

## BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012 – Dalegarth and Helsington Barrows

Another podium place for Chris Smithard – 3<sup>rd</sup> in M21E with Dave Schorah close behind in 6<sup>th</sup>.

What a brilliant day – the sun shone (mostly/sometimes), early starters said how hot it was out on the fell though the air was cold. About half the DEE entrants ran the start in 3 shifts so the weather was kind to them and the start, being near the top of the hill, was kind to the runners – though the M21E still had 690m of climb in their 15.6km course. Apart from a very short section at the finish, the courses were on open fell so nice to run on but not particularly technical with good visibility. The planners did a good job with controls tucked on the far side of features which gave a sense of uncertainty till the last moment and I can't say I was helped by others going into or out of controls.

With the elites seeded and Chris about 12<sup>th</sup> last off, it was good to hear him announced as leading by 3 minutes as he came into the field. Hector Haines came in later to take the lead, then it was down to the last 3, Oli Johnson, Richard Robinson and Murray Strain. All were down on Hector at the intermediates but Murray picked up time over the last section to come in ahead of Chris for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, putting Chris down to third. Converting the climb to distance, that was 22.5k in 92 minutes for Hector with Chris 2 minutes down – 4 min/km. Chris and Hector have just come back from 10 days training and racing in Finland so this was probably something of a stroll in the park technically for them (see Routegadget of one of their races - <http://svorienteering.fi/gadget/cgi-bin/reitti.cgi?act=map&id=39&kieli=> ).

Triumph of the day was definitely Ciaran Allen's – winning M18E. With the JK sprint title and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in M18 at Craig a Barns, he is doing well this year with selection for the European Youth Champs as reward in early July in France. So many congratulations to him.

Other top placings:

Dan Weaver 3<sup>rd</sup> M12, Olly and Chris 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> M18E, Matthew Vokes 5<sup>th</sup> M20E, Sara Campbell 8<sup>th</sup> W45, Jane Campbell 7<sup>th</sup> W55, Mike Smithard 8<sup>th</sup> M60, Pat Spoonley 3<sup>rd</sup> W75. Commiserations to Hannah Hateley who did a podium time but computer said 'no', number 5 punch missing.

Relay day – anticipation for our M18 team of Olly, Chris and Ciaran against a SYO team which lacked an association with Sheffield or a neighbouring club in one of its members, our triumphant M/W12- team from last year stepping up to the M14 class, a couple of junior adhoc teams which might do well in an unpredictable class and Chris Smithard off first in our Open class team to see how he fared in head to head racing. Chris was off first of our runners and, despite seemingly having a gaffe unshared by others, came back just behind the leader in 2<sup>nd</sup> place so that went well enough. Niall and Jon H then proceeded to record times 1 second apart on the other 2 legs. Decorum restrains me from saying who was the faster. The M18 team was in contention for 2 legs and Ciaran caught Aidan Smith the 3<sup>rd</sup> SYO runner but couldn't hold on so they finished 2<sup>nd</sup>. The M14 team of Hannah, Dan and Lachlan fared very well for a young team, climbing to 4<sup>th</sup> at the end – maybe they will run again next year. The higher placed junior adhoc team came in a respectable 6<sup>th</sup>, Isabel, Philip and Evelyn. Our elderly M50 team finished a very respectable 6<sup>th</sup> – till you notice that 6 teams that would have finished ahead of them had been disqualified, mainly for not or mis-punching at wall crossing points. Dave Schorah's SHUOC team unfortunately suffered a similar fate, having finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Open class but failing or not recording a punch at a crossing.

Well done to all, it was a good weekend.