

Lost in Space.....by Shaun Addison

At 2.45pm Saturday 12th July 60-70 seniors lined up for the Bampton Fell Race(5.5 miles). On the start line there was a contingent of Addisons – Tom, Jos, Rory, Nigel Thomas, Mel Hyder and I. Having been rounded up and made to do the 100 metres race, Jos, Tom and I were quite warmed up and sure enough at the sound of the whistle Tom put his foot to the floor and was off like a rocket, followed by Jos, Rory and several other runners from Eden, Ambleside, Howgill, with Nigel Thomas's and Mel's sprinting speed putting me to shame.

Along the river bank Tom began to open up a significant gap, with Rory and Jos in the chasing pack of 5 and Nigel and I in a pack of 7, some metres behind – it's amazing what you see when going slow – fish, birds, cows – anyway, I digress, the river was forded easily by Tom, who seemed to be putting more distance into the pack – looking like he was going to break Mark Addison's record. Unfortunately, Tom has got Michael Addisons navigational genes, so it will come as no surprise to say he got lost.

Meanwhile those in the chasing pack were making their way to checkpoint two, when Jos saw the marshall at checkpoint 3 and decided to drop down and say hello – when cloning becomes legal we'll have to eliminate Michael's navigational gene – so, missed out on a chance to get a senior win under his belt. Now before you start thinking that at this rate I stood a chance, forget it, I came 9th. Coming back on themselves, Tom and Jos found each other – there's a relief, don't want you crying out there.

Back at the ranch and at the sharp end of the chasing pack Rory stayed in contention, climbing back to the pinnacle and then descending at speed back to the river, Rory got to the front of the group and held them off to record a first win in the senior ranks, plus a box of maltesers for 1st.

Both Mel and Rory got the 'now you see me, now you don't cup', which they did n't get to bring home – perhaps they thought Rory might melt it down or sell it on E-Bay.

As for moi, I managed to catch Nigel and Mel on the climb out, holding onto a group of 4 and briefly heading them off the last descent, but couldn't keep them at bay.

On an important note, I think we need to discuss funding for Tom and Jos to go on a navigational skills course, but they probably would not be able to find the place.....as the old saying goes "like father, like son".

Shaun (give stick a chance) Addison.