

Mickledon Straddle, South Yorkshire

7 February 2016

While the rain was falling in East Yorkshire on Sunday, three Beverley runners made the trip to sunny South Yorkshire to take on the Mickledon Straddle. The race is organised by Denby Dale AC and is an 'out and back' route measured at 14.3 miles with 95% of it being across tough, open moorland and peat bogs. The route includes 741m (2,400 feet) of ascent, starting at Langsett barn, takes you round the reservoir, over the top to 'Outer Edge' and then down to the Howden reservoir and back over 'Outer Edge' to Langsett.



The fell running gods did smile down on the runners, as Langsett and the surrounding area was bathed in sunshine for most of the race, with the rain only making an appearance when the runners had finished, this meant that the 30 mph wind didn't make the weather any worse.

The Beverley AC runners had to tackle some significant challenges while taking part. The course was challenging enough, without the addition of peat bogs, riverbed running, ascents and gorse scratches.

Jim 'The Bog-monster' Harbidge strode into a peat bog, which came up to his midriff, before being rescued by fellow Beverley runner Rebecca Burge. Edward Lisney had to sacrifice a pair of shoes and gloves at the end of the race, after reducing his hands, elbows and knees to ribbons in the final mile.

On finishing the race, Jim exclaimed "What an experience! That wind and bog took it out of me over the top. Well worth the trip though". The 3 runners are all in training for marathons taking place in April.



Edward Lisney finished the course in a time of 2 hours, 29 minutes and 10 seconds, placing 86th. Rebecca Burge followed in a time of 2 hours, 47 minutes and 47 seconds, placing 136th. Jim Harbidge came home in a time of 2 hours, 50 minutes and 12 seconds.

The winner of the race was Tom Brunt, of Dark Peak fell runners, completing the course in 1 hour 45 minutes and 25 seconds. The ladies race was won by Nichola Jackson, of Preston Harriers, in a time of 1 hour 58 minutes and 28 seconds.