

Glentress November Weekend Race Report: An Exiting Weekend of Racing at Glentress...



Over 900 runners turned out for a superb weekend of racing at Glentress. On offer was the Glentress Winter Half Marathon on Saturday morning, followed by the Glentress 10k Night Race on the evening and the Tweed Valley Ultra on the Sunday. These events are part of a fantastic weekend of early winter trail races based from Glentress Visitor Centre, located in the beautiful Tweed Valley.



Glentress 21k Trail Half Marathon:



An exciting race developed in the Glentress Half Marathon with Will Simmons (Ilkley Harriers) taking an early lead. Chasing Simmons down was Rowan Boswood & Steve Feltbower (Ochil Hill Runners) winner of the two previous editions. Simmons kept his lead to win in 1:22:18 establishing a new course record in the process. Boswood finished second in 1:23:05 followed by Feltbower 1:25:58.

In the women's race, 2017 winner Nicola Duncan (Race Fitness) had a close race throughout with England Mountain Runner Sophie Noon (Cumberland Fell Runners) with the lead changing hands several times. Duncan took the lead on the final descent to

cross the line in 1:38:45 breaking her own course record in the process. Noon followed closely in 1:40:09 & Alison McGill (Fife AC) took third in 1:43:26.



Glentress 10k Night Race:

Nicola was back in action a few hours later winning the Glentress 10k Night Race in 44:24 from team mate Johanna Ryan (Race Fitness) 49:37 & Rachael Dockerty 50:41. Smashing her own course record by nearly three minutes to complete a victory in both events once again. In the men's race, Kieron Ross (Race Fitness) led throughout to cross the line in 40:18, followed by Allan Ramsay (Race Fitness) in 43:01 making it another team double with local runner Michael McGovern (Moorfoot Runners) third in 44:03.



Tweed Valley Ultra:

On Sunday it was the turn of the ultra-runners competing in the second edition of the Tweed Valley Ultra. Two distances of 65k and 50k were on offer and a strong line up in each guaranteed some fast racing from the outset. Climbing above the swirling mists of the valley onto the high point of the course at 620m, 65k runners were greeted with a spectacular cloud inversion as they traversed the section across the Southern Upland Way. Taking the lead at this point was Jim Mann (Helm Hill) closely followed by Eliot Sedman & James Scott-Buccleuch.

In the women's race, Lidia Stopinska-Cherek took the lead through the early checkpoints followed by Susan Johnston (Corstorphine Athletics Club) & Saki Nakamura (GSRR).



After reaching Three Brethren Cairns, a long descent through Yair Forest took the runners back to the Tweed Valley. Following a long flat section along the lower sections of the valley, a final sting in the tail awaited with a testing climb back into Glentress Forest. These latter stages saw a change in the lead positions, with Neal Macdonald pressing through on the final climb winning in 5:32:05 (course record) James Scott-Buccleuch (Stockport Harriers) 5:38:33 & Eliot Sedman holding onto third in 5:44:58. Similarly, Johnston built a comfortable lead in the lady's race winning in 6:39:07 with Laura Macdonald coming through to take second in 7:04:26, followed by Nakamura third in 7:08:26.



Following a similar route, the 50k deviates from the 65k after the tough climb onto Minch Moor, re-joining after the descent through Traquair Forest. Donald Mcpartlin (Garscube Harriers), winner of the Feb Glentress 42k Trail Marathon established an early lead over Ross Coles (Skipton AC) & Jack McKenna (Strathclyde University Harriers) to win in 3:51:59. Rachel Normand (Carnethy) dominated the women's race winning in 4:19:28 establishing a course record in the process. Kirsty Mcbirnie (Pentland Triathletes) finished second in 4:37:01 & Fiona Carver

(Corstorphine Athletics Club) third in 4:45:27.



A special mention to Sarah Evershed, the only runner who competed in all three events over the weekend.

Thank you to Forestry Commission Scotland, event retail partner Run4It & Petzl/Lyon Equipment.

