

With the threat of thunder looming Scotland's U20 men repeated their gold medal success from 2022 by retaining their title at this weekend's Junior Home International Mountain Running in Peebles. Jonathon Downey (Kilmarnock) and Rowan Taylor (Lasswade) both had excellent races to win individual U20 silver and U17 bronze respectively.

In hot and humid conditions, Jonathon chased down Alex Poulston (England) on the final descent to clinch silver. Jonathon was backed up by Angus Wright (East Lothian) in 4th and Harris Pagett (Strathearn Harriers) in 5th with only four seconds between them. Closely following was Thomas Hilton (Moorfoot) in 8th.

The first three finishers in the U20 female race were part of the gold medal winning team at this year's World Mountain & Trail Running Championships. The Scottish team ran well to take the silver medal behind England. Isla Paterson (Gala) chased the English down on the final descent and led the team home in 5th, closely followed by Rachel Giffen (Springburn) 6th. With Esme Dougall (Giffnock) securing the team silver in 12th and Tash Myles (Strathearn) putting in a brave performance to finish.

Wales secured both team and individual victories in the U17 female race. Katie Meek (Inverness) 4th and Ruth Walsh (Giffnock) 6th battled it out to the finish against two of the English runners with only a few seconds between them. Kirsty Rankine (Gala) 9th and last minute replacement Freya Scobie (Giffnock North) in 12th had strong runs to finish 3rd team behind Wales (1st) and England (2nd).

In the U17 race Rowan Taylor (Lasswade) repeated his superb performance from the trial to take 3rd. James Wotherspoon (Harmeny) 12th, Struan Gatherer (Perth Strathtay) 13th and Kieran Hardie (Harmeny) 15th packed well in a very tight race.

In the District competition the East won in both U17 events, with Ava Richardson (Gala) and Andrew Grant (Strathearn) leading the district athletes home and finishing ahead of some of their Scottish team mates.

A big thank you to Gregor Nicholson, Mike Pearson and team for their hard work organizing the event. And thanks to Borders Council and Euan Jardine for supporting the event.