

3 Peaks Race Report for 2007

Yet again we were blessed with good weather, so good that one of the long-standing competitors, a 21 races plus, said it was the best conditions ever for the race. Having said that, our marshals on Ingleborough complained about how cold it was during their five hour stint on the summit.

Congratulations to Rob Jebb on completing his hat trick of wins in the fastest time this century, Rob's strength on the climb up Whernside was the decisive factor and he went on open a gap of four minutes by Ingleborough summit. Mary Wilkinson's last minute decision to run was rewarded by recording the fastest ladies time since 1999. Her presence also enabled Bingley to achieve a win in the team race over the pre race favourites Ilkley. The men's team went to Dark Peak despite Ian Holmes' third place overall and first vets award, giving Bingley two places in the top three.

Other veteran's awards went to Andy Hauser, Keiran Carr, Christine Preston and Wendy Dodds. However, with due respect to these excellent performances, the run of the day was surely by eighteen years old Sedbergh School boy Simon Barnby. Simon went with the leaders on Pen y Ghent and against many expectations hung on to take the eighth place award and also the first Newcomer Trophy. The revised route to the finish was not only much safer but also slightly shorter. Not many people would welcome 500 runners crossing through their garden and we are very grateful to the Smith family for this concession.

In some ways this year's race was a rehearsal for 2008 when the Three Peaks will incorporate the World Long Distance Challenge. Our main sponsor staged some family entertainment events on the Start/Finish field which were very well received but the inflatable finish gantry was, perhaps, not quite so successful. Given a stronger breeze it may have ended up on Pen y Ghent or at least in the river Ribble.

Nonetheless, our grateful thanks to Northern Rail for their generous contribution, their staff are a pleasure to work with. We must also thank Hanson's Quarry and Pete Bland Sports for their financial support.

Acknowledgements

We had over eighty marshals out on the course and many not only turn up on race day but also give their time to attend pre and post race briefings. Our thanks to them. We are also glad to acknowledge the help from: - Raynet, Sportident. Cave Rescue Organisation, Horton Playing Fields Association, West Yorkshire Ambulance Service, the Police, and the farmers and landowners without whose co-operation the event could not take place.