

## AMBLESIDE SCORCHER

The eleventh race in the Merritt & Fryers B.O.F.R.A. Championship saw one of the most outstanding performances for many years at Ambleside Sports last Thursday. In sweltering temperatures thirty nine seniors took to the start line, watched by approximately three and a half thousand spectators. Matthew Whitfield of Keighley put in one of the greatest fell runs since the legendary Fred Reeves set the course record of 13.03 many years ago. Whitfield led straight from the gun and quickly started to pull clear of the field, which included last years winner, Gary Devine. The fast improving Steven Savage, and one of the leaders in this years B.O.F.R.A. Championship, Andy Wrench. Whitfield still way out on his own as he neared the summit was starting to put the record under pressure. Round the top and with just the fast descent to come Whitfield came sprinting down the fell, through the tall bracken and with just three hundred yards of flat running left, came into the Arena to a thunderous applause and crossed the finishing line in 13.22 just nineteen seconds outside this marvellous record. Nevertheless an absolute scorching run, Savage getting the better of Devine on the descent to come second in 15.00 Devine third 15.08. Wrench pulling his way up into fourth 15.16, Darren Brame fifth 15.32, Billy Procter of Kendal sixth and first Veteran 15.48, James Wadsworth seventh 16.10. Second Veteran Antony Shepherd 17.25, third Paul Rogan 17.41. First lady from Kelbrook was Karen Slater 19.09 second Nancy Westworth 26.39.

Under 17s winner Ben Procter of Kendal in 12.44, second Tom Kidger 13.34. First girl Freya Murry of Edinburgh 14.15, second Kate Rogan 14.24, third Karen Bowe 15.06.

Under 14s winner Christopher Doyle of Ulverston 11.32, second Darren Tindall 11.54, third Andrew Wilkin 12.21. First girl was Gemma Dean of Grassington in 17.36.

Under 12s winner James Walker of Keswick 8.07, second Caleb Wetherell 8.14, third Grant Robinson 8.15. First girl was Emma Stuart of Threlkeld 9.01, second Hannah Paget 9.14, third Janie Oates 9.33.