

My Favourite Race

Black Combe seems to rise out of the sea – it feels far from the Lakes somehow. The race itself is varied – steep climb to start that eases into a runnable ascent, you then sweep round the ‘combe’ onto White Combe. Then there is a fantastic descent to the foot of the combe where the whole hillside seems to open up in front of you – it is so remote here it is like being in Scotland. Then the killer climb back up to Black Combe – but a different cairn so take care in the mist! And a fantastic runnable grassy descent where the sea opens up below you – back to the village hall where soup and banter awaits. I love this race! Be inspired and enter it in 2008!

Ali Richards

Fave Race 'Traces des bouquetins' in Pralognan in the French Alps. Why?, because it was a holiday race, because I had perfect training for it, because it had a 2 mile downhill finish, because the sun was shining & the scenery was spectacular and because on the run in I could hear the crowd, yes there was a crowd, shouting 'allez, la premiere dame' which was me!!!!

Kath

Mine has to be Lingmell, even though I won my first race EVER this year (not a REAL race, but a night orienteering badge event in Saddleworth). The Glory of chasing down Mr Jebb to be 8th in The Lingmell (the-race-that-frags-your-legs-so-bad-out-can't-walk-without-squeeling-like-a-pig-for-a-week) Dash (he had to run hard..... to beat the course record). A great camping weekend (amazing swifts bagging flying bugs at the National Trust camp site), good company, a lovely family weekend, incredible weather (I took many pictures of clouds and double rainbows) and laughing at three peakers (all clad in the same outfits, like they had escaped from a home for the confused) with the great mountain rescue folks. But best of all - running so hard I exhausted myself.

Ben Crowther

As I have not been competitive at all this year apart from MMM in Jan, can I nominate my race to get out of Burnley General Hospital before MRSA coughed up with me, as my fav'

Ray

I think this year it has to be Jura.

I loved every minute of the 17 miles and few thousand feet of climb. The weather was perfect, the views were amazing, and guiding Mark Russell of GQ around the course was more rewarding than achieving a PB for myself. He went back to London understanding a bit about why fell runners love their hills.

Chrispy

The Kinder Trog-bits of everything except road-runnable hills, great views and grassy descents without too much of the loose stuff to trip me up!!

Mel B

My most memorable race of 2007 has to be the Ian Hodgson Relay in October. The great running conditions and congenial atmosphere was stopped only by the honour of running alongside Ben Crowther. We set off

on the first leg in a strong position at the rear of the field, in order to feel the benefit of over-taking later in the race. We soon dug in and flung aside our gung-ho attitude, replacing it with sweat, pain and chatter. I'll skip the detail and leap to the glorious end. After over-taking all but 44 of the teams who ran off in front of us at the beginning, we reached the final descent to hand over to Kath Brierley and Kerry Edwards. Running down Red Screes was fast, furious and very exciting. Despite his reputation, Ben proved himself to be the perfect running partner, so many thanks to him and all the other Toddies for taking part and supporting that day

Nick

The National Police Cross Country Championships in March 2007. This took place in Cromer, Norfolk a 'challenging' but thoroughly enjoyable course. The course took us along the beach in soft sand, up 285 steep steps and along undulating grassy sand dunes.

3 days off work to compete, and the sun came out too ... very pleasant.

And the Veteran Ladies picked up a 3rd place Team Prize for West Yorkshire Police at the evening presentation Do.

(Beats working for a living !)

Mel S

The Rab Mountain Marathon

A mountain marathon with only 150 competitors sparsely spread out over a big chunk of the South Lakes. Two days with Richard 'there's a trod round

here... somewhere' Leonard looking for little orange pyramids around Coniston, Dunnerdale and Langdale.

Glorious weather, stunning views, sore feet, chocolate pudding for tea, and a pub within reach at the overnight camp. Perfect.

Colin Duffield

This seems all too boringly predictable, but after careful thought (well, a couple of minutes trying to think back over the past 12 months) the answer has to be Jura. The weather this year was simply ideal for the race, with none of the usual navigation problems around the first three summits, and with the reward of fantastic views across to Islay and Colonsay from the Jura paps. Pretty well organised race, too...

Andrew Bibby

Shepherd Skyline

A great family afternoon trip to the pub with a Junior and Senior fell race thrown in to boot ! After the initial log-jam of the climb up from the start, once you get onto the skyline it's a great whizz along to the Pike before throwing yourself off the side down to London Road (I always lose at least 2 places usually to some reckless cartwheeling fool - a triumph for reckless over feckless !)

The drag back up to the skyline is misery but, after that, the last 2 miles to the finish is a whizz over the moors (this makes me sound really fast!) to the funnel finish where the crowd give you a really warm welcome back. Finished off with a nice pint in the pub.

In summary a tremendous winter race, sensible distance, loads of top runners all enjoying the atmosphere, and a great finish.

Andy McFie

Weasdale is my choice for favourite race of 2007.It's the same area as my choice for 2006 [Howgills]. The descent is one to die for. Totally recommended for next year. Salut !

Martin

My favourite race was the TWO RIGGS which started in St. Johns in the Vale near Keswick in a rustic farmyard. It was an evening race in May and lambs were gamboling about in the fields,the birds were singing, the fells were looking fantastic and most of Borrowdale were there!!(say no more!) It's 1650ft and 6.5 miles long so quite steady by lakeland standards. We set off along an interesting path which involved ducking under

branches (not recommended for anyone taller than 5ft 8inches!)and crossing numerous becks before heading off up the first Rigg a lovely fell which overlooks Keswick- the field soon scattered and it was delightful running on short grass through rocky outcrops, on to the next Rigg. A great descent followed by a fast mile back along the valley bottom to the farm as the sun was just setting.

The farmer had opened up his barn for the prizegiving where there was loads of homemade cakes and tea. I even won first v.40! which added the icing to the cake. 🍌

Sue

Well I have a lot to choose from - my first injury free year for yonks. Not much doubt about my first choice - Turnslack. This race is one of my favourites, a classic A category fell race with a bit of everything, fast running in the first half if it is not too boggy and then a couple of tough climbs and great descents. Laid back organisation, quirky prizegiving and great cakes at the finish. The race has a bit of history - it was the 30th anniversary and Tod Harriers have performed very well here in the past (Andrew Wrench is a triple winner), I first did the race sometime in the late 80's. I had a bit of unfinished business with the race because last year I ended up in Rochdale Infirmary suffering from dehydration so was well pleased that I had no mishaps this year and finished in a good position. Just goes to prove that you don't have to travel too far for great fell racing.

Dave Collins

For me it was today's! The Calderdale Way Relay... Not done many races in '07 because of injuries but I thoroughly enjoyed what is my favourite leg - Leg 3. It's fairly short and is more uphill than down without anything particularly steep to contend with. Enjoyed the banter with Lee, and the usual friendly, supportive atmosphere you get at relay events.(The weather was surprisingly good too!)

Simon G.

Favourite race? This is the sort of question beloved by Calder Valley. Lets think what makes this club special and contemplate 'Pack Run Pub of the Year'. So, a notable mention for the spread laid on by the Robin Hood, but my vote goes to the Kebs: great beer - quality and price - good food, atmosphere and location.

(PS. Worst race: Cragg Vale an unholy mix of tree roots, bog and tarmac. Calder Valley's, therefore no pub to drink in afterwards.)

Dave O'Neill