Screel Hill Race at Palnackie, near Dalbeattie was the location of Dumfries and Galloway’s contribution to the Scottish Hill Runners National Championship; it was also the second race in the Dumfries and Galloway area Championship.

By the standards of hill running it is a short race of only 6.4 kilometres with 400 meters of climbing, however that does not make it easy, as it is a straight off the start a “full gas” race. This year’s race had a record turnout of over 200 runners from all over Scotland. With recent improvements to the track towards the bottom of the hill there was talk that this year the times for the race would be quick, and so it was.

The race was won in a record time of 26:46 minutes by Alexander Chepelin from Edinburgh University H&H, this is his 3rd outright win in the SHR Championship this year and he is still only a under 23, when not Hill Running Alex is also a top Orienteer. The first lady home was Jill Stephen in 33:41 of Hunter’s Bog Trotters repeating her win of 2018, but taking over 3 minutes off last years’ time, a time equal to the course record for the ladies.

Hartfell Hill Running Club had over 20 members at the event with a number who were not running on the side lines supporting, as the club picked up several new members on the day it will take a while until all the membership forms are returned to be exact on numbers and club positions. With due consideration to the fact that the race attracted the very best hill runners from all over Scotland, there were some excellent performances by HHRC members. Alison Banford 1st in the FV40 class with her team mate Rosie Allen coming in 3rd in the same class. Jim Bucannan was 1st in the Male V80 class beating many a runner half his age, Kenny Paterson was 3rd V70, again showing age is no barrier to running the hills. Alison was first home for HHRC ladies, first man with a great run returning to top form after his mountain biking accident early in the year was Graham Mclellan.

Well done to all that raced and a big thank you to Bob, Dougie the race organisers and all at Dumfries Running Club for staging the event.

The next event in the Dumfries and Galloway Area Championship is Durisdeer Hill Race on the 8thJune, Hartfell Hill Running Club will be doing a recce of the route on the 5th May, none club members are welcome to join HHRC on  the recce.