

Winkle Trout Race, Tolls Farm, 2019 – Race Report

The addition of the chasm of Lud's Church and the ridge path to Hanging Stone added a little elevation and a lot of spectacular scenery to an already great route. It was definitely harder and slightly longer than previously, but seemed to be appreciated by the majority of the 309 starters (all of whom finished) at least once they'd got their breath back.

The finish was well supported along the bridge and into the field and the cheers of support encouraged the runners to the line. The river proved a popular spot to cool off and dehydrated competitors managed to drink the beer tent dry.

The men's race was won convincingly by Peter Bray (Chorlton Runners), in 39.23, almost 2 minutes ahead of Julian Goodwin (M40 Boalloy). 3rd place was taken by Buxton's Ben Light with Billy Hicks (Macc H) in 4th

The ladies' race was won by Olivia Walwyn (Macc H) in 48.37, with Alannah Birtwistle (Macc H) in second. Boalloy's Harriet pickup took 3rd spot

Julian Goodwin (Boalloy) took the M40 title and Kathryn McKee 1st W40, with Macclesfield's Steph Wood taking 2nd

Shaun Chambers was 1st M50, ahead of Wilmslow's Mike Hill. Jo Bednall (whose daughter Lucy won the Junior Girl's race) was 1st W50 ahead of Andrea Frost (Macc H).

Stephen Clews (Hatton Darts) took the M60 honours in a very respectable 54:35 ahead of Stephen Bellis (Buckley) and Neil Gunn (Macc H)

Anne-Marie Jones (Macc H) took the W60 title with a time of 58:15 (which would have placed her 2nd in both the W40 and W50 classes)

John Morris (Buckley) was M70 winner and Dot Tanner 1st W70, in a time that placed her second in the W60 rankings

The remarkable Harry Newton was the winner of the M80 class, with plenty of runners finishing behind him.

The Men's Team Award went to a very strong Buxton team, with Buckley (all vets) just pipping Macclesfield for second place. Buckley deservedly took the male vets prize.

Congratulations to Macclesfield Ladies on winning both the women's open and veterans team categories

Thanks to marshals from both Winkle and Macclesfield Harriers (lots of great comments from the runners), the support of Buxton Mountain Rescue, Raynet, the medical team, Bryan Dale for race photos and to all the local landowners who make the race possible

See you next year at Burnt House Farm (the one with the uphill finish!)

Rob Gittins