

Saunders Lakeland Mountain Marathon Report
by
Dave Thompson



Over the weekend of the 4th and 5th of July Caroline Pollard and I competed in the Saunders Lakeland Mountain Marathon.

This year it was centred on Torver (Coniston Fells) the weather was a bit wet with low the cloud giving some good challenges to navigation skills.

The first three controls were completed in good time but significant care had to be taken with navigation.

However, the fourth control gave us a bit of a problem, it wasn't there, we had a major 'Cock up' - marked the control 'a crag' on the map 1 Km out of position.

I estimate it cost us over 1/2 an hour!!! Would you believe it that there would be a crag in exactly the same position in two adjacent grid squares.

Looked at the splits for day 1, particularly for 'The Crag' but apart from the top runners we didn't do too badly.

I suspect it was a difficult one to find for most (visibility down to 10 metres) when we finally arrived in the correct location there was a lot of people wandering around.

At the end of day one we were placed around 29th.

I could see Caroline was a bit vexed so day two with much better weather she was running the legs off me.

Half way around she had to feed me a gel to keep me going, it did the trick, good route choice and perfect navigation got us round in a much better time placing us 19th.

Overall we came 19th but we were third Mixed Vet!!!

So having done 7 SLMM with 4 different people, our time was my third best overall position but best Vet performance ever.

I think that must have something to do with the passing of time.

As for Caroline, she had thoroughly enjoyed her very first SLMM, I think she may be back for more next year.

This is a great event with beer and milk available at the 1/2 way camp,

Dave T