

3rd WITHINS SKYLINE FELL RACE, MAWORTH, W. YORKSHIRE
22nd OCTOBER 1994 7 MILES/1000ft

GOOD RELATIONS

A ROUTE CHANGE AT THE CREST OF BRONTE WATERFALL WHICH IS WITHIN THE LAST TWO MILES MADE FOR GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ATHLETIC SPORTSMEN/WOMEN, AND THE BARBOUR COATED GROUSE SHOOTING SPORTSPEOPLE.

ONLY WITHIN THE LAST WEEK, WHEN RE-CHECKING WITH THE GAMEKEEPER WAS IT REALISED A MAJOR GROUSE SHOOT WAS PLANNED IN TWO DAYS TIME ON THE HEATHERY TERRAIN BEYOND THE WATERFALL. WHY CO-OPERATE? WELL, MAWORTH MOOR SUPPORTS SEVEN FELL RACES, AND THE TWO GAMEKEEPERS ARE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT ALLOWING 'JOE PUBLIC' ACCESS, WITHIN REASON. OBVIOUSLY WHEN THEIR LIVELIHOOD IS THREATENED BY UNSANCTIONED RACES, MOUNTAIN BIKERS WHO RIDE EVERYWHERE, EXCEPT BRIDLEWAYS, UNCONTROLLED DOGS ETC. THEY HAVE TO BECOME OFFICIOUS. BEING A RACE ORGANISER MEANS UNDERSTANDING SOME OF THE GAMEKEEPERS PROBLEMS. AS WE ALL ARE AWARE, GROUSE TAKE FLIGHT WHEN DISTURBED, AND IF THIS COINCIDES WITH WET AND WINDY WEATHER THEY TEND TO STAY AIRBORNE LONGER, AND LAND ELSEWHERE; EVEN TO THE EXTENT OF FLYING OUTSIDE THEIR GAMEKEEPER BOUNDARIES. HENCE, ALL HIS HARD WORK AND LABOURS ARE UNREWARDED ON SHOOT DAYS.

EVEN THOUGH ON RACE DAY THE WIND WAS MINIMAL IT WAS DECIDED TO USE THE ROUTE CHANGE, AND A RECORD 135 RUNNERS CHASED HARD BEHIND WINNER ANDY WRENCH. ALTHOUGH HE WAS DISAPPOINTED NOT TO HAVE HAD A CRACK

AT IAN HOLMES' 1992 RECORD, THE TON HARRIERS' SPEED AND FITNESS WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE REVISITED IT.

A FEATURE OF THESE 'WOODENTOPS' EVENTS ARE THAT SPOT PRIZES ARE ALWAYS ON OFFER TO THE LESSER SPEEDYS. THE SKYLINE SAW TWELVE BOTTLES OF SPECIALLY BREWED, HEYSHAM NETTLE BEER, WHICH CERTAINLY BROUGHT A STING OR TWO TO THE LUCKY PARTICIPANTS THROATS!

JUNIOR WISE AN EXCELLENT TURN OUT OF 18 U14'S AND 7 U16'S WHICH SAW PRESTWICH'S RAELENE COWIE RUN TWICE, FINISHING THIRD OVERALL IN THE U14, AND 10 MINUTES LATER SECOND GIRL IN THE U16'S TO COLLECT TWO PRIZES. THE MCWADE FAMILY SUPPLIED SECOND U14 BOY AND FIRST U16 GIRL IN RYAN AND BEV RESPECTIVELY. OLD PA MCWADE WHO RETAINED HIS 0/40 TROPHY IN THE SENIORS, LOOKS TO HAVE BEEN COACHING THEM WELL FROM HIS ROCKING CHAIR!!

DARBY AND JOAN