

In an area of the country littered with history of invading forces, today race was no different, with the invasion and snatching of prizes belong to Michael Hunt and his Manchester based Trafford men's team..

A prompt start from outside the school at Brampton was made at 11-30. but very quickly last years winner, Yared Hagos, Wallsend, moved to the front to establish a lead that was never seriously challenged. The chasing pack behind Yares was quickly down to 3, with a growing gap behind them. In a race usually dominated by North East clubs, the invasion of the Trafford men at front end of the race showed that these Trafford men had not just travelled up from Manchester for the Cumbrian air.

Whilst Yared continued at the front. Trafford's first counter Tom Charles was strongly in contention for a medal position. The 3 in the chasing pack were pulling away from 5th place as the race moved nearer to the finish at the Sands Leisure centre in Carlisle. New Marske Harriers had 2 members in the that first 10, but so did Trafford with Jeff Prest hanging on to the group.

Yared crossed the line in 50.28 minutes, to win the Northern Athletics 10 Mile championship for the 2nd year running. In 2nd place in the N.A event was Tom Charles, 52.17 with James Bulman, New Marske Harriers 14 seconds behind, in 3rd place.

Wallsend won the N.A. team race but only by 2 points from that Trafford team. With Tom 2nd and Jeff Prest 5th it was all down to the last counter between these 2 teams, and Wallsend last counter just finished 4 places ahead of Michael Hunt who clocked 59.04.

Trafford did however win the silver team medals ahead of 3rd team Morpeth, and this was a fair reward for challenging the top local teams in their own event.

For the women Vicky Hindson was always 2nd in the race but won the Northern Athletics event in 63.14. However in this race her Wallsend team mates were unable to support her as Morpeth, Keswick and Blyth were the 3 medal winning teams.

The 2nd women was Gascogne-Owens, Alnwick in 63.50 with the bronze medal going to Keswick's Samantha Ayers in a time of 65.10.

The presentation of Northern Athletics awards was made again by the ever popular North East athletics journalist Bill McGuirk

Ken Smith

Photos Eileen Ingham



Vicky Hindson with Bill McGuirk



Yared Hagos with Bill McGuirk