of Todmorden, the winner for the last two years, lined up with the other 44 runners, hoping for a unique treble, with such a strong field the odds looked slim. The river at Kettlewell which the runners had to cross twice had never been so low for many a year. Norman Drinkall of Greenodd led the runners across the river and still had the lead as they entered onto the fell and through the narrow gauge of rocks, which were made treacherous with the recent downpour. Kettlewell is only a short course with three steep climbs and a really bad scree to be endured on the way down. As the runners approached the second of the climbs Wrench started to close in on Drinkall, with Boff Whalley, Ted Mason, Billy Procter, Graham Hawkins and Darren Brame just yards behind. Wrench with his unrelenting pressure upon Drinkall finally took the lead to turn the summit in first place, but Drinkall was not to give in easily, taking the lead back as the runners came into view of the spectators. Down the scree, and as last week, the flat race to the finish, but something seemed amiss with Drinkall as Wrench sped past with a devastating burst of speed to cross the winning line in a new course record in 11.44, breaking his own record, set in 1997, by 3 seconds. Drinkall easily held onto second place but had to be taken straight to hospital with a suspected fracture of his ankle. The next three runners came in within 5 seconds of each other. Whalley, Mason and Procter, 3rd, 4th and 5th, 12.33, 12.37 and 12.38 respectively, 6th Hawkins 12.50, 7th Brame 12.55. First Vet, Billy Procter of Kendal in 12.38, 2nd Colin Schofield 13.33, 3rd Jonnie Butler 13.36. First lady, Karen Slater of Kelbrook, had a magnificent run to smash the ladies course record by 55 seconds to come home in a brilliant 14.55, 2nd Sally Corbin 16.55 3rd Carol Life 18.26.

Under 17s winner was Ben Procter of Kendal in 10.18, 2nd Todd Oates 11.30, 3rd Sam Hounslow 11.36, 4th Martin Hounslow 11.41.

Under 14s winner Andrew Wilkin of Windermere, in a new record time of 8.21, 2nd David Bode 8.50, 3rd Ben Weeden 8.55. First girl Gemma Dean of Grassington 10.07, 2nd Sheryl Slater 10.13.

Another course record was broken in the Under 12s, the result being 1st Grant Robinson of Keswick in 7.07, 2nd Caleb Wetherell 7.18, 3rd David Shepherd 7.30. First girl Jamie Oates of Kendal in 8.36, 2nd Alex. Waddington in 9.42, 3rd Grace Biddle 11.16.

Under 9s Winner Harry Croft of Hebden 2.32, 2nd Ashley Rutherford 2.47, 3rd Andrew Schofield 2.52. First girl Emma Thompson of Colne 3.07, 2nd Rebecca Thompson 3.56.

KIRKBY TRIUMPH FOR WRENCH

Kirkby in Furness Gala was last Saturday's venue for the Merritt & Fryers B.O.F.R.A. Championship. With this being the seventh race of the season, the championship is starting to take shape. Andy Wrench of Todmorden was once again in the line up, looking for his third win in succession. The runners were led out of the gala field by David Hird of Silsden, but as they entered onto the fell Hird had dropped back slightly and this is where Wrench took over the lead, but only just, from Darren Brame, Graham Hawkins, Billy Procter and Ted Mason. As the runners snaked up the fell, passing the Under 17s turn, Wrench was starting to pile on the pressure and gradually opened up a sizeable lead. As they ran across the skyline and approached the summit his lead had increased to roughly 50 yards, from Brame who had gone into a clear second place, with Hawkins, Procter and Mason still fighting it out for third spot. With the leaders leaving the rough bracken behind and getting onto cleaner running, Wrench never looked like he would be caught and came across the finishing line in 32.09, half a minute clear of Brame 32.39, Hawkins getting the better of Procter - First Vet - and Mason 34.07, 34.33 and 35.02 respectively. The finish of the day was between David Hird and Paul Rogan after negotiating the fell coming into the gala field together, and a hundred yard sprint to the line, the end result being a dead heat in 38.00 in joint sixth place and also joint second vets. The first lady home and in tenth place overall was International Karen Slater of Kelbrook in 39.03.

Under 17s winner was James Mason of Grassington 19.53, 2nd Ben Procter 20.00, 3rd James Peerless 20.32. First girl was Kate Rogan of Barnoldswick 23.35, 2nd Karen Bowe 24.58, 3rd Naomi Biddle 27.17.

