

Sled Dog Association of Scotland
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Race Report – Culbin, October 2021 – The Hallowe'en Event

Culbin Forest, one of Moray's many Forestry and Land Scotland managed forests, saw our first sled dog race in over 18 months, the weather was kind and the musher's were excited!

Situated near to the coast, in the north of Scotland, the trails range from hard packed forest tracks to grass and heathery sand. This was our second event in Culbin Forest this season, following our fun weekend at the beginning of the month.

Competitors arrived early on Saturday morning, full of anticipation and energy, the temperature was low and the atmosphere was buzzing!



At 5am the forest came alive with the songs of the sled dogs, this was the first event many younger dogs have experienced and they made their presence known! A fabulous effort by many mushers who put great effort into their Hallowe'en costumes at such an early hour!

Racing got under way at 8.30am, sharp, with the 6 dog open class out first heading off into the distance between the trees, followed by the bikejor and 4 dog classes, everyone helping to get the larger teams to the start line.

The day passed all too quickly with the 3 and 2 dog rig and scooter classes following the bigger teams and single dog canicross and scooter classes finishing day 1 of racing. After much chatter everyone retired for the evening, to browse the day's photographs, Thomas of Studio 57 North was quick to have them online for everyone to enjoy and has kindly given permission for them to be shared.

Day 2 brought as much fun as day 1, Dave the Deerhound took the course in his stride, looking just fabulous at 3 years old, with competitor Jamie Sneddon in the 1 dog canicross class.



While competitor Jennifer Broadfoot raced in the 2 dog scooter and 1 dog canicross classes, getting in the spirit (pardon the pun!) with her Super Mario costume 😊



Photographs credit Studio 57 North

With racing over, it was time for the prize giving, our sponsor's, Skinner's have supplied a 2.5kg bag of food from their Field and Trial range for each placing 1st to 3rd, and all competitors were rewarded with treats and energy bars, we hope your dogs enjoy them, they certainly earned them! The good sportsmanship was great to see, competition is good and healthy, it keeps us thriving and focussing on our end goals, but to be surrounded by a group of people who are happy to congratulate their opponents on a win always resonates the reason why this is the sport that we love.

The fastest team of the weekend was the 4 dog open team, owned and raced by Ashleigh Dean, who flew round the trail in a rapid time of 7m 19s! Wow!

Well done Ashleigh, your young team are doing you proud! Ashleigh was joined on the podium by Gilli McLeod who took 2nd place and Alan Morton who took 3rd.



Photograph credit Studio 57 North

Helping out at the prize giving was Ella Sugars, who won the 2 dog junior Nordic Breed class and Mali and Eira Fitzgerald, thank you girls, we hope we will soon be giving medals to Mali and Eira. The masks worn by the girls during the presentation were so convincing that Rebecca Croft was too scared to collect her 2nd place prize for the 2 dog open class and had to ask her partner Iain, to collect it for her!



To be fair, this is a pretty convincing mask!

It wouldn't be Halloween without a best costume competition now, would it? The winner was Tim Sugars who dressed as Tyrannosaurus Rex, racing his 2 dog team in full costume. 2nd place was Roddy Milne, or Lord Voldemort as he shall be known henceforth! and Ella Sugars took 3rd place with her squid games costume.

You have to wonder what the people we share the forest with think when they see this rumbling round the trails;



Our favourite musher from the weekend is Alfie Blyth-Russell. Alfie is a junior world champion who made his debut in the adult classes this weekend.

His dog care and attitude to racing dogs is outstanding. Alfie is a lovely young lad who sets a standard beyond his years, keen to help other competitors over the weekend, making his parents proud.

Alfie placed 2nd in the 4 dog Nordic Breed class running three dogs and 2nd in the 2 dog Nordic Breed class.



Photograph credit Studio 57 North



A massive thank you to Skinner's for supporting our races, it's great to have the support of such a good quality working dog food company that caters for our mushing needs.

Thank you also to everyone who helped organise the race and set up on Friday and most of all, thank you to the competitors who came along and made the race the enjoyable event it was, we can't wait to see you at Darnaway!