

Glentress Trail Race Report



Clear skies and early morning temperatures of -6c meant a bracing start for the 450 runners at the inaugural Glentress Trail Races.

Based in the Scottish Borders in the heart of the Tweed Valley, Glentress is perhaps more renowned for its mountain biking. From a running perspective, the area also offers a superb array of way marked forest trails, making it a fantastic location for trail running.

Three distances were on offer; a 42km trail marathon, 21k half and a 10k. The half and full marathon incorporated sections of the challenging Tower Trail and also exclusive use of the Black graded mtb route. With a lofty 2500ft of ascent in the first 21k lap, the route climbs high to the top of Glentress Forest, offering some amazing viewpoints and a great excuse for a breather!

However for top Scottish ultra-runner Donnie Campbell (Get Active Running) there wasn't time to admire the view, as Rob Sinclair (Garioch RR) was hot on his heels throughout the entire 42k distance. Both runners set off at a blistering pace with Campbell covering the first 21k in 1:31:36 & Sinclair just 13 seconds behind.



The 42k takes in two laps of the 21k route, with runners passing through the finish line before continuing. Anyone not able to complete the two laps could still count as a finisher of the 21k, proving to be as much a psychological challenge as well as a physical one at this point.

Grabbing a quick drink/After the first lap/there was just time for a quick drink before both runners set off together to battle it out on the second circuit. It was going to be a tough race for first.

In the women's race, Helen Leigh (Helensburgh AAC) built up a good lead completing the first circuit in 01:51:07. However, a recent knee injury had flared up & Leigh made the hard but sensible decision to call it a day. This left the women's race wide open, with Gayle Tait (Motherwell AC) now leading in 02:07:09 closely followed by Louise Burt (Fife AC) in 02:09:03 & Jenni Rees-Jenkins (Donside) 02:09:13.



Back in the men's race, Campbell pulled away from Sinclair on the main climb to build a small lead. Confident of his descending skills, Campbell planned to gradually extend this lead in the final miles. However, Sinclair was certainly not going to give up & flew down the technical descent to catch Campbell with just 3km remaining. A ferocious pace ensued in the fast descent to the finish with Campbell sprinting for the win in 03:11:49, just two seconds ahead of Sinclair in 03:11:51. Third place went to Hugh McInnes (Carnethy Hill RC) in 03:37:41.

Running a strong second lap in 02:16:22 moved Rees-Jenkins into the lead in the women's race, winning in a time of 04:25:35 followed by Burt in 04:30:13 & Tait in 04:34:37.



In the 21k race was dominated by Scottish hill runners & Carnethy team mates Andrew Fallas (Carnethy) & Helen Bonsor 1:43:46.

The 10k was a scenic route incorporating the Glen trail, Buzzard's Nest & the historical Time Trail, continuously offering spectacular views across the Tweed Valley. However, with over 1000' of ascent, this was not to be underestimated.

In the men's race, Rob Birchmore stormed round for the win in 0:45:52 followed by Mv40 Kenneth Davidson (Moorfoot Runners) in 0:46:20. Kathleen Henderson (Race Fitness) came flying in to win the women's race in 0:49:10 (finishing 8th overall), closely followed by Victoria Emery (Annan & District AC) in 0:50:09.



Leading Results

42km Trail Marathon

Male

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------|
| Donald Campbell | Get Active Running | 03:11:49 |
| Rob Sinclair | Garioch Road Runners | 03:11:51 |
| Hugh McInnes | Carnethy Hill RC | 03:37:41 |

Female

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------|
| Jennifer Rees-Jenkins | Donside | 04:25:35 |
| Louise Burt FV50 | Fife AC | 04:30:13 |
| Gayle Tait FV40 | Motherwell AC | 04:34:37 |

21km Half Marathon:

Male

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|----------|
| 1 Andrew Fallas | Carnethy Hill RC | 01:29:35 |
| 2 Darin Dougal MV40 | Moorfoot Runners | 01:36:55 |
| 3 Andrew McLaughlin | | 01:38:55 |

Female

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------|
| 1 Helen Bonsor | Carnethy Hill RC | 01:43:46 |
| 2 Angela Reid | NAAC | 01:55:04 |
| 3 Juliette Camburn | Ochil Hill Runners | 02:04:37 |

10km Trail

Male

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------|
| 1 Robert Birchmore | | 0:45:52 |
| 2 Kenneth Davidson MV40 | Moorfoot Runners | 0:46:20 |
| 3 John Parry MV40 | Annan & District AC | 0:46:31 |

Female

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------|---------|
| 1 Kathleen Henderson | Race Fitness | 0:49:10 |
|----------------------|--------------|---------|

2 Victoria Emery
3 Chloe Darling

Annan & District AC

0:50:09
0:54:02

Feedback:

"Today was my first time running at Glentress. This race completely opened my eyes to networks of paths I will be revisiting time and time again. With much thanks and appreciation - one of my favourite runs ever!" Kirsty Tulloch

"Some days are made for running - tough route but stunning views at Glentress. Fantastic event - superb course, well signed, great weather and views. Thank-you!" Martha Caddell

"Another stunningly beautiful and technical course efficiently arranged by a friendly @HiTerrainevents -stoked with them gnarly downhills!" Nick Belcher

"I just wanted to say thank you for the well organised run on Saturday. That was my first trail run and I loved it - the 10k was over too quickly!" Alexandra Black

"I had an absolutely fantastic time bringing up the rear with some other lovely ladies, who knew you could chat and run! Thank you to all the organisers, it was great to have an event like this on our doorstep, definitely up for it again next year" Kate Thomson

"Thanks for a great event. I thought you made great use of the paths and trails and the route just got better and better" SAARTJE DRIJVER

"Just wanted to say thank you for Glentress 10k Trail yesterday. I have done lots of road running and this year decided I should try something different...trails!? So that was my first ever trail event. Scary (way out of my comfort zone!!) and exciting at the same time if that makes sense. Everyone so friendly and organised, Thank you" Anne McQuitty.

"Just wanted to say thank you for an absolute epic race today. This has gone straight to the top of my list of favourite races. The scenery is stunning and it was a very well organised race. Well done! Looking forward to next year!!" Emma Sharp

"Just wanted to thank you for the amazing event at today's race. I got to see a beautiful part of the world which I wouldn't have otherwise seen" Nisha Patel

"Thanks for a great event definitely on the do again list!" Andrew Shone.

"Brilliant course really challenging and rewarding! Views were amazing!" Russell Brown

