

# The La Sportiva Lake District Mountain Trial Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2018

## Organisers' Report

### Summary

The 64th Mountain Trial was run from the showfield at Grasmere. Quentin Harding set tough interesting courses with significant route choices. They ranged over Fairfield, High Raise and Silver Howe. The weather was challenging enough to make the event a true "Trial" of mountain navigation and endurance. The number of entries (279) was even higher than last year. It was a successful day with no major incidents.

### Venue

The showfield and its pavilion made an excellent venue. The large field is well-drained so parking on the grass was not a problem despite the damp conditions. There was sufficient hard standing for all the camper vans. The pavilion had a large room for registration, download and post-race dining. It also had ample toilets and hot showers. There was wifi, an emergency phone and mains power. We lost power for about 10 minutes during the day, but so did the whole of Grasmere! Podium catering provided the post-race meal and Pete Bland brought his mobile shop.

About 35 people camped overnight in the field. George Gale, the showfield manager and the groundsman Brian Rollitt were very helpful.

### Weather

There was rain, wind and mist in the morning. The rain was not very heavy and the winds (according to MWIS) were 30-40 mph on the tops. At 7 a.m. the forecast was assessed against the bad weather criteria and it was clear that there was no need to resort to bad weather courses, especially as it was forecast to improve during the day, which indeed it did.

### Sponsorship

Lyon equipment continue to be the main sponsors under the La Sportiva brand. They supported a substantial prize list, provided race numbers, 2 pairs of La Sportiva shoes and made a large contribution towards the expenses of the event. They also provided new start and finish banners and loaned the start tent which they kindly erected for us on the Friday. The YHA provided prizes for the first YHA members who hadn't won another prize.

### Map

A pre-marked Harvey map was used. It was printed on waterproof paper and was clear and legible. Malcolm Campbell prepared the map for printing by BML. The scale for the Long and Medium was 1:40000 with 1:25000 for the Short. As in the last two years, the map was printed on waterproof paper and laminated on both sides. We nearly ran out of maps because, in the damp, they tended to stick together and a significant number of people inadvertently picked up two. In future a marshal needs to pull out the maps at map issue to avoid this problem.

**Planner:** Quentin Harding    **Controllers:** Dan & Karen Parker

### Entries

Entries opened in April and closed on 27<sup>th</sup> August. A few late entries (with a £3 surcharge) were accepted until six days before the race when the start lists were finalised and distributed. About 90 of the entrants had not previously completed a Trial. 38 of those were on the Short course.

Classic Trial 89 entries (including 7 women), Medium Trial 74 entries, Short Trial 116 entries

Total: 279 (246 in 2017)

The Pairs option was even more popular with 21 pairs entering the Short Course (13 pairs in 2017).

SportIdent took the entries. Start time allocation was based on the runner's stated preference. Most people were allocated a random start time within their preferred block although the top runners were "seeded" to split them up a bit. Some runners were deliberately placed at the start of the early blocks.

All entries were checked to ensure that the runners had appropriate experience. Just one person paid £5 on the day to transfer to the Short course.

## **Courses**

Classic Trial 26.5 km 2150 m of ascent

Medium Trial 19.6 km 1700 m of ascent

Short trial 16.3 km 1250 m of ascent

## **Numbers of Runners**

Classic Trial 77 started. 67 completed the course and 10 retired or were disqualified (lost SI card).

Medium Trial 63 started. 57 completed the course and 6 retired.

Short Trial 95 started. 83 completed the course and 12 retired.

Total: 235 started (196 started in 2017). 207 completed the full course. (150 completed their courses in 2016. 2017 wasn't really comparable).

## **Permissions**

Permissions were obtained from Lowther Estate, the National Trust, United Utilities, Deepdale Hall.

## **Safety**

Raynet provided radio communication to two checkpoints.

Derek Allison provided First Aid cover.

There was a full kit check before the start.

Ambleside mountain rescue had been informed of the event in advance.

## **Results Processing**

Andrew Leaney of SPORTident provided a very efficient service on the day and a scrolling results display in the pavilion. The results were posted on the SportIdent web site, on WinSplits and RouteGadget. 64 competitors drew their routes on the RouteGadget site.

## **Results**

Last year, Nicholas Barber of Pennine Fell Runners won the race over a course shortened by bad weather. This year he proved he could triumph over the full distance in a time of 4 hours 21 minutes. He was 12 minutes ahead of Jack Wood of Ilkley Harriers and Mark Purkiss of HBT was just a minute further behind. Andrew Schofield, now an Over-50 was first veteran in 4-44 and 4<sup>th</sup> place. Five women completed the Classic course headed by Helen Bonsor of Carnethy in 5-51. Helen was awarded the new trophy for the first woman on the Classic. Three over-60s completed the Classic this year. The fastest of these was Wendy Dodds in just over 7 hours, well ahead of the two V60 men.

On the Medium course Zoe Harding was easily first lady and only missed out on the overall win by a couple of minutes.

Pete Haines won the Short course from Derek Ratcliffe, a former Mountain Trial planner.

Third on the Short was the pair's team of Nigel Wright and his daughter Maya Hampshire Wright. Maya was awarded the new Harry Chapman trophy for first Under 21 and the Harry Chapman prize. They were presented by Harry's daughter, Freda. Harry Chapman was secretary of the Lakeland Regional Group of the YHA in 1952, and he proposed the Trial as a way of celebrating the group's 21st Anniversary.

## **Helpers**

13 people helped the organisers at the venue on the day, and a further 12 people acted as checkpoint and road marshals. Tim Goffe co-ordinated the checkpoint marshals before and during the event.

## **Website**

The website [www.ldmta.org.uk](http://www.ldmta.org.uk) was updated from time to time and the completions lists have been updated. A link has been put on the Gallery page to the excellent photos by Mike Pearson.

## **Publicity**

The results are on the FRA website and were in the 13 September edition of Athletics Weekly. A report and results have been sent to the Fellrunner magazine. There was an article and picture in the Westmorland Gazette.

David & Miriam Rosen Organisers