

Punk Panther Wharfedale Skyline Race – Matthew Holt

Hugh Watkins (Hugh took Jill's number due to her continued recovery from injury) and I ran the Punk Panther Wharfedale Skyline Race on Saturday, starting and finishing in Otley. I think this was the 3rd or 4th time on this race for me but the first time Hugh had done a PP event.

The Race used to be called the Welcome Ultra(? I think) but the course has been amended in recent years to a full circular route, rather than finishing in Pool, about 3 miles from Otley.

The weather was perfect for shorts and T shirt running, with blue skies and exceptionally mild weather for November. Due to this, the course was the driest under foot I have seen.

Hugh had an epic race, finishing joint 2nd in 5 hours 47 mins, while I managed to be 18 mins quicker than last year in 6 hours 48 mins. This saved Hugh the chauffeur from having to wait even longer for me to hobble up the final stretch of road to the finish line.

Before the race, Ryk from PP gave me my trophy from being first MV50 from the Pateley Bridge race 2 weeks ago, then I was first MV50 again yesterday. With Hugh's 2nd place trophy, we made our way back with a boot full of sweaty running gear and silverware. Unfortunately, the smell of the silverware didn't sufficiently combat the smell of the used running gear.

Between us, we got the course to be between 34 and 35 miles long with about 4500 foot of ascent A reet grand day out!

Hugh at home, me in the Oak with Lilly, both rehydrating in the correct way:



Plus the official photos:



Matthew