

9. M. Clewes O/50	Mercia	1.16.51
10. E. Taylor	Hereford	1.17.16

VETERANS O/50

1. (9) M. Clewes	Mercia	1.16.51
2. (11) A. Woods	MynDu	1.17.26
3. (25) D. Powell	Aberyst	1.20.40

VETERANS O/60

1. (59) D. Smout	BrynBach	1.28.00
2. (76) S. Herington	Hereford	1.30.06
3. (180) G. Gunner	CroftAmb	1.45.24

VETERANS O/70

1. (234) P. Norman	Wrex	1.57.02
2. (27) K. Watkins	Unatt	2.11.03
3. (276) M. Ward	Oswest	2.21.40

LADIES

1. (18) A. Rowlands	Eryri	1.19.34
2. (27) P. Webster	Aberyst	1.20.59
3. (38) K. Bailey	Staffs	1.23.21
4. (44) H. Skelton	Newp	1.25.08
5. (51) A. Bartlett O/40	Shrews	1.25.56
(53) V. Swinger O/40	Shorp	1.26.09

289 finishers

THE 21ST STOOP RACE BS/5m/800ft 19.12.10

Nine o'clock on Penistone Hill, blue skies sat over the Haworth moorland, and with the snow covering it was a Christmas picture postcard setting. Add into the equation that to celebrate the 21st running of this race, all competitors had to wear a Santa hat throughout the race, which was given free at registration. All was in place to make this a great spectacle. Imagine 200 Santa hats bobbing up and down as they snaked over the moors to the Stoop checkpoint, what fantastic photos and videos would have been had. But by 9.30 a.m., the English weather had put paid to those thoughts with a blanket of mist enveloping everything in its path. Disappointing, yes, but the plus side was there was a race to be run! This mist along with the atrocious winter weather recently, meant that the original up and down route of Oxenhope Stoop was brought in to play for the second year running, mind you with the rest of Britain in grid lock because of the

snow and ice, and virtually all other sport events cancelled, we considered ourselves "lucky".

Under 8 winner, Callum Durrans, shouted 'GO' to the 182 sea of Santa hats assembled in the quarry, off they went in to the mist. Ian 'the legend' Holmes won for the eleventh time, although this was his first time since the year 2000. 45 year old Ian this year had 32 year old Andi Jones, the 2005 and 2007 winner who competed in the marathon at the European and Commonwealth Games, for company, but managed to shake him off on the frozen bracken banking to win by 13 seconds. "My pitter patter style works better in these snowy and icy conditions, Andi and Tom Adams were slipping and sliding a lot more due to their stride length", said Ian who has now won the V40 Category for the last six years. He is also the record holder for this route at 26.36 set in 1995.

Tom Adams finished third and improved his time by 1.41, while U23 English champion Sam Tosh was fourth, also improving his time by 1.34. The Wharfedale boys of Gareth Hird in sixth, Nicholas Charlesworth in seventh and Matthew Athersmith in eleventh each won a Christmas yard of Jaffa cakes.

'Scary' Mary Wilkinson, the female Bunny Run record holder, lived up to her name by scaring most of the men folk by finishing fifteenth overall in 34.40, scaring under 18 winner Jonnie Bradshaw, previous Bunny Run winner Mick Hill, and Tom Sessford in to running a lot faster than they would have done as she won her second Stoop event. The last one was in 2001 when the then 21 year old Mary, the Yorkshire fells champion finished in 69th placed with a time of 36.21. 2001 was the year the Brownlee brothers Alistair and Jonathan first ran a fell race competing in the junior races.

Jo Buckley and 2009 Stoop winner, Helen Glover, had a right old tussle for the runner up spot with only 7 seconds separating them at the end, with 34 year old Jo prevailing. 26 year old Helen did have the consolation that she ran one minute faster than last year, while Ian and Andi were slower. What a gal, Nichola Hackson showed all the competitors up by setting a new record in the U18 category for this route, the Preston Harrier took 49 seconds off Emma Hopkinson's 1997 time. Sorry for the mistake in the ladies' team, but it was the girls of Calder Valley fell runners who won with Jo Buckley in second, Barbara Lonsdale in ninth and Cerys Davies in eleventh.