Under 14s winner was Christopher Doyle of Ulverston 15.35, 2nd Andrew Wilkin 16.14, 3rd Luke Paget 17.04. First and only girl was Kelli Roberts of Kendal 18.54.

Under 12s winner was Caleb Wetherell of Cowling 10.35, 2nd Grant Robinson 10.40, 3rd Ben Davies 11.10. First girl was Hannah Roberts of Kendal 12.41, 2nd Hannah Paget 13.30 3rd Grace Biddle 14.20

Under 9s winner was Lewis Robinson of Kendal 1.29, 2nd Kyle Biddle 1.30, 3rd Jack Thompson 1.32. First girl was Emma Thompson of Colne 1.33, 2nd Samantha Parker 1.41, 3rd Rebecca Thompson 1.47.

KINCH WINS IN SCOTLAND

The Merritt & Fryers B.O.F.R.A. Championship moved across the border into Scotland last Saturday. Thirty-nine senior runners lined up on a sweltering afternoon at the Alva Highland Games. The field included an array of International runners from England and Scotland including last years B.O.F.R.A. champion, Mark Kinch from Warrington. As the athletes left the Arena to the applause of thousands in the crowd, Dan Whitehead of Edinburgh was the early leader as the runners entered onto the fell. Passing the Under 12s and Under 14s turn, Whitehead had opened up a sizeable lead and still led passing the Under 17s turn. At this point the runners behind included Mark Roberts, Steve Oldfield, Billy Procter, Hayden Lorrinar, Andy Wrench, Alfie Atkinson, John Hey and the winner, for the last two years, Mark Kinch. started the charge towards Whitehead, quickly reducing his lead to just a few yards. With a prize for first round the summit Kinch made his final effort, moving from third to first, to turn in 14.13. Alva is probably the hardest and steepest fell in the B.O.F.R.A. calendar, so descending at speed can be very dangerous. Kinch still led but his lead was being rapidly reduced by Wrench who, after turning in fifth, was having a descent that had the thousands of spectators enthralled. Kinch entered the Arena still leading and with just two hundred yards to the finish, he crossed the line to win in 20.56 to become British Hill Champion for the third year running. Wrench with still plenty of running in his legs sprinted to the line just ten seconds behind, to finish in 21.06. Roberts third 21.17, Lorrinar fourth 21.30, Whitehead, the early leader slipping back to fifth 21.52, Oldfield from Bradford sixth and first Vet 21.55 Procter seventh and second Vet 22.02, third Vet David Fell 24.59. First lady with another brilliant run was Karen Slater of Kelbrook in 26.29, second Debbie McDonald 32.25 and third Yvonne Procter 36.02.

Under 17s First Ben Procter of Kendal 12.40, second Adam Whaites 13.50, third Tom Kidger 13.54. First girl Kate Rogan of Barnoldswick 16.52, second Sally Shepherd 18.46, third Sarah Laing 20.41.

Under 14s First Christopher Doyle of Ulverston 9.29, second Andrew Wilkin 10.18, third Luke Paget 10.52. First girl Kelli Roberts of Kendal 11.10, second Sheryl Slater 12.33, third Gemma Dean 13.56.

Under 12s First James Walker of Keswick 10.58, second Grant Robinson 11.08, third David Shepherd 11.31. A deadheat for first place in the girls was between Hannah Paget & Hannah Roberts in 13.48.

WRENCH LEAVES IT LATE

Thirty nine seniors lined up for the start of the ninth race in the Merritt & Fryers BOFRA Championship last Saturday at Cray, near Buckden. Darren Brame of Denholme set the early pace from Andy Wrench. As the runners neared the Under 12s turn, Brame and Wrench were starting to pull away from a bunch of runners, including Ted Mason, Graham Hawkins, Colin Moses, Alan Life, Colin Valentine and last years winner Patrick Boyd. Still winding up the fell passing the Under 17s turn and starting to climb the steepest part, Wrench made his bid and went past Brame, turning the summit in first place, but then the most bizarre thing happened, Wrench lost his sense of direction and carried straight on instead of bearing to his left and coming down the track, taking with him Brame, Mason, Boyd and Hawkins. By the time they had corrected themselves, Moses had gone into the lead. But with the great determination Wrench has found this season he was soon giving chase to the surprised Moses. As they passed the Under 14s turn it looked as if the misjudgement earlier on would prove costly to Wrench. As in other races this season, Wrench of Todmorden was not to be outdone and with one of his late bursts of speed he passed Moses with just 100 yards to go, to cross the line and win in a time of 23.45, Moses second 23.58, Mason hanging onto third 24.16, Boyd fourth 24.25, early leader Brame fifth 24.39, Hawkins sixth 24.43 and Life seventh 25.15. First Veteran John Hope of Bolton 25.44, second and third Veterans, both local runners from Silsden were Brett Weeden and David Hird 26.23 and 26.26. First Lady was Sue Beccansall of Todmorden in 30.15, second Carol Life 35.06, third Sue Weeden 36.30.

