

## Jack Bloor Race Report

8<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Held on Ilkley Moor this classic 8.4 km navigational fell race was established in 1985 to commemorate the life of an acclaimed Yorkshire sportsman.

After the very hot Bank Holiday weekend runners enjoyed a cooler evening for the race. Jack Wood took the Jack Bloor Men's Senior Race title for a record fourth consecutive year finishing in a time of 39 minutes 20 seconds. Close behind were Robert Little and Jack Cummings making it a 1, 2, 3 for local club Ilkley Harriers.

Shaving 2 minutes 14 seconds of his previous time, Jack Cummings of Langbar also retained the men's U23 Arthur Dolphin trophy for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year running.

First veteran and 7<sup>th</sup> overall was Peter Darwood. Course record-holder Greg Hull took the MV50 title running for Leeds City AC. As in 2017, first MV60 was Ben Grant of Harrogate Harriers whilst Dave Tait retained his MV70 title for Dark Peak FR.

In addition to his own sporting accomplishments, Jack Bloor was renowned for encouraging young people to engage in outdoor sport. All monies raised from these annual races go to the Jack Bloor Fund that helps support young Yorkshire people to develop physical and technical skills in any recognised outdoor adventure sport.

Applicants must be under-26, either from or based in Yorkshire and be a member of a Yorkshire sports club or a national sport governing body. Applications are welcome at any time. Further details can be found at [www.jackbloor.co.uk](http://www.jackbloor.co.uk)

During the last year the Fund made seventeen grants. Activities included racing in international cyclocross events, training and assessment for the Single Pitch Award in climbing and competing in the 5-day Iron Tour Triathlon. The Fund is supporting cross-country runner Rosie Watson from Leeds in her bid to run the entire length of the Pyrenees via the Haute Route.

Rosie's last minute decision to enter tonight's race saw her rewarded by winning the Jack Bloor Women's Senior Race trophy at her first attempt. Representing Cumberland Fell Runners her winning time was 48 mins 35 seconds. In an exciting sprint finish, Chloe Haines of Dark Peak Fell Runners took second place just 4 seconds down. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> position overall was Ilkley Harriers' Helen Wood who also won the Pat Bloor Women's U23 trophy.

Carol Morgan of Nidd Valley retained the Mike Rose Bowl for again winning the WV40 class. Natasha Geere took the WV50 title for Spenborough whilst first WV60 was Hilda Cousey of Ilkley Harriers.

Senior prize-winners receive one of the coveted Jack Bloor Small Trophies. Hand-crafted by James Fonquernie of Leeds, these glazed clay figures portray a different rock carving found on Ilkley Moor. The 2018 trophy features the Potato Head Rock.

Throughout the rest of the field individual runners sought to improve on their personal best, battled with rivals or simply enjoyed the challenge and atmosphere of the race.

With three runners to count, Ilkley Harriers took first place in the men's team competition with Pudsey & Bramley 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wharfedale Harriers 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the women's category, the leading Ilkley Harriers team of Helen Wood, Kate Archer and Rachel Carter took first place with Otley AC second.

We are extremely grateful to our senior race sponsor, the Flying Duck Pub in Ilkley. Occupying one of the oldest buildings in Ilkley, this Church Street hostelry is home to the Wharfedale Brewery. A bottle of Wharfedale beer was presented to senior class and team winners whilst all runners were rewarded with a Flying Duck voucher.

Loyal sponsor and supporter of the Jack Bloor races and the Memorial Fund, Terry Lonergan of Complete Runner kindly provided the race numbers.

Earlier in the evening, junior runners tackled courses of half a mile, one mile or 1.5 miles in one of five age-based classes (U9, U11, U13, U15, U19). Many were there simply to enjoy the occasion with several trying their first fell race. More experienced runners strived for a podium position giving rise to some very close and exciting contests in the last metres of the run-in.

Hugo Bishop of Wharfedale Harriers shaved 15 seconds of his previous win to retake the U9 boys race title in just 3 minutes 50 seconds. First girl was Francesca Bagot of Settle Harriers. Only five seconds separated first and second U11 girl with Jessica Rawstron of Otley AC just pipping Wharfedale Harriers' Isabella Wright to second place. Alexander Wolfenden won the U11 boys race for Ilkley Harriers.

Ilkley Harriers shone in the U13 races with Seth Toye winning the boys' race and Erin Doyle the girls'. Jenson Brogden of Otley AC took the boys' U15 title whilst Harrogate Harriers' Eve and Alexandra Whitaker took 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. In the U19 girls' race Bernadette Raven won for Ilkley Harriers whilst Eric Beaumont of Keighley & Craven AC took the boys' title in 11 mins 18 secs.

The Jack Bloor Junior Races are kindly sponsored by Ilkley's popular community café, Outside The Box, located at the junction of Church Street and Bridge Lane. Every junior runner was rewarded with a café voucher. The top three boys and girls in each category were presented with certificates together with elaborate handcrafted cookie-medals, designed, baked, decorated and presented by the team from Outside The Box Café.

As ever, thanks go to our sponsors and members of the Gritstone Club, Airienteers, Ilkley Harriers and all our other supporters who make this sporting and community event possible.

Rob King

Race Organiser & Jack Bloor Fund Trustee