83 Santa hat clad juniors tackled the snow bound quarry courses, where amendments had to be made to the routes taking out the craggy quarry climb, which was too snowy and icy, while in the longer races the lake was frozen solid and covered in snow, so a slight re-route was done here, to stop any over zealous youngster being tempted to cut diagonally across. Callum Durrans won the U'8s race in 2.47, Freddie Harris finished second, just, with Jack Muir in third, who ran dressed in a Santa Claus costume. Ella Atkins won the girls again 'just from Annie Brown who ran as Mrs Claus with Amelie Stewart in third. U14 English silver medallist James Hall won the combined U10, 12 and 14 race for the second year in a row from Tom McGuinness. Tom's sister, Lily won the GU12 category in sixth overall. U12 English champion Seth Waterman finished fourth and first U12, another Holmfirth Harrier Jimmy Burke won the U10, and yet another Sophie Spencer won the GU14. Clayton Le Moors, who have never had juniors before have opened their doors to the younger element and the historic vest made famous by Ron Hill. Harry

Shane Green as Scooby Doo at The Stoop



Walker, Sean Livesey, the late Stan Bradshaw and Vanessa Peacock to name but a few is being carried with pride and success now by Natalya Irvine the GU10 winner. Sam Haggar won the U16 race in 12.49, while saying farewell to the junior section. Rosie Hellowell ended her Quarry run career with yet another win, Rosie has come through all the age groups and is a shining example to any youngster, that cheeky smile and banter is what the sport is all about. Watch out seniors – here comes Rosie! Many thanks to all who ran in fancy dress, sorry we only had 8 yards of Jaffa Cakes, hope the winners Ciaren Crabtree, Lewis Hodgson, Kieran Green, Kitty Ballantine, Alex Baker, Annie Roberts, Andrew Macdonald and Sally Handford enjoyed their much deserved prizes, but a big well done to everyone. A big thank you from both of us for the wonderful surprise of the art work presented to us by Shane Green on behalf of all the competitors in recognition of 21 years of organising the Stoop race, we were really taken aback and touched by the gesture. If we carry on for another 21 years we'll be in our 70s, God help us, but would you bet against it?

Dave Woodhead

1. I. Homes O/40	Bing	29.46
2. A. Jones	Salf	29.59
3. T. Adams	Ilk	31.42
4. S. Tosh	Ross	31.52
5. G. Devine O/40	P&B	32.47
6. G. Hird	Wharf	32.58
7. N. Charlesworth O/40	Wharf	33.08
8. M. Athersmith	Wharf	34.08
9. A. Rees O/40	Holmf	34.09
10. S. Smithies O/40	CaldV	34.21

VETERANS O/50

1. (30) I. Ferguson	Bing	37.14
2. (38) K. Binns	FellP	37.38
3. (48) M. Roberts	Tod	38.08

VETERANS O/60

1. (102) J. Cox	Middle	43.19
2. (118) P. Jagan	Bing	45.14
3. (123) R. Blakeley	Tod	46.09

LADIES

1. (15) M. Wilkinson	Bing	34.40
2. (26) J. Buckley	CaldV	36.57
3. (28) H. Glover	Kghly	37.04
4. (35) N. Jackson U/18	Prest	37.28
5. (49) C. Lambert U/18	Wether	38.15
(89) K. Ballantine O/40	Kghly	42.20
(111) S. Williams O/40	Ilk	44.11
(147) E. Milnes O/50	Tod	50.23
(152) L. Howard O/50	Retf	50.46

181 finishers

CURLY WURLY UNDER 8 FUN RACE

0.5m/100ft

1. C. Durrans	Holmf	2.47
2. F. Harris	Unatt	2.52
3. J. Muir	Wharf	2.53
(7) E. Atkins Girl	Pendle	3.12
(8) A. Brown Girl	Ilk	3.14
(15) E. Waterman Girl	Holm	3.57

27 finishers

CURLY WURLY U10, U12 & U14 RACE

1m/150ft

1. J. Hall U/14	Wharf	6.20
2. T. McGuinness U/14	EChesh	6.48
3. H. Muir U/14	Wharf	6.58
4. S. Waterman U/12	Holm	6.59
(6) L. McGuinness Girl U/12	EChesh	7.30
(10) J. Burke U/10	Holm	7.50
(12) S. Spencer Girl U/14	Holm	8.07
(21) N. Irvine Girl U/10	Clay	8.36

46 finishers

CURLY WURLY UNDER 16 RACE

2m/300ft

1. S. Haggar	Wharf	12.49
2. D. Bulmer	Wharf	12.53
3. R. Hinchcliff	Holmf	14.00
(5) R. Hellowell Girl	Kghly	14.56
(7) A. Roberts Girl	Kghly	16.04

7 finishers

WHINBERRY NAZE

Lancashire

BS/4m/750ft 26.12.10

Thankfully the wintry weather didn't deter too many people as 132 runners headed to the hills, with a good proportion, as tradition dictates, in fancy dress, in fact some of the best we've seen in years. Earlier in the day we had struggled to mark out the course as the ground was so frozen that we only just managed to get the flags in place, and even then with the help of a sizeable hammer and chisel. We were grateful, as usual, to the Rossendale and Pendle Mountain Rescue team, who were in attendance but thankfully their services weren't required and we ended the day with no injuries or accidents

James Logue was the first over the finishing line after climbing Whinberry Naze, and then Cowpe Lowe, where Santa and his elves were waiting to dispense gifts to the runners, before they looped back to the finish through ice and snowdrifts. Brendon Taylor was the first local harrier finishing in fourth place, just a minute after the winner, and he was followed by Stephen Mr Potato head, Spongebob Squarepants, Edward Scissor Hands, several Supermen, a pair of nuns, Jesus and the Pope! The runners certainly embraced the spirit of the occasion and there were chimney sweeps, a small flock of sheep complete with collie dog, several Santas, accompanied by elves, and a trio of Roman goddesses, not to mention pirates, punks, Eskimos, witches, wizards and ghouls of various kinds.

Due to the freezing conditions I insisted that the runners carried full body cover, just as well, because when they lined it up for the fancy dress judging it became apparent that several had opted for almost no body covering! I have noticed a trend in recent years for semi naked costumes and had considered a separate category for this, although I'm not sure that I should encourage it. Having said that, if you read "Studmarks on the Summit" you'll discover that there is a history of naked fell running in the area. At Rossendale we have discussed reviving the tradition although it's probably more of a summer thing.

Steve Duxbury

CRUIM LEACAINN HILL RACE

Fort William

11.5km/250m 26.12.10

1. C. Mitchell	Shettle	47.50
2. D. Rodgers O/40	Lochab	48.34
3. T. Smith	Lochab	48.41
4. E. Taylor	Perth	49.38
5. G. Cairns O/40	Lochab	50.06
6. J. Hepburn O/40	Lochab	50.48
7. J. Gay	Lochab	51.02
8. O. Blomfield	Lochab	52.01
9. B. Thompson	Unatt	52.17
10. D. Paterson	Lochab	53.10

VETERANS O/50

1. (19) D. Duncan	Ochil	58.52
2. (28) J. Treasurer	Lochab	64.52
3. (38) J. Hynd	Lochab	72.00

VETERANS O/60

1. (27) M. Tighe	Lochab	64.37
2. (37) E. Orr	Lochab	71.24



LADIES

1. (13) E. O'Shea	Dees	54.04
2. (14) D. Scott	Lochab	54.05
3. (22) N. Forster O/40	Lochab	61.20
4. (24) L. Pring O/40	Unatt	62.42
5. (48) E. Murdoch O/60	Lochab	87.40

48 finishers