

Langdale Horseshoe

by
Stuart Bryan

This was the penultimate club championship race and there were eight barlickers running, John Boothman, Dave Halliday, Glenn Whitaker, Pete Beresford, Andrew Driver, Rob Hodgkinson, Chris Smedley and myself

There was low cloud but the temperature was mild with little wind so despite making navigation difficult, it made for good running conditions although slippery and boggy in places. The reccie we did less than 2 weeks ago proved very useful on the day.

As for the race Andrew was off in the lead from the start and was the 1st Barlicker home. I managed to keep both Pete and John in my sights upto the final climb to the summit of Bowfell where they disappeared in the mist. I managed to catch Pete somewhere on the Crinkles and we assumed John was off in front with a second Barlicker finish under his belt but sadly he made the mistake of following someone in the mist who didn't know where they were going and added an extra 2 miles and a lot of unnecessary climbing onto his race.

With the finish line in sight and close to the final check point David suddenly appeared from nowhere and past me and I had nothing left in the tank to fight back. On reaching the finish line we assumed John had finished too but when we realised he was nowhere to be seen we almost notified the marshals thinking he was lost and possibly injured but he thankfully appeared on the final road section with Craig, Rob and Chris following on.

It was a tough 13 miles with treacherous terrain and sadly there were quite a few casualties and it sounded like the Mountain Rescue and the Search and rescue helicopters were kept busy. I'll never grumble again about having to carry safety kit as you never know when you might need it.