

JURA

The Isle of Jura Fell Race took place last Saturday from Craighouse off the west coast of Scotland. The route takes in the famous Paps of Jura on a 17 miles route which includes 7600 feet of climbing. The race is renowned as one of the toughest fell races in the British Isles. Much of the route is off paths, with the runners climbing, sliding and stumbling through steep rocky ground, then throwing themselves down scree slopes and grassy banks. In between this there were boggy expanses to cross, no one knowing when their foot could disappear beneath them at any moment. The race was won in a new record time by Hector Haines of Hunters Bog Trotters over 12 minutes ahead of the next runner. Dan Taylor of Todmorden led the way for the club over the first 3 hills and up the giant first pap. He was caught towards the top of the second pap by Phil Hodgson, who used the experience of his 10th Jura Race to catch Dan by using a different route to the top. Phil disappeared down the other side of the mountain and up the 3rd pap with great speed. A quick run up the last hill and down to the river and he only had to then negotiate the 3.5 miles of road to the finish.

This is well known as a very tough challenge after the mountains the runners have already climbed. Phil managed to keep going well to finish in 4 hours 44 minutes his best time for a few years. Dan followed him home to finish in 4 hours 51, 15 minutes quicker than last year. The next top runner Rob Tyson was in his first Jura and had a great run finishing just over 5 hours 10 minutes, just ahead of Andrew Bibby. Richard Leonard managed to beat his better half Jane for once showing that riding a bike can help you to climb mountains. Last top runner was Ben Beckwith who in his first AL race did well to compete the toughest of races. A great evening then commenced with many Jura Whiskys, beers and glasses of wine being drunk, before the festivities moved to the Village Hall for dancing at the Ceilidh.

Finishing positions

83 Phil Hodgson 4.43.36
98 Dan Taylor 4.51.11
118 Rob Tyson 5.08.02
121 Andrew Bibby 5.10.48
148 Richard Leonard 5.30.30
153 Jane Leonard 5.34.47
171 Ben Beckwith 5.51.38

