

**East Yorkshire Cross Country League
Race 4 Thixendale
Sunday 3 January 2010
Report by Kay Farrow of Beverley AC**

The wintry weather did not deter hardy cross country runners last Sunday and they turned out in force to tackle a challenging 6-mile course at Thixendale.

Several inches of snow had fallen overnight and temperatures hovered around freezing point but with a very steep hill at the start runners soon warmed up.

Of the 108 competitors almost a third of them were from Beverley AC, scoring vital points to consolidate the team positions.

James Pearson led the Beverley men home and finished in fourth position overall. He was followed closely by Aubrey Morrell and newly married Ian Boardley who had just returned from his honeymoon.



Amanda Ritchie

New member Graeme Pittaway completed his first cross country race for the club in a very respectable time of 55.21.

The Beverley men are still in fourth position overall but the points gained at Thixendale have narrowed the gap with third-placed Bridlington to only 9 points.

After a difficult journey to Thixendale Clare Bracken started the race late and did well to catch up. She was the first Beverley lady to finish, narrowly beating Helen Storr.



It was a welcome return to racing for Tanwen Gray. This was her first race since picking up an injury in the Edinburgh Marathon last May. If she returns to her previous form she could make a significant difference to the ladies team which is currently in fourth position.

The race was won by Scarborough's Ben Mukherjee in 43.25 a fraction of a second ahead of Bridlington's Phil Taylor. Katy Rawnsley of Scarborough (48.32) continued her winning streak and was the first lady to finish for the third time in the series.

Beverley AC finishing times:

Men:

James Pearson 44.49; Aubrey Morrell 45.44; Ian Boardley 46.41; Mark Dalton 48.08; Steve Jackson 48.47; Andy Collinson 48.48; Kristian Davis 49.07; Paul Clark 49.09; Ian Husband 49.13; Andy Johnson 49.23; Paul Burnley 49.31; Pete Watkinson 50.49; Andy Tate 51.44; Ashley Briggs 51.55; Neil Bant 52.37; Graeme Pittaway 55.21; Rob Reid 57.02; Brian Richardson 57.53; Steve Hadley 58.52; John Boardley 77.21.

Ladies:

Clare Bracken 57.39; Helen Storr 57.44; Jayne Dale 58.43; Sam Allen 59.29; Tanwen Gray 63.38; Amanda Ritchie 64.03; Pam Atkins 69.36; Jacqui Dickinson 74.11; Kay Farrow 75.08; Elaine Julian 75.51; Mary Carrick 80.38.

Photo below taken by John Morgan

Officials and spectators just after the start. Runners were climbing up the steep, snow covered track in the background.

