

Jack Bloor Race Report

14th May 2019

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.

This 34th annual race was one of the most exciting with records made and broken.

Running for Leeds University, Ilkley girl Jemima Elgood made history by taking nine seconds off the women's race record that had stood since 2010. Finishing in a time of 45 minutes 19 seconds Jemima won both the Jack Bloor Women's Trophy and the Pat Bloor Women's U23 Trophy.

Leeds University's talented young squad also took 2nd and 3rd places with Lauren Dickson and Antonia Fan both running the course for the first time.

Jack Wood of Ilkley Harriers took the Jack Bloor Men's Senior Race title for a record fifth consecutive year finishing in his best ever time of 38 minutes 52 seconds. Running for Pudsey & Bramley, Neal Crampton took second place and Leeds University's Tim Stratton third.

The senior race saw a record entry of 239 runners representing clubs from as far afield as Kirkstall, Knaresborough and Goole. Adding an international flavour, Roger Comellas of Spain came 21st overall and won the Men's U23 Arthur Dolphin trophy.

Pete Darwood was 9th overall and won the newly created Bloor Family Trophy for the first male veteran. Greg Hull of Leeds City retained his MV50 title and saw his 2007 course record stand unbeaten for another year. Both running for Harrogate Harriers, Ian Rowbotham and Ben Grant won the M60 and M70 titles with Ben finishing in a very impressive sub-52 minute time.

Ilkley Harrier Rachel Carter won the Mike Rose Trophy for first woman over-40 whilst club-mate Joyce Marshall won the over-50 class. With just a ten second margin the women's over-60 title was won by Caroline Clarke of Pudsey Pacers.

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

During the last year the Fund made twenty grants supporting activities ranging from pre-season warm-weather athletics training, trekking in Icelandic mountains and competing in orienteering at international level.

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 2019 trophy features the Winners Stone near Fenny Shaw Beck.

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 the team competition saw a record entry of 14 men's and 7 women's teams vying for top spot. Representing Pudsey & Bramley, Neal Crampton, Graham Pearce and Neil Armitage took first place in the men's team competition. Ilkley Harriers were second followed by North Leeds Fell Runners. In the women's category, Jemima Elgood, Lauren Dickson and Antonia Fan secured first place for Leeds University with Harrogate Harriers placed second and Ilkley Harriers third.

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.

Robert Carter of Ilkley Harriers won the fast and furious U9 boys race in just 3 minutes 42 seconds only 5 seconds ahead of club-mate Ben Richardson. First girl and 4th overall was Agnes Gallagher-Thompson running for Otley AC. Hugo Bishop took top spot in his first outing in the boy's U11 class. With a very impressive second place overall, first girl U11 was Bethan Buckley representing Keighley & Craven AC. Katie Buckley was first girl in the U13 race that fielded 31 runners. Ilkley Harriers' Alexander Wolfenden won the boy's U13 class. Amelie Lane of Wharfedale Harriers was both first girl and first overall in the U15s race with Ilkley Harrier Sam Bentham first boy. Experiencing the combined mass start of over 50 runners, Tom Midwood won the U19 race for Harrogate Harriers whilst Ilkley Harrier Isabel Macina was first girl.

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