

Horwich RMI Harriers Downhill Race 2025- Race Report

Thursday 11th September 2025.

A Record-Breaking Year Despite the Elements

The 2025 Horwich RMI Harriers Downhill Race saw an outstanding turnout, with 21 runners gathering at the mast on Winter Hill for the start - a record number in my time organising this event. The enthusiasm was palpable as participants prepared for the challenging descent ahead.

Weather Drama

Mother Nature had other plans for the day. The weather nearly held off during the early preparations, but as I hurried to get the last runners registered, the wind started to blow, and the rain came down hard. With the deteriorating conditions, runners huddled together and shivered whilst awaiting their start times. The cold was so intense that even I was shaking as I managed the proceedings.

The Race Unfolds

Despite the challenging conditions, the race proceeded as planned with runners setting off at "randomly selected" 30-second intervals from their designated start times. All participants safely passed through the single checkpoint at Rivington Pike, which was ably marshalled by Sandra and Nick Kelly. From there, runners descended into Horwich, each taking whatever route they thought was best to reach the finish line at the Horwich RMI Club.

A Safe Return

All runners eventually made it home safely, gathering at the finish to share stories of the routes they had taken and their experiences battling the elements. Their finishing times were meticulously recorded by Steve Pearson.

Winners and Results

The men's winner, receiving the coveted Downhill Trophy, was **Matt Fawthrop** with an impressive time of 18:49. The ladies' winner was **Helen MacDonald** in a time of 24:56.

Full Results

Finish Time	Number	Name	Cat	Start Time	Race Time	Position
25:49	243	Matt Fawthrop	M	07:00	18:49	1
28:21	247	Nick Leigh	M	09:00	19:21	2
29:30	249	Adam MacDonald	M	10:00	19:30	3
22:10	234	Sam Fairhurst	M	02:30	19:40	4
28:10	245	Julian Goudge	M	08:00	20:10	5
29:11	244	Marcus Taylor	M	07:30	21:41	6
29:09	241	Albert Sunter	M	06:00	23:09	7
30:15	242	Jordon Sunter	M	06:30	23:45	8
25:01	231	Doug Fleming	M	01:00	24:01	9
26:23	233	Gary Chadderton	M	02:00	24:23	10
29:26	238	Helen MacDonald	F	04:30	24:56	11
29:51	237	Mike Ernill	M	04:00	25:51	12
29:41	236	Kerry Jackson	F	03:30	26:11	13
29:40	235	Mark Sammon	M	03:00	26:40	14
27:29	230	Jon Pimbley	M	00:30	26:59	15
32:52	240	Carl Balshaw	M	05:30	27:22	16
29:23	232	Steph Fairhurst	F	01:30	27:53	17
35:31	239	Lordes Collet	F	05:00	30:31	18
41:39	248	Luke Foley	M	09:30	32:09	19
32:37	229	Isaline Kneale	F	00:00	32:37	20
50:26	246	Spencer Shaw	M	08:30	41:56	21

Conclusion

Despite the challenging weather conditions, the 2025 Horwich RMI Harriers Downhill Race proved to be a memorable event. The record turnout demonstrated the enduring appeal of this unique race format, and the safe completion by all participants was testament to both their determination and the excellent organisation by the marshals and supporters. Congratulations to all who took part in what proved to be an epic battle against both the course and the elements.

Alastair Murray.