

British Champions put Páramo through its paces

"Day 1 of the 2005 British Adventure Racing Championships was a typically Scottish affair with gale force winds, sub-zero temperatures, snow and horizontal rain. Within 24hrs of the start of this 4 day non-stop race, over 70% of the teams had pulled out as the dire conditions took their toll on morale and completely inappropriate 'fast and light' wet-weather gear. After a second night of torrential rain with our team shivering in an emergency bivi, trapped by a flooded river, we realised that a kit upgrade was essential to survive the rigours of the World Championships later last year on the 'wet coast' of New Zealand.

After the race in Scotland we chatted through our wet-weather gear shortcomings with Swiss Mountain guide and Scottish



legend, Alan Kimber, who suggested we look at Páramo. We'd heard good things in the past but like most Adventure Racers had been lured down the ultra-light, wafer-thin route that most outdoor gear manufacturers advocate. Whilst accepting that there is a place for this type of gear, it simply can't stand up to the abuse and extremes of multi-day races.

November arrived and the team flew to the home of multi-sport, New Zealand, as British Champions, gear boxes packed with Páramo gear. The ensuing 6 day race was without doubt the sternest test that the team had experienced in years of Adventure Racing around the globe – the terrain a mixture of trackless bush and dense forest, the weather horrendous. For 6 days we burrowed through the thickest undergrowth we'd ever had the misfortune to meet – a traditional 'shell' jacket would have been shredded in an hour. The rain fell for days but we stayed dry and warm day and night thanks to the performance of Páramo clothing.

Staying positive during such a tough race is critical to success. You focus on the positives and it was no surprise that the team

spent so much of the time raving about the performance of the Velez smock. Warm during the freezing cold nights, breathable during the warm and wet days. The hood and pocket systems were a revelation, designed with function in mind, not by someone watching a set of electronic scales. The gear worked magnificently and has seen us all through the winter in Britain and the USA without a single complaint.

2006 brings new challenges and we look forward to a number of adventures in the world's most testing environments. The team approaches the races with confidence knowing that at least one major part of our equipment won't let us down."

Team Aberdeen

British Adventure Racing champions Team Aberdeen Asset Management do it again!

Team Aberdeen triumphantly broke through the Wilderness ARC finish line after 75 hours and 14 minutes of constant and unassisted racing over some of the most demanding terrain in Europe.

The Wilderness ARC is a relentless 400km (250) mile course, in and around Fort William and Lochaber and is designed to include an ever-changing rollercoaster of rugged sporting disciplines, like trekking, mountain biking, open water swimming, kayaking, climbing, canyoning, rope work and navigation.

In addition to extreme physical and mental stamina adventure racing demands an ability to overcome sleep deprivation, impeccable team-work, a flair for navigation and orienteering and an ability to keep focussed under severe



pressure. Team Aberdeen have retained the title of British Adventure Racing Champions and proved their supreme dedication to team work and awesome physical and mental endurance.

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Warren Bates, Team Aberdeen Asset Management

For further information visit:
www.wildernessarc.com