

DPFR Race Reports – AGM 2025

Edale Fell Race – Matt Harmon

DPFR resurrected the Edale fell race last year, with Matt taking over RO from Debs at Accelerate bringing it back to the calendar after 5 years

- Turnout on the day was 119 in senior race and only 10 in the junior race, weather started okay and deteriorated through the race with clag setting in on Kinder edge and the odd rain shower.
- This year, it has been selected as a counter for the junior champs leading to additional junior races for each age category being added
- Junior races are planned to finish before the senior race and the routes are based on the senior route as much as possible
- We are in need of volunteers to help marshal the event, please sign up here if you are able to help out <https://forms.gle/tcvkaBEhmog9ty3k7>

Burbage Skyline – Dominic Watts

2024 saw a welcome return of the Burbage Skyline Fell Run. There has been lots of change this year but also a lot of our DPFR consistent trademarks. It produced many winners in all but 1 of the available categories with some familiar names including first man, Steve Franklin, as male winner and first woman, our own Phillipa Williams.

Paul Fauset was the previous RO for Burbage but last year told the committee that he wanted to hand it over. Delia (my wife) and I volunteered and met with Paul and Tim Tett to learn more about what was required. Fundamentally, the race needed a new route and permission from the landowners. We wanted to extend the route distance closer to 10k, provide a variety of terrain with some good fell challenges but with the proviso that the runners stick to a planned and agreed route. We also had to accept that there might be cows out there.

Eastern Moors was supportive from the beginning and would have seen it as their Failure if the race didn't happen. We helped this situation by proposing a route change, accepting the cows and demonstrating respect for Burbage's nature. With over 330 entrants we had 252 runners on the night from across the region representing a wide collection of clubs. As RO, I predicted that nobody would finish sub 50 which meant that the 25 runners who beat my estimate were outstanding. Steve Franklin and Michael Kenyon were both sub 40 at 39:16 & 39:21 and Phillipa Williams was 46:02 and 12 overall. Runners continued returning until runner 251 in 1:50 and with only one DNF and one runner with a broken finger which means a successful night for everyone.

Prize giving was in the Fox House with some unique DPFR Trig points hand made by club member Felix Watts with his girlfriend Evie Crook. The Fox House was extremely hospitable and would love us to do a winter edition of the race – thoughts?

All in, my first job as a Fell Race RO gave me ample opportunity to use experience from organising bike races, not least working with other people and parties, but beyond everything it was the support from the club in the prior months, weeks and on the night itself which, in my opinion, led to a great experience for all and I must issue a huge thank you to all for this, especially Paul Fauset for leaving the race in such a great state.

Lessons learned, start the planning earlier, gather names sooner, extend the opening time from Saturday to Monday morning and involve the mountain rescue earlier and just a few more marshal points.

Please get in touch if you are able to support the race this year, on 3 June. There will be a test race on 28 May 2025.