

A team of four intrepid Ripon Runners flew out to Southern Spain to take part in the Al Andalus Ultra Trail. A semi-supported run of 230km over five days in temperatures of between 35-45C. The course proved to be very demanding and numerous tough climbs. 90% was off-road mountain and desert tracks.

The team consisted of Bill Foreman, Nick Wilson, Paul Morgan and Ray Raper accompanied by Lynda Wilson and Iain Wallace, who had volunteered to help on check-points during the course of the race.

The field of competitors turned out to consist of some world class runners, including the Moroccan World Champion Ultra Distance runner, Lahcen Ahansal (winner of eleven consecutive Marathon des Sables 1999-2009). Undeterred by the opposition our four lads – now known as “Team Ripon” lined up amongst them and put up a brilliant performance over the five days. The distance ran each day varied with Day One 37km, Day Two 42km, Day Three 42km, Day Four 61km and Day Five 34km.

“Team Ripon” finished in second place overall, out of ten competing teams, with their cumulative times being five hours ahead of the third placed team. Individual performances were also very credible especially in such a high class field. Nick Wilson 9th overall in 22hrs 46min 14sec, Bill Foreman 10th in 23hrs 41min 04sec, Ray Raper 16th in 25hrs 25min 44sec and Paul Morgan 19th in 25hrs 49min 04sec.



There was a plethora of prizes for Ripon Runners at the 25th anniversary edition of the Burton Leonard 10k. The race was superbly organised by the village and in particular the Wilks family with celebratory pies and peas for all runners after the multi terrain course. Ripon Runner Richard Watson won for 5th placed male, Mike Appleton 6th placed male and together with 23rd placed Joe Lofthouse won the team prize. Becky Turner took the prize for first local lady and John Ward won as 2nd over 60 male. Richard Watson completed the course in 36.36 with Mike Appleton in 36.51, Joe Lofthouse 42.10, Andrew Turner 42.21, Dave Jelley 42.47, Adam Johnstone 42.54, Gary Wilks 44.57, Allan Hansen 45.25, Keith Hawkins 45.39, John Ward 46.53, Michael Wray 47.18, Ray Johnstone 47.22, Becky Turner 48.58, Dave Cooper 49.03, Nigel Bower 49.20, Matthew Holt 50.14, Matt Newsome 50.39, Jon Grundy 55.26, Jill Holt 57.36, Sue Hoering 57.57, Hillary Gillam 58.30, Mel Dutka 59.36, Andy Matheson 59.42, Caroline Slater 61.23, Lena Conlin 62.04, Vicky Clayton 62.12, Lorraine Matheson 64.42.

A small group of Ripon Runners headed to Northumbria to take part in the Costal Race. The 14 mile course runs from Beadnell to Alnmouth across spectacular landscape finishing on the beach at Alnmouth. First of Ripons finishers was Dennis Connor in 1.43.26, followed by Chris Orr 1.56.42, Jo Hope 2.11.30 and Martin Hope 2.20.16.

Sunday 11th July was the Kilburn Feast 7 mile race. The course was undulating and the conditions were windy but fine. First home was 16 year old Joe Lofthouse in 48.01, followed by Keith Hawkins 50.47, Dave Cooper 55.45, Ced Christie 59.54 and John Grundy 64.02.