

2014 Championship Update

Dollar (British Championship) - 28th June 2014

- Distance: 15km / 9.3m
- Climb: 1030m / 3379ft

A sunny day with an occasional shower greeted almost 300 runners who made the start line in Dollar for the third and penultimate British Championship race of the summer. With favourable weather conditions and a strong field, Simon Bailey (Mercia) broke the record he set in 2006 by 26 seconds to put himself in contention for the title that he won ten years ago. Simon was pushed all the way by Hector Haines (Hunters Bog Trotters) whose time of 1:11:44 was also inside the old record. Rob Hope (Pudsey & Bramley) took third place (and first V40) exactly a minute behind Simon but this took him up to a share of first place overall with Andrew Fallas (Carnethy), 6th at Dollar. One place and 4 seconds behind Andrew, Morgan Donnelly (Borrowdale) was second V40 which enabled him to retain leadership in the V40 championship and third place in the Open Championship.

Runners-up placing in the V40s is still held by Karl Gray (Calder Valley) who was 3rd placed V40 at Dollar. Following his victory in the V50s, Stewart Whitley (Carnethy), runner-up in 2013, has already been assured of the championship with one race to go; Stewart also holds 3rd place in the V40s. Paul Cornforth (Borrowdale) and Joe Blackett (Dark Peak) were 2nd and 3rd V50s but these places in the championship are currently held by David Sargent (Eden) and Neil Shepherd (Bowland). David Loan (Keswick) took the V60 championship with his victory; two seconds separated Ewan Paterson (Moray Road Runners) and Robert Taylor (Pennine) for 2nd place but Robert moved up to 2nd overall followed by Keith Holmes (Dark Peak) in 3rd.

First U23 was Jonathan Crickmere (Dark Peak) in 8th place overall, just over 2 minutes and five places ahead of William Neill (Mercia) with James Waldie (Carnethy) less than a minutes further back. Overall, William leads James whilst Jonathan has moved up to share 3rd place with his club mate Jonny Malley.

Victoria Wilkinson (Bingley) in 48th position overall in a time of 1:24: 16 was the leading women, only 15 seconds outside Pippa Maddam's 2010 record, moving up to 3rd place in the Championship. Second placed Jackie Lee (Eryri) retained her lead whilst 3rd place for Jasmin Paris (Carnethy) moved her up to equal 4th. The next three places at Dollar amongst the women were filled by V40s with Helen Berry (Holmfirth) nearly a minute ahead of Mel Price (Mercia). Mel retained her leadership in the V40 championship and second place in the Open Championship, whilst Helen moved up to a three way tie for 2nd place in the V40s with Shona Robertson (Shettleston) who was 3rd V40 at Dollar and Hazel Robinson (Ambleside).

The Women's V50 Championship is being hotly contested with only three points separating the first three contenders; leading V50 at Dollar, Aly Raw (Bingley) moved up to 3rd, whilst 2nd place for Gill Myers (Wharfedale) enabled her to retain 2nd just behind Wendy Dodds (Clayton Le Moors). The Dollar Hill race saw the first two runners contesting the U23 Women's Championship with 11th woman Charlotte Watson (Edinburgh University Hare & Hounds) heading joint 2013 Champion Nichola Jackson (Preston) by just over half a minute.

The first three Men's Open Teams at Dollar now hold those positions in the Championship. Carnethy's victory enabled them to move one point ahead of Dark Peak with Borrowdale retaining third place. These three clubs also hold the first three places in the Men's V40 Teams but the order is reversed; victory for Borrowdale strengthened their overall leadership; Dark Peak slipped back with their 3rd place whilst 2nd place for Carnethy moved them up to 3rd overall. Carnethy's strong team showing at Dollar was repeated in the Men's V50 Team with their victory moving them up to 3rd place in the Championship behind 2nd and 3rd teams, Dark Peak, who are champions elect, and Cheshire Hill Racers.

The first two clubs in the Women's Open Teams could not be separated on aggregate so victory had to be decided by the third counter with Wharfedale's Kirsty Hall heading Steph Jones of Ambleside by just over a minute. However, Ambleside retained the leadership in the championship ahead of Eryri (3rd at Dollar) and Clayton Le Moors. The Women's V40 Teams were nearly as closely contested with Ambleside gaining revenge by one point over Wharfedale; Westerlands were third. Ambleside took over the lead from Clayton in the Championship with Wharfedale moving up to 3rd.

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