

Forecast Rain – how we got the Hot Toddy run in time

Well – you certainly heard it here first. Entrants queried it at registration: what are these poly (?pollie) bags round the numbers for? – answer – it's going to rain at 12 o'clock. And, on the start line – keep to the left, watch for traffic, run fast & you'll miss the rain. And they did. Only the last five runners got wet. What a service – courtesy of Todmorden Harriers 2006, and a fine team of members, intent, once again, on a smooth running of our annual road race.

Not a lot of skill needed, in fact – just experience. Marking the Fun Run at 9 o'clock the previous evening coincided with a torrential downpour (and I got the same again a couple of weeks later with the Best Estimate). When I rechecked the Fun Run route on the Hot Toddy morning, it was pleasing that none of the pools of water came over my ankle.

So we had 44 on the Fun Run. I think that's great. And lots of credit goes to Eileen Miles – lots of Tod Harriers juniors were lined up, along with juniors from other clubs near and far. Important for our future, and the future of the sport. And some of them absolutely pelted round the course; times considerably faster than last year. Maybe mud is easier to run than ice.

Despite the good conditions, Hot Toddy times were not so fast. A very exciting finish – local runner against international competition, pipped at the post. Anyway, Halifax came second to Skipton men's team and were first women's team.

Interesting to see what a difference it made to have the Hot Toddy on a Saturday. My calculation indicates we will miss Saturdays now for a good many years to come. But some of us could indulge our fantasies of being point duty police officers in a fairly safe environment. (I was taught that as a Boy Scout).

I think it was right to stick with the White Hart. Certainly a good location, and the facility of a big room to ourselves. Hopefully next year we'll get the Hot Toddies right. So it remains to thank a large and willing band of volunteers, who grafted to make the event run quite smoothly, and to wish everybody a good year's running before we get to the next Hot Toddy – on Sunday 30 December 2007.

Peter Ehrhardt

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