Leading Results:

Glentress 21k:

1	Will Simmons	Ilkley Harriers	1:22:18
2	Rowan Boswood		1:23:05
3	Steve Feltbower	Ochil Hill Runners	1:25:58

1	Nicola Duncan	Race Fitness	1:38:45
2	Sophie Noon	Cumberland Fell Runners	1:40:09
3	Alison McGill	Fife AC	1:43:26

Glentress 10k Night Race:

1	Kieron Ross	Race Fitness	40:18
2	Allan Ramsay	Race Fitness	43:01
3	Michael McGovern	Moorfoot Runners	44:03

1	Nicola Duncan	Race Fitness	44:24
2	Johanna Ryan	Race Fitness	49:37
3	Rachael Dockerty		50:41

Tweed Valley Ultra 65k:

1	Neal Macdonald		5:32:05
2	James Scott-Buccleuch	Stockport Harriers	5:38:33
3	Eliot Sedman		5:44:58

1	Susan Johnston	Corstorphine AC	6:39:07
2	Laura Macdonald		7:04:26
3	Saki Nakamura	GSRR	7:08:26

Tweed Valley Ultra 50k:

1	Donald Mcpartlin	Garscube Harriers	3:51:59
2	Ross Coles	Skipton AC	3:54:40
3	Jack Mckenna	Strathclyde Uni	3:55:35

1	Rachel Normand	Carnethy	4:19:28
2	Kirsty Mcbirnie	Pentland Triathletes	4:37:01
3	Fiona Carver	Corstorphine AC	4:45:27

Overall results can be found at www.highterrainevents.co.uk

Feedback:

"Wanted to say how much Declan and I enjoyed the run today - organisation was great and the signage on the course excellent. Marshall's were really friendly. So thank you!" Jo Woods

"I would like to say I truly loved the race at glentress today and will most definitely return. The race was extremely well organised and the route awesome! Even the weather was outstanding. The car parking and marshals great too" Jacqui McDonald

"Thank you very much to you and your team for yesterday. A fantastic event, well organised and a great course. Really good fun!" David Reid

"I Did the glentress half marathon on sat and just want to say thank you for a wonderfully brutal half marathon. Had a great time" Scott

"I'd just like to give the marshalls a huge shout out, they were absolutely fantastic today. I was last, start to finish and they were brilliant, very friendly and supportive, thank you so much, it was very much appreciated" Gayle Tighe

"It was a brilliant half marathon - as ever High Terrain Events nailed the organisation, extra friendly marshals, professionalism and fun. My favourite event ????" Mhairi Jarvis

"Can I say once again THANKS to ALL of your team for Glentresss Night Race. It was a great run" Michael Bunn

"I had the pleasure of running the 50 k ultra-marathon today. Please allow to say what a fantastic experience this was for me and how perfectly the event was organised - many congratulations and thank you very much" Markus Winkler

"Thanks again for a fabulous race today, I'm sure all the other runners would agree it was so well organised and your team are very obviously outdoors enthusiasts and made for a very friendly event" Tim Warner

"Thanks to all the HTE team for great organisation and support at yesterdays Tweed Valley 50k. My first one – and I thoroughly enjoyed it" Ronnie Wilson

"I just wanted to send a quick note to say thank you for the great race organisation and all the support we received at the Tweed Valley race on Sunday. Even though my brother and I were the rear end of the race it was lovely to have the cheer and support from all your team. My brother, who was ill, particularly took heart from the encouragement at the checkpoints and that cup of tea we had at the end was like nectar ??"



I particularly appreciated the hi-viz markings in the forest towards the end as I tried desperately to get us there within time and without getting lost! Please pass on our thanks to your team” Caroline

“What a great race! I will be back next year!” Jenni Rees-Jenkins

“Many thanks for your great organisation of the Tweed Valley Ultra. I certainly enjoyed doing the 50k run despite some challenges on the way” Maryse Elliott

“I really enjoyed the race. Your team were always friendly, the route was exceptionally well marked and all in all i thought it was a brilliant event” Jim Mann

