

Festive Frolics 2008

The 2008 Festive Handicap and Cockleroy Chaser enjoyed a record combined entry, with around 180 finishers, made up of runners from all over the country. First runner back in the 'Cockleroy Chaser' was 9 year old Ross McKinnell in a time of 4:42, closely followed by Alice Horsburgh (11) in 4:45, with Ian Horsburgh (9) third in 4:52. Youngest finisher was two and a half year old Ethan West. The judges on the finish line were very impressed by the smiles as runners completed the course and a generous sprinkling of juice, Kit-Kats and Penguins was handed out.

The first three finishers in the Handicap event were David Murdoch (Edinburgh Uni. Tri Club) at 12:08:25, Annie Ewing (EU Tri Club), 12:08:26 and Jonathon Whitehead (Edin. AC) at 12:09:25. Fastest men's times over the 14km course were Mark Johnston (Bellahouston), 49:57, with joint second Iain Donnan and Scott Fraser in 50:55, both of whom were doing 'a training run.' Fastest women were Kim Threadgill (Edin. AC), in 58:31, Annie Ewing in 62:26, and Suzanne Matonti in 63:58. Fastest over the 7km course were Mark Arndt (Arbroath AC), 25:45, Robert Inglis 25:54 and Alastair Robertson 26:23 and in the women's event Sarah Inglis 26:46, Moira Davie (unatt.) 31:05 and Rachel McIlwraith, 32:01. Full results (version 3!) are on the website.

Nearly 40 Club members ran in the 7km/14km event, which is also a record, and with strong representation from youngsters in the Chaser event, there was plenty of evidence that there is still a sizeable pool of enthusiasm around. With so many running, it meant that volunteers to marshal were a bit thin on the ground however, and there's one or two things that I'll have to think about ahead of the 2009 event. Thanks, though, to everyone who helped, including almost every able bodied adult in my family, Mike (for giving up his run) and Hazel at Balvornie, Lesley at registration and Cockleroy, Ian Garvie at the car park and the deer farm, Ted for his clocks, Martin and his helpers for the finish and the Chaser loop, and anyone else who stepped in in the manic moments! Lastly a big thank you to Jack and Marcie for their hospitality after the event - don't know who's to 'blame' for the dumpling but it was brilliant.

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