

Wharfedale Half-Marathon and Rugger Ramble
Saturday 4 June 2011
Report by Helen Storr and Margaret Richardson of Beverley AC



Matt Chadwick (archive photo)

Several Beverley athletes travelled to the Yorkshire Dales last Saturday to compete in the Wharfedale half-marathon and Rugger Ramble.

The half-marathon is a category BL fell race with some challenging terrain which included a 1 in 3 hill. Conditions were perfect underfoot and although a strong north-easterly wind made the going tough at times, athletes enjoyed fine weather with the temperature ideal for tackling the very challenging climbs.

The first Beverley athlete to finish the half-marathon was Matt Chadwick in 1.41:00 and in 14th place overall. He was followed closely by Darren Rodmell in 1.44:22. Andy Johnson completed the course in 1.51:00, five minutes faster than last year. Experienced off-road athlete Pete McNally finished first in the MV65 category just ahead of Frank Harrison who had run alongside him for much of the race.

The first lady home for Beverley was Helen Storr. She completed the course in 2.13:09, almost 30 minutes faster than in 2010! Helen is training for the Lakeland Trail marathon in July so the fell race was good preparation. Also competing in the half marathon were cousins Jacqui Dickinson and Denise Thompson who finished in 3.07:38 and 3.07:37 respectively.

Some Beverley athletes chose to enjoy the spectacular Dales scenery by taking part in the Rugger Ramble, a walk following the half-marathon route. Having started an hour and a half before the half-marathon runners, the walkers were delighted to cheer on their team mates as they ran past.

Margaret Richardson commented that "it was the hardest 13 mile walk I have ever done" but she was amazed that she finished 4 minutes faster than in the recent Windmill Way event which is much flatter.



Helen Storr (archive photo)

Beverley AC finishing times in the half-marathon:

Matt Chadwick 1:41:00; Darren Rodmell 1:44:22; Andy Johnson 1:51:00; Helen Storr 2:13:09; Pete McNally 3:00:17; Frank Harrison 3:00:43; Denise Thompson 3:37:37; Jacqui Dickinson 3:07:38

Beverley AC finishing times in the Rugger Ramble:

Moira Armstrong 3:49:43; Ross Armstrong 3:49:46; Margaret Richardson 4:16:56; Brian Richardson 4:17:34; Mike Blamires 4:49:34.



Members of Beverley AC celebrate their achievements after the race