**Ribble Valley 10k Monday 27th December 2021**

This popular 10k was along with a lot of other races in doubt for much of 2021, after being cancelled in 2020. However thanks to the tireless effort of organiser George Davies, not only was the race sold out, but the elite entry was packed with top athletes.

This year the weather conditions were ideal, mild, with no rain or wind as the race got under way at 10.00. By 1k the leading men were down to a group of 4, Liverpool Harrier Jonny Mellor, Joshua Griffiths of Swansea, Jake Wightman, Edinburgh, and Woodford Green athlete Ed Shepherd, with a 5 M gap behind them to the chasing group. By 4 k, reached in 12 minutes, Jonny Mellor had a 4m lead over Griffiths, who was 7 m clear of Wightman, and by the turn point the leader was 20m clear of 2nd with Wightman still 3rd.

Jonny Mellor avoided the water station and passed 6k in just under 20 minutes, with Wightman, an 1500 M Olympic athlete, starting to be caught by Richards, Shepherd, and a 2nd Liverpool athlete David Devine. Jonny Mellor was now racing against Marc Scott’s course record, with just Swansea’s Joshua Griffiths in contention. Jake Wightman had now been passed by Salford’s Chris Richards and David Devine.

Jonny Mellor crossed the finishing line in 28.58 with Salford’s Chris Richards 2nd Northern Athlete and David Devine 3rd.

In the women’s race it was always between Laura Weightman, Morpeth Harriers, who was returning after injury, and the Stockport Harrier Jessica Piasecki, These two were never far apart in the race, but the race sharpness of the Stockport Harrier gave her an edge later in the race, as she finished in 31:37 with Laura some 7 seconds behind in 2nd place. 3rd place went to local Ribble Valley Harrier Eleanor Bolton, 33:11.

Results

Women

1st Jessica Piasecki Stockport Harriers 31:37

2nd Laura Weightman Morpeth Harriers 31.44

3rd Eleanor Bolton Ribble Valley Harriers 33:11

Men

1st Jonny Mellor Liverpool Harriers 28:58

2nd Chris Richards Salford Harriers 29.45

3rd David Devine Liverpool Harriers 29:58

Teams

. **Women**

1**) Sale** Olivia Green 12th Louise Whittaker 17th Helen Armitage 19th total 48 points

2) **Ilkley** Jemma Elgood 4th, Jane McCArthy 22nd Helen Waddington 37th total 63 points.

3) **Stockport**Jessica Piasecki 1st Mollie Williams 5th Jane Brown 82nd total 88 points

**Men**

1) **Liverpool Harriers**Jonny Mellor 1 David Devine 3 Thomas Rogerson 20 total 24 points

2) **Salford Harriers**Chris Richards 2 David Barrett 11th Gary Priestly 18th total 31 points

3) **Blackburn Harriers** Matt Ramsden 9 Tim Raynes 10 Ben Fish 31 total 50 points