

## **WITHINS SKYLINE RACE REPORT**

### **MUD, FLOOD, WIND AND HAIL**

Hostile weather caused a route change to the 7<sup>th</sup> Withins Skyline senior race, the reason, it was deemed that the mile long stretch along the actual Skyline from Oxenhope Stoop to Top Withins ruin was too inhospitable.

So the route taken was the main tourist path via Bronte Bridge to the Top Withins ruin, and straight back the same way to Penistone Hill, approximately 6 mile/800ft. Even this route meant the 140 runners had to contend with appalling weather thick mud and deep standing water along much of the route, with several runners being blown literally off their feet.

“ I’m glad we didn’t run the proper Skyline race, it was a very wise decision. Although if we had, certainly my winning margin would have been more. It was lucky for Ian Holmes that he’s away racing in Italy at the moment !”, said a relieved and mischievous race winner, Robert Jebb.

This was only Roberts second win, the other being way back in May at Coniston, in between he has been concentrating on the British and English championships, where he finished 6<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively along with other high profile events. This British telecom engineer will be a major contender in 1999, “ I’m only 23, and I’ve a long way to go, and hopefully a lot of improvement left”.

Carol Greenwood, the now twice winner, floundered in the heavy conditions, her slight frame preventing her from ploughing through the quagmire, and enabling the strong winds to whip her feet away. The ever improving Lisa Lacon always fairs well on the Haworth Moor Woodheads race routes, although she always seems to be thwarted at her attempts to win one of the events....your day will come Lisa!

The juniors in the quarry races, competed in the worst of the weather, gale force winds and horizontal rain, failed to put the fourteen competitors off their stride. We only had one under 16 runner, so Anna Jagan opted to run the first lap with the under fourteens, and the second lap solo to win the under 16’s prize.

James Greenhalgh was an easy winner in five and a half minutes, with David Hassell second and James Dunn third, these finished first U14, U12 and U9 respectively. In the girls Freya Jagan and Nicola Walker won the U12 and U14, all juniors welcomed the free hot coffee and biscuits more than their goody bags of can of pop, crisps, chocolate bar, bag of sweets and tongue painter lolly.

Not to be seen to favour the young ones the senior finishers received a Cadburys chocolate bar and a unique flavoured bag of Seabrooks crisps, SWEETCORN flavour, yes you read right, SWEETCORN, hmmmmm.

**DARBY AND JOAN**