

Yorkshire at the 2024 British U15, U17 & U19 Inter County Fell Running Championships

The U15, U17 and U19 British Inter County Fell Running Championships took place at Cowpe, Rossendale on Sunday 9th June 2024, where they were last held in 2017.

In 2017 the age categories were changed from U16 and U18 to U17 and U19. Since then the U15 age category was introduced at the Up The Nab, Derbyshire races in 2021 to allow younger athletes to compete in the championships.

It's also great to see that more county teams are competing with Devon, Cheshire, Shropshire, Merseyside and Scotland Districts now taking on the challenge.

The courses were similar and the weather was if anything slightly worse than in 2017, especially for the U15 race where the rain just kept coming making the course muddy and slippery in parts. It did however stop for the U17 and U19 races.

In the U15 race 4.2k/230m just short of a hundred runners toed the start line as the heavens opened, before climbing to Cowpe Lowe which is actually where Santa Claus hands out Smarties at the Boxing Day Whinberry Naze Dash Fell Race. Unfortunately the first runner home was disqualified due to not carrying the full kit requirements, making Leo Dallmeier Cottle of Devon the Champion with Thomas Wood of Cheshire Silver and Timothy Falle of Devon Bronze. Devon won the team with 4 points from Cumbria 14 points and Scotland East 17 points. Yorkshire with Robert Carter 6th, Joseph Stone 13th and Ted Parker 23rd just missed the medals by two points.

Selected athlete Harry Cliff unfortunately was struck down with appendicitis so was unable to compete for Yorkshire, but showing great Yorkshire grit he surprised everyone by turning up to support his friends and team mates. That says it all about the county of Yorkshire and the merits of athletics.

Clara McKee of Yorkshire retained the GU15 title with Isla Jebb of Cumbria Silver and Isla Yorke of Merseyside Bronze, Clara led Yorkshire to Team Gold just like in 2023 with Bethan Buckley 7th and Maisie Oddy 12th, Lancashire took Team Silver 11 points just one point ahead of Cumbria.



The combined U17 and U19 race had a massive field of 112 who were relieved the weather had relented. The U17 race 6.5k/380m was out and back to Whittle Hill and the massive wind turbines which adorn the skyline. U17 Champion was Jay Hutchinson of Greater Manchester who last year finished 5th, Dan McGuire of Scotland East Silver and Jacob Palmer of Yorkshire Bronze which is the same colour medal he picked up last year as a U15. Greater Manchester comfortably won Team Gold 5 points after this it was very close with Yorkshire Silver 11 points Alex Wolfenden 8th and Oscar Shinn 15th, Scotland East Bronze 12 points, Cumbria 13 points and Devon 14 points.

Last years GU15 Champion Graihagh Turner of Yorkshire won the WU17 title from Isla Pastor of Merseyside Silver and Megumi Hoshiko of Merseyside Bronze. Merseyside just won Team Gold with 5 points, Yorkshire Silver 6 points with Graihagh, Emilia Frost 5th and Izzy-Mai Wilson 7th and Cumbria Bronze 12 points.

The U19 race 8.6k/470m which took in both Cowpe Lowe and Whittle Hill was won by defending Champion Sam Bentham of Yorkshire who was chased home by Joe Ormrod of Lancashire and Rowan Taylor of Scotland East. Sam led Yorkshire to Team Gold just like last year with Lachlan Wills 7th and Otis Brooks 13th, Lancashire Silver 12 points and Cheshire Bronze 13 points.

Scotland's only Gold medallist was WU19 Isla Paterson of Scotland East chased home by Rose Gilldaley of Cumbria and Rosie Philbin of Greater Manchester. Scotland East won the Team Gold 12 points, both Cheshire and Cumbria were tied on 14 points, but Cheshire took Silver on count back with Cumbria taking Bronze, Yorkshire just missed out with 15 points Megan Wilkinson 6th, Amy Kennedy 9th and Jayde McGregor 16th.



A special mention must go to all our reserves, GU15 Isabelle Jebb, BU15 Finlay MacKenzie, WU17 Izzy Wright, MU17 Angus Millar and MU19 Reuben Shamim, who competed but were there to step in at a last minutes notice if needed.

Rossendale Harriers and especially Graham 'Lefty' Wright did a fantastic job of organising these championships, designing the courses, marking them, organising catering, dealing with a vast amount of paperwork and giving everybody such an enjoyable day.

Dave & Eileen Woodhead
Yorkshire Fell Running Selectors & Team Managers

