

Isle of Jura Fell Race 2008

I've lost count of the calls and emails thanking us for putting on this year's race. It was certainly a great day on the hills and we're sure everyone, as usual, enjoyed the race, the banter, and the post race celebrations (and the wonderful weather) that make this race one of the best in the calendar. It was great to see all you usual suspects, and lots of new faces.



While Mandy and myself organise the race we couldn't do it without the fantastic team who support us. Donald Ewen Darroch pulls together an experienced team of local marshalls and somehow gets them into position, with the Raynet operators, at all 8 checkpoints whatever the weather. Willