

Yorkshire Relish!

By Dave & Eileen Woodhead

Yorkshire has always relished the chance to compete in the British U15, U17 & U19 Inter Counties Fell & Hill Running Championship races and is in fact the only county that has fielded a full compliment of teams since the races were inaugurated in 2012 at the Shining Tor event in Derbyshire. Over the decade Yorkshire have amassed a medal tally second to none, which is the envy of all the other counties. There's something about pulling on that coveted white and blue vest embossed with the Yorkshire rose that makes athletes feel that bit taller, stronger and willing to give their all. Several athletes went above and beyond this looking at their blistered feet and even commented that on the descent their feet were virtually on fire.



2022 saw the championships on home soil at the Great Whernside – Spring Edition races, Kettlewell, North Yorkshire, these races were also a part of the English Junior Fell Championships. The selected athletes certainly didn't disappoint, with Team Yorkshire in the individual races winning two Gold, three Silver and four Bronze medals, whilst in the Team races Yorkshire won three Gold, one Silver and two Bronze sets of medals.

BU15 race		GU15 race	
Gold	Jack Sanderson	5th	Graihagh Turner
Silver	Archie Peaker	6th	Izzy Wright
Bronze	Ewen Wilkinson	11th	Izzy-Mai Wilson
Team Gold Medals		Team Bronze Medals	
MU17 race		WU17 race	
Silver	Jonah Cooper	Bronze	Amelie Lane
12th	Archie Budding	7th	Megan Wilkinson
17th	Aston Brogden	12th	Charlotte Chambers
Team Bronze Medals		Team Silver Medals	
MU19 race		WU19 race	
Bronze	William Hall	Gold	Eve Whitaker
5th	Theo Clay	Silver	Rebecca Flaherty
7th	Freddie Roden	Bronze	Isabel Richardson
Team Gold Medals		Team Gold Medals	

Ten years on the races have evolved, with more counties competing now, this year saw 13 counties being represented with Essex, Avon & Somerset, East Wales and Merseyside causing a stir amongst the traditional Cumbria, Lancashire, Derbyshire, North Wales and Yorkshire competitors. In the earlier years the age categories were U16 and U18, which were then in 2017 changed to U17 and U19 so they came in line with other Inter County events.

Finally in 2021 the Inter Counties introduced a U15 category, a much welcomed and deserved addition, as out of the three age groups this yields the largest amount of competitors and we will hopefully see these youngsters challenging for medals in the U17 and U19 age categories in future years.