Under 17s winner was James Mason of Grassington 20.17, second Martin Hounslow 21.17, third Sam Hounslow 21.37. First girl Kate Rogan of Barnoldswick 23.34, second Karen Bowe 24.04, third Naomi Biddle 24.18, fourth Sally Shepherd 24.59.

Under 14s winner was Christopher Doyle of Ulverston 10.58, second Andrew Wilkin 11.18, third Luke Paget 11.59. First girl Kelli Roberts of Kendal 12.48, second Sheryl Slater 14.19, third Gemma Dean 14.32.

Under 12s winner was Caleb Wetherell of Cowling 6.35, second James Walker 6.42, third Grant Robinson 6.44. First girl Janie Oates of Kendal 7.46, second Hannah Paget 7.50, third Katie Robinson 9.20.

Under 9s winner Jonathan Walker of Keswick 2.25, second Harry Croft 2.18, third Jack Thompson 2.46. First girl Emma Thompson 3.00, second Samantha Parker 3.47, third Rebecca Thompson 3.49.

FARLETON KNOTT

The half-way mark was reached in the Merritt & Fryers B.O.F.R.A. Championship season, with the third running of the Farleton Knott Fell Race last Sunday. Forty six seniors took to the start line including the winner for the last two years, Andy Wrench from Todmorden. As the runners set off along the road Michael Cayton from the Horwich running club in Liverpool, set the early pace. As they entered onto the fell, his lead had increased. Farleton is a series of climbs with the runners going out of sight of the spectators for a while, but the steepest part being in full view, and as the runners appeared over the skyline Cayton still had the lead but was being hotly pursued by Mark Roberts, Wrench, Darren Brame, Robert Hudson, Sam Wadsworth, James Wadsworth and Colin Valentine. Down the dangerous scree and still the steepest part of the fell to ascend Roberts and Wrench were starting to push Cayton to the limit, over the top and the run across the face of the fell, Cayton held on to come across the finishing line in 33.19, half a minute clear of Roberts 33.49 with Wrench, having this year to settle for third place in 34.05, 4th Brame 34.40, 5th Hudson 34.45, 6th Sam Wadsworth 35.45, 7th James Wadsworth 36.07. First Veteran Billy Procter of Kendal 37.22, 2nd Antony Shepherd 38.58, 3rd David Hird 40.10. First Lady Jennifer Shuttleworth of Kendal 47.03, 2nd Carol Life 51.01, 3rd Tracy Targett 58.42.

Winner of the Under 17s James Mason of Grassington 21.16, 2nd Peter Harrison 22.06, 3rd Adam Whaites 22.57. First girl Kate Rogan of Barnoldswick 25.27, 2nd Naomi Biddle 26.01, 3rd Karen Bowe 26.30.

Under 14s winner was Christopher Doyle of Ulverston 6.58, 2nd Matthew Stuart 7.21, 3rd Andrew Wilkin 7.25. First girl Kelli Roberts of Kendal 7.49, 2nd Sheryl Slater 8.51, 3rd Gemma Dean 9.27.

Winner of the Under 12s Caleb Wetherell of Cowling 5.58, 2nd Grant Robinson 6.04, 3rd James Wilson 6.10. First girl Emma Stuart 6.40, 2nd Hannah Paget 6.45, 3rd Janie Oates 6.59.

Under 9s winner was Lewis Robinson of Kendal 3.53, 2nd Kyle Biddle 4.05, 3rd and First girl Rosie Stuart 4.10, 2nd Samantha Parker 4.48, 3rd Alice Kelly 6.08.

AMBLESIDE SCORCHER

The eleventh race in the Merritt & Fryers B.O.F.R.A. Championship saw one of the most outstanding performances for many years at Ambleside Sports last Thursday. In sweltering temperatures thirty nine seniors took to the start line, watched by approximately three and a half thousand spectators. Matthew Whitfield of Keighley put in one the greatest fell runs since the legendary Fred Reeves set the course record of 13.03 many years ago. Whitfield led straight from the gun and quickly started to pull clear of the field, which included last years winner, Gary Devine. The fast improving Steven Savage, and one of the leaders in this years B.O.F.R.A. Championship, Andy Wrench. Whitfield still way out on his own as he neared the summit was starting to put the record under pressure. Round the top and with just the fast descent to come Whitfield came sprinting down the fell, through the tall bracken and with just three hundred yards of flat running left, came into the Arena to a thunderous applause and crossed the finishing line in 13.22 just nineteen seconds outside this marvellous record. Nevertheless an absolute scorching run, Savage getting the better of Devine on the descent to come second in 15.00 Devine third 15.08. Wrench pulling his way up into fourth 15.16, Darren Brame fifth 15.32, Billy Procter of Kendal sixth and first Veteran 15.48, James Wadsworth seventh 16.10. Second Veteran Antony Shepherd 17.25, third Paul Rogan 17.41. First lady from Kelbrook was Karen Slater 19.09 second Nancy Westworth 26.39.

Under 17s winner Ben Procter of Kendal in 12.44, second Tom Kidger 13.34. First girl Freya Murry of Edinburgh 14.15, second Kate Rogan 14.24, third Karen Bowe 15.06.

Under 14s winner Christopher Doyle of Ulverston 11.32, second Darren Tindall 11.54, third Andrew Wilkin 12.21. First girl was Gemma Dean of Grassington in 17.36

Under 12s winner James Walker of Keswick 8.07, second Caleb Wetherell 8.14, third Grant Robinson 8.15. First girl was Emma Stuart of Threlkeld 9.01, second Hannah Paget 9.14, third Janie Oates 9.33

FIRST FOR MASON

The Merritt & Fryers B.O.F.R.A. Championship season came into North Yorkshire last Sunday to Hawkswick near Arnccliffe. Thirty-four seniors took to the start line and straight from the whistle Gary Devine of Leeds went into the lead. The river being quite swollen and having to be crossed twice meant the runners were well soaked before they started to climb the most treacherous fell. Devine still led as they reached halfway, but Darren Brame, Billy Procter, Jonathan Parker, Boff Whalley and Ted Mason were soon to put tremendous pressure on the leader. Turning the summit with just four yards to spare, Devine came back into view of the spectators still in the lead. His biggest threat on the descent came from Mason, who after turning in fifth place, had quickly gone into second. Halfway down the fell Mason drew level with Devine and soon put the race within his grasp. Across the river and just the steep incline to the finishing line Mason of Appletreewick came home to win his first Championship race in 11.38, Devine holding onto second 12.09 from the fast finishing Procter third and first Veteran in 12.18, Brame after turning second, losing two places to finish in fourth 12.25, Parker fifth 12.35, Whalley sixth 12.47, Alan Life seventh 12.51 and Andy Wrench one of the front runners for the B.O.F.R.A. title, after a short spell in hospital, having to settle for eighth, second Veteran home Roger Gibson in 13.48, third Colin Schofield 14.00. First lady was Karen Slater of Kelbrook in 15.36, second Helen Glover 18.29, third Carol Life 18.42.

Under 17s winner was Ben Procter of Kendal in 10.09, second Tom Kidger 10.30, third Adam Whaites 10.42. First girl Sally Shepherd of Settle having her first win in the Under 17s in 13.29, second Nicole Slater 15.28, third Naomi Johnson 16.40.

Under 14s winner was Luke Paget of Brookhouse, also having his first win in the Championship in 10.03 second Sam Watson 10.29, third James Rowley 10.31. First girl Sheryl Slater of Kelbrook 11.51.

Under 12s winner was Ben Davies of Grange over Sands 8.36, second Harry Thompson 8.49, third Robert Barber 9.29. First girl Hannah Paget of Brookhouse in 10.21, second Janie Oates 11.03, third Anna Anderson 12.08.

Under 9s winner was Lewis Robinson of Kendal 3.19, second Emma Thompson of Colne and first girl 3.25, third Andrew Schofield 3.30, fourth Kyle Biddle 3.32, second Rebecca Thompson 3.44 and third Alice Kelly 5.32.

DRINKALL BACK AFTER INJURY

In the Merritt & Fryers B.O.F.R.A. Championship 34 Senior runners lined up at the start of a sun drenched Rusland Sports in Cumbria last Saturday. Straight from the gun Norman Drinkall of Greenodd, back from an ankle injury sustained in an earlier race at Kettlewell, went into an early lead. Rusland fell race starts off with three level fields before the runners climb two steep fells. Drinkall still led as the runners entered onto the first of the fells, Colin Valentine close in second with Billy Procter just behind in third. A host of runners followed, including Robert Hudson, Antony Shepherd, Colin Jones, and Ian Smith, but it was Procter who threw down the challenge to Drinkall who was dominating the race from the front. As the runners turned the summit Drinkall had this commanding lead which brought him across the finishing line in a very easy 12.02, Procter, try as he did had to settle for second and first Veteran 12.20, Hudson moving into third 12.49, Valentine slipping down two places to fourth 13.09, Shepherd fifth and second Veteran 13.19, Jones sixth 13.46, Smith seventh 13.52, Paul Rogan eighth and third Veteran 14.02. First lady was International Karen Slater from Kelbrook in 14.31, second Yvonne Procter 19.36, third Sue Weeden 20.53.

Under 17s winner James Mason of Grassington in 7.34, second Ben Procter 7.48, third Adam Whaites 8.01. First girl Naomi Biddle of Accrington 9.30, second Sally Shepherd 9.37, third Karen Bowe 9.52.

Under 14s winner Christopher Doyle of Ulverston 5.54, second Darren Tindall 6.01, third Andrew Wilkin 6.15. First girl Kelli Roberts of Kendal 6.42, second Sheryl Slater 7.03.

Under 12s winner James Walker of Keswick 5.50, second Caleb Wetherell 5.51, third Grant Robinson 5.53. First girl Hannah Paget of Brookhouse 6.35, second Janie Oates 7.03, third Hannah Roberts 7.26.

HAWKINS WINS HEBDEN

The latest race in the Merritt & Fryers B.O.F.R.A. Championship was held last Monday on a cold and wet Bank Holiday at Hebden Sports. Forty-seven runners lined up at the start of the shortest fell race of the B.O.F.R.A. calendar. International Steven Hawkins from Grassington led straight from the whistle, closely followed by Norman Drinkall, Andy Wrench, Stephan Macina, Billy Procter and Alfie Atkinson. Across the stream and onto the fell Hawkins pulled further clear to reach the summit with a forty yard lead, Wrench pulling his way into second over Drinkall. Across the skyline and down the three fields Hawkins increased his lead to cross the finishing line forty seconds clear of Wrench 10.22 and 11.02 respectively, Drinkall just holding onto third 11.32 with Macina fourth 11.39, Procter from Kendal, fifth and first Veteran 11.47, Atkinson sixth 11.51, Gary Sumner seventh 11.56. Second Veteran home was Antony Shepherd 12.10, third Paul Rogan 12.54. First lady was Karen Slater of Kelbrook in 13.17, second was Kate Rogan, in her first race as a Senior lady in 14.44, Carol Life third in 16.12.

Under 17s winner was James Mason of Grassington in 12.34, second Adam Whaites 12.59, third Sam Hounslow 13.26. First girl Sally Shepherd of Settle 15.12, second Naomi Biddle 15.31, third Karen Bowe 15.51.

Under 14s winner was Christopher Doyle of Ulverston in 8.55, second Andrew Wilkin 9.45, third Sam Clegg 9.58. First girl Kelli Roberts of Kendal 10.21, second Sheryl Slater 11.27, third Rebecca Drake 13.41.

Under 12s winner was James Walker of Keswick 6.20, second Grant Robinson 6.27, third Caleb Wetherell 6.30. First girl Hannah Paget of Brookhouse 7.36, second Janie Oates 7.53, third Samantha Drake 8.17.

Under 9s winner was Jonathan Walker of Keswick 3.39, second Ashley Rutherford 3.57 third Paul Best 4.03. First girl Emma Thompson of Colne 4.22, second Rebecca Thompson 4.36, third Olivia Davidson 4.45.

