

Buckden Pike Fell Race

6 kilometres / 486 metres

Saturday 18 June 2016

Race Start 2:30 pm

Buckden is a tiny village nestling in the valley of Upper Wharfedale. Grid Reference 942774 on the OS Outdoor Leisure Sheet 30. There will be a special car park for anyone taking part in the fell race or their supporters and this will be cheaper than the pay and display car park, where parking is also restricted.

The race always takes place on the day of Buckden Gala when the village comes alive with music, teas, stalls and a sheep show. This makes it an ideal day to combine a fell race with a family day out. The locals love to welcome the fell runners to do battle on the Pike.

Registration will be on the show field.

The Route

The race starts next to the village green and after passing through the car park to a large gate, turn sharp right through gates to cross Buckden Beck. **Runners must make their own decision as to how or where to cross the beck. If it is in spate and you are not happy crossing it, please retire from the race and report back to race control.** Once you have crossed the beck, an incredibly steep climb suddenly looms before you and you go straight up, aiming for the craggy limestone escarpment and up to a wall. Through a gate and head straight up into a shallow gully and over rough ground. Notice the wall over to your right. During the race, apart from the very last descent, you will always have the wall on your right. Keep climbing and pass through a wall stile. Bear right here and climb on a good trod with the wall on your right, passing through broken walls. Soon, at the wall corner, with the memorial cross at the other side, turn left 90 degrees and keep to the wall side to reach Buckden Gavel. The race does NOT visit the summit trig point, visible over the wall ahead. Turn left and begin your descent, on a well worn green path, leaving the wall side for a short while. Soon, you will rejoin the wall and the ground to the left drops away steeply to old lead mines and tippings. Leave the good path here and head sharply down the gully to cross walls and the beck at the mine spoils. Now, follow the yellow waymarker posts, contouring (South Westerly) on the Starbotton path, climbing steadily to reach a wall. Keep the wall on your right and reach the stile crossed earlier. Retracing your steps, descend to Buckden Beck. Once through the car park, turn sharp right along the tree line, to jump a low wall at the road. The finish will be across the road on the gala field.

Prize Giving

This will take place at approximately 4:00 pm on the Gala Field.

Safety

Competitors should be prepared to carry full kit as prescribed by the FRA. Competitors will be advised on the day if any kit requirements are deemed necessary by the Race Organiser.

Facilities

There will be a special car park for runners and supporters which will be a short walking distance from the gala field and there are public toilets in the pay & display car park. Food and drinks will be on sale in the gala field and the village pub sells bar meals in addition to having a good selection of hand pulled ales.