**Jack Bloor Race Report 12th May 2015**

The 30th anniversary Jack Bloor Race saw brand new names on its roll of honour.

Held on Ilkley Moor this classic 8.4 km navigational fell race was established in 1985 to commemorate the life of an acclaimed Yorkshire sportsman.

With a strong westerly wind to counter, Jack Wood of local club Ilkley Harriers led from the start to win the senior race in a time of 40 minutes 10 seconds. Jack held off strong rivals from Pudsey & Bramley AC including Joe Baxter, Graham Pearce and Matthew Lockyer in 2nd, 3rd and 4th places. First veteran over-40 and in 5th position overall was Pete Darwood followed by Greg Hull of Leeds City AC. Greg’s 2007 course record of 38:04 still stands.

Winner of the men’s U23 Arthur Dolphin Trophy and 13th overall was Guiseley’s Joe Woodley representing Skyrac. Valley Strider Steve Webb was first veteran over-50 whilst local runner Malcolm Pickering took the MV60 title for Ilkley Harriers.

Despite running another hard race just three days earlier, Claire Green of Pudsey & Bramley took the women’s title. After her win, Claire commented, “I’m really chuffed to have won the Jack Bloor ladies’ trophy and thank everyone involved in putting on such an enjoyable and well-organised race”. Club-mate Rachel Pilling came second with Laura Daniel in 3rd place.

Leeds University student Harriet Buswell won the Pat Bloor Trophy for first woman U23. Harriet crossed the line a fraction ahead of 16 year-old Lucy Haines of Ilkley Harriers running her first senior Jack Bloor Race.

Carol Morgan of Nidd Valley retained the Mike Rose Bowl for first veteran woman over-40 and Clare Wayper took the LV50 title for new club, North Leeds Fell Runners.

Throughout the rest of the 226-strong field individual runners sought to improve on their personal best, battled with rivals or simply enjoyed the challenge and atmosphere of the race.

Leading runners, class winners, marshals and helpers were rewarded with a bottle of ‘Mary Jane’ ale thanks to the generous support of our senior race sponsor, the Ilkley Brewery Company.

With three runners to count Pudsey & Bramley took first place in the men’s team competition ahead of Ilkley then Wharfedale Harriers. First women’s team was local club Ilkley Harriers.

Terry Lonergan of Complete Runner, a loyal sponsor and supporter of both the Jack Bloor Memorial Fund and Races, presented the senior race trophies to the winners.

In addition to his own sporting accomplishments, Jack Bloor was renowned for encouraging young people to engage in outdoor sport. All monies raised from the annual race go to the Jack Bloor Fund that for 30 years has helped support young people to develop physical and technical skills in any recognised outdoor sport. Fittingly, two of the 2015 race winners, Jack Wood and Joe Woodley, have been previous beneficiaries of the Fund.

During the last year the Fund made ten grants. Activities included, orienteering in the Junior European Cup in Belgium, undertaking a mountain leadership summer assessment and running the length of Wales in the 5-day Dragon’s Back fell race! Applications are welcome at any time. Further details can be found at [www.jackbloor.co.uk](http://www.jackbloor.co.uk)

Earlier in the evening, one hundred children tackled junior courses of half a mile, one mile or 1.5 miles in one of five age-based classes (U8, U10, U12, U14, U16). Many were there simply to enjoy the occasion with several trying their first fell race. Others were out to improve positions in leagues or compete in club championships.

James Sadler-Townsend won the U8 race in just 4 minutes 11 seconds, one second ahead of Keighley & Craven club-mate and first girl, Maisey Bellwood. First girl in the U10 race was Anna Black whilst Douglas Segger-Staveley of Settle Harriers took the boys’ U10 title by 3 seconds!

Wharfedale Harriers’ Sam Smith won the boys’ U12 race and Erin Cummins of Settle Harriers topped the girls’ U12 podium. Ilkley Harrier Emily Elmes took the girl’s U14 title whilst Jack Hutchinson won overall in 8 minutes exactly.

In a time of 13 minutes 28 seconds, Skyrac’s George Dey led the small pack of U16s to the cairn and back with local Sarah Pickering of Ilkley Harriers first girl.

Every junior runner received a voucher from Outside The Box Café as a reward. The top three boys and girls in each category were presented with certificates together with elaborate handcrafted edible cookie medals made by our junior race sponsor.

As ever, thanks go to our sponsors and members of the Gritstone Club, Airienteers, Ilkley Harriers and all our other supporters who make this event possible.

Rob King

Race Organiser & Jack Bloor Fund Trustee