HAWKINS RECORD RUN

Thirty-five runners enthralled the spectators at the Merritt & Fryers B.O.F.R.A. Championship race held last week at Muker Show in Swaledale. Steven Hawkins of Grassington went into the lead from the whistle, with the river being quite low, which the runners had to cross twice, a fast time was always expected. Climbing the fell Jonathan Bland, Mark Roberts, Gavin Bland, Andy Wrench and Ted Mason were starting to push Hawkins as the runners neared the summit. The runners at this point turn right and run across the top of the fell and down the path, which runs across the face of the fell. Hawkins lead was increasing and as he crossed back over the river and with just two fields to go the course record was coming under threat. After winning Hebden and coming second at Kilnsey the previous two days tiredness never came into it, as Hawkins sprinted across the line to thunderous applause from the large crowd, to win in a course record time of 10.56, beating the old record by ten seconds, Jonathan Bland holding onto second place by just two seconds from Roberts, 11.26 and 11.28, Gavin Bland fourth 11.34, Wrench, one of the leading runners in the B.O.F.R.A. Championship, having this time to settle for fifth 12.00, Mason sixth 12.08, Stuart Reid seventh 11.29. First Veteran was Billy Procter of Kendal 12.40, second Antony Shepherd 13.02, third Paul Rogan 13.56. First Lady was International Karen Slater of Kelbrook in 14.32, second Kate Rogan, having only twice run as a Senior 15.22, third Helen Sedgwick 16.14.

Under 17s winner was James Mason of Grassington in 12.52, second Ben Procter 13.23, third Adam Whaites 13.24. First Girl was Karen Bowe of Kendal 16.22, second Sally Shepherd 16.36, third Naomi Biddle 17.02.

Under 14s winner was Andrew Wilkin of Windermere in 12.42, second Luke Paget 13.25, third and First girl was Kelli Roberts of Kendal in 13.40, fourth Sam Watson 14.41. Second girl Sheryl Slater 15.36.

Under 12s winner was James Walker of Keswick in 7.46, second David Shepherd 7.50, third Grant Robinson 7.58. First girl was Hannah Paget of Brookhouse 9.18, second Grace Biddle 10.19, third Grace Robinson 10.25.

SIXTH WIN FOR WRENCH

Ted Mason of Appletreewick took the early lead in the latest Merritt & Fryers B.O.F.R.A. Championship race run from the Moorcock Inn, Garsdale near Hawes last Sunday. Mason was still leading as he approached the Under 14s turn but he was coming under pressure from Andy Wrench, Mark Roberts and Andy Holden. Wrench the leader of this years championship and with his nearest rival absent from the race, soon took advantage and went past Mason as they levelled out for the long run across the fell. Roberts also went past Mason into second as he went in pursuit of the leader. Moorcock is a combination of two very steep fells and as they came over the summit of the second, Wrench had stretched his lead to half a minute. With the long run to the finishing line Wrench of Todmorden never looked in danger and came home to win in a very easy looking 35.31, his sixth B.O.F.R.A. championship win of the season. Roberts second 36.11 with early leader Mason third 37.27, Holden fourth 39.44, Ray Waddington fifth 40.04, Colin Moses sixth 40.15, Alan Life seventh 40.22. First Veteran Antony Shepherd of Settle 40.30, second David Hird 42.19, third Barry Slater 43.34. First Lady Karen Slater of Kelbrook 44.26, second Carol Life 54.56, third Sue Weeden 63.04.

Under 17s winner James Mason of Grassington in 21.41, second Ben Procter 22.09, third Adam Whaites 22.41. First girl Karen Bowe of Kendal 26.37, second Sally Shepherd 27.49, third Naomi Biddle 34.53.

Under 14s winner Christopher Doyle of Ulverston in 14.06, second Andrew Wilkin 15.30, third and First girl Kelli Roberts of Kendal 15.41, second Sheryl Slater 18.04, third Gemma Dean 19.52.

Under 12s winner Caleb Wetherell of Cowling 9.57, second Ben Davies 10.04, third James Walker 10.28. First girl Hannah Paget of Brookhouse 11.48, second Hannah Roberts 12.12, third Alex Waddington 12.44.

Under 9s winner was Jonathan Walker of Keswick 4.00, second Lewis Robinson 4.28, third Kyle Biddle 4.45. First girl was Emma Thompson 4.49, second Rebecca Thompson 5.11, third Samantha Parker 5.16.

HAWKINS WINS BURNSALL

With four races left in the Merritt & Fryers B.O.F.R.A. Championship Season Andy Wrench of Todmorden finished in third place to keep him on course to be this years fell running champion, but it was Steven Hawkins of Grassington who took the honors at Burnsall last Sunday. Forty five runners took to the start line and straight from the whistle Willy Smith of Keighley burst into the lead as the runners entered onto the fell. His lead though, was to be short lived as Hawkins, Stuart Reid, Ted Mason, Andy Wrench and Billy Procter swept passed him. As the leaders went by the Under fourteen's turn it was Hawkins who was proving the stronger as he soon went clear, eventually rounding the summit half a minute clear of his nearest rival, Reid having one of his best climbs of the season turned in second place, with Wrench third and Mason fourth, but it was Mason who had the best descent, sweeping past Wrench and Reid into second place. This is where Reid turned an ankle and had to drop out. Hawkins, however, had a trouble free run to cross the winning line unchallenged in 13.50, Mason second 14.21, Wrench third 14.32, Procter of Kendal fourth and first Veteran 15.08, early leader Smith fifth 15.31, Boff Whalley sixth 13.47, Colin Moses seventh 13.51, second Veteran Robert Hamilton 16.16, third Antony Shepherd 16.29. First lady was Karen Slater of Kelbrook 17.32, second Kate Rogan 19.13, third Sue Weeden 25.26

Under 17s winner James Mason of Grassington 12.18, second Adam Whaites 13.03. First girl Sally Shepherd of Settle 14.51, second Karen Bowe 15.02, third Nicole Slater 16.45.

Under 14s winner Christopher Doyle of Ulverston 7.52, second Andrew Wilkin 8.26, third Sam Clegg 8.39. First girl Kelli Roberts of Kendal 8.55, second Sheryl Slater 9.36, third Gemma Dean 10.50.

Under 12s winner Caleb Wetherell of Cowling 4.12, second Ben Davies 4.13, third Grant Robinson 4.15. First girl Hannah Paget of Brookhouse 4.49, second Janie Oates 4.56, third Hannah Roberts 5.15.

Under 9s winner was Ashley Rutherford of Whalley 1.14, second Emma Thompson 1.28, third Samantha Parker 1.30.

WRENCH BREAKS EMBAY RECORD

Sixty-two runners lined up at the Merritt & Fryers B.O.F.R.A. Championship race at Embay last Sunday. Ted Mason took the early lead as he led the runners over the first two fields and was still leading as they entered onto the steepest part of the fell. Never far away from the lead was a bunch of athletes including Darren Brame, Andy Wrench, Willy Smith, Colin Valentine, Andy Black and Billy Procter. Mason still led as they rounded the summit, but Wrench and Brame were becoming a real threat to him as they ran along the top of the fell. On the descent Wrench finally pounced, going past Mason, into the lead, but with dogged determination Mason kept on the heels of Wrench as they entered into the last part of the race, but in the end had to settle for second place, as Wrench from Todmorden crossed the finishing line just four seconds clear, in a new course record, to win in 19.20, Mason 19.24, Brame dropping back slightly after holding such a good position coming in third 19.44, Valentine fourth 20.10, Smith fifth 20.33, Black sixth 21.03, Procter from Kendal seventh and first Veteran 21.05, second Veteran Bob Hamilton 21.25, third Antony Shepherd 21.27. First Lady Helen Glover of Keighley 23.53, second Kate Rogan 25.42, third Juliette Horrocks 27.45.

Under 17s winner was Sam Hounslow of Trawden 20.58, second and first Girl Karen Bowe of Kendal 21.35, third Martin Hounslow 21.52, second girl Sally Shepherd 21.56, third Naomi Biddle 21.59.

Under 14s winner was Andrew Wilkin of Windermere 11.06, second Luke Paget 11.23, third Sam Watson 12.16. First girl Gemma Dean of Grassington 14.03, second Laura Craig 17.41.

Under 12s winner was Caleb Wetherell of Cowling 8.48, second James Walker 8.53, third Grant Robinson 8.54. First girl Hannah Paget of Brookhouse 10.14, second Janie Oates 10.42, third Grace Biddle 11.38.

Under 9s winner was Jonathan Walker of Keswick 3.32, second Ashley Rutherford 3.34, third Lewis Robinson 3.46.