

The Hallam Chase 2017

It was meant to be bright sunshine but the rain hammered down during registration and the sky was grey. Fortunately, it picked up just before the start and we were treated with a rainbow to set the first runners off.

Den Bank was wet and greasy, so times were never going to be fast this year, but the field of 73 hardy runners all seemed to enjoy themselves.

The first competitor home was Barbara Haigh (Penistone FR), winning the Ladies Trophy in an aggregate time of 38.41 (actual time 37.01) shortly followed by Stuart Maycock (Hallamshire) 39.26 (actual time 25.06), winning the Men's Trophy. The race has a long tradition, going back to 1862. A handicap is set so the slower runners go off first and the quicker runners last- the idea being that all the runners return together. Open to South Yorkshire runners only, getting your name on a trophy is a sort after badge of honour. Something to achieve once in your lifetime at least.

Paul Horsfall (Handsworth) was the first runner to the half way turn around at Stannington Church, and Jack Crownshaw (Hallamshire) our youngest runner at 18 years 2 months, just over the event age limit and able to walk off with his prize of beer and his trophy. The history of the race, and the helpful handicapping, always attracts some great veteran runners with our eldest runner, Ray Brown (Penistone FR), being over 75 years old, finishing 10th overall.

Our fastest runners on the night in real time were Nathan Lawson (Hallam University) in a time of 22.30 and Ellie Crownshaw (Hallamshire) in a time of 29.10.

Next year's event will be on Tuesday 29th May 2018 and will be the 50th anniversary of Trevor Wright setting the course record of 19:42 in 1968

Thanks must go to all the 25 marshals, 4 officials and the team at the venue, Hallam Cricket Club, without whom this event wouldn't be possible.