

CHRIS & HANNAH TAKE TOP HONOURS IN BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP FELL RACE

Chris Richards (Helm Hill Runners) and Hannah Horsburgh (Keswick AC) won the gold medals at the 2021 British Fell Championships which were held at Dufton (Cumbria) on 4th September. The British Fell Running Championships usually consist of four races, one in each of the home countries but after the cancellation of these races, Morgan Donnelly agreed to organise a one-off race of 11km with 900m of ascent over a variety of terrain on the edge of the Eden Valley and the Pennines. The race was sponsored by Pete Bland Sports of Kendal.

The conditions on the day were perfect for fast times with cool, cloudy weather and no wind, plus dry ground and the winners time was expected to be around the hour mark. Chris Richards, a former GB U20 Mountain Running international, and Jacob Adkin (Keswick AC), the reigning (2019) European Mountain Running Champion, were together on the first climb of Dufton Pike. Chris then pulled away from Jacob, gradually increasing his lead throughout the race to finish in 57:31, just 45 seconds ahead of Jacob. After the race, Chris said he was worried that he had gone off too early, whilst Jacob was happy with his performance saying that Chris just had too much for him on the day. Both runners will be focussing on the trials for the World Mountain Running Championship/Home Countries International later this month. Matthew Elkington (Ambleside AC) had an excellent run to take the bronze medal in 59:28.

Arguably, the performance of the day came from Hannah Horsburgh who finished in 4th place, only 43 seconds over the hour. Hannah commented that she had found the first climb very tough but 'it was a breeze after that' and that she will now be focussing on the final English Championship race in Shropshire, where she hopes to take the title for the first time having been frustrated last year after winning the first and only race. Silver medals were the order of the day for the Adkins family with Jacob's sister, Scout Adkin (Ambleside AC) finishing behind Hannah in a time of 68:42, with Emma Gould (Helm Hill Runners), bronze medallist in the 2018 European Mountain Running Championships, taking 3rd place in 70:24.

Another excellent performance came from Tom Wood (Eryri Harriers), 2019 Welsh Orienteering Champion, who was first under 23 in fifth place in a time of 61.19. Harry Bolton (Keswick AC) took the silver medal, just over a minute behind Tom, with Ben Sharrock (Ambleside AC) in 3rd in 63:52. Eve Pannone (Eden Runners), who ran for GB in both the European and World Junior Mountain Running Championships in 2019 was the clear winner of the women's U23 gold medal. Eve finished eight and a half minutes ahead of Maya Todd McIntyre (Rushcliffe AC) with Helen Thornhill (Pudsey & Bramley AC) in the bronze medal position.

Jacob Adkin led Keswick AC to a clear win in the Men's team competition with Ambleside AC in 2nd place and Helm Hill Runners taking the bronze medals. Helm Hill Runners were the first Women's team followed by Keswick AC and Pudsey & Bramley AC.

Finally, the winners in the Vet categories were as follows:

	Individuals	Teams
Over 40 Men	Robert Jebb (Helm Hill Runners)	Wharfedale Harriers
Over 40 Women	Sharon Taylor (Helm Hill Runners)	Helm Hill Runners
Over 50 Men	Darren Kay (Calder Valley Fell Runners)	Calder Valley Fell Runners
Over 50 Women	Jean Powell (Wharfedale Harriers)	
Over 60 Men	Des Crowe (Penicuik Harriers)	

Full results can be found at: [Results for HB21 British Championship Fell Race - 04 Sep 2021 \(sportident.co.uk\)](https://www.sportident.co.uk/Results-for-HB21-British-Championship-Fell-Race-04-Sep-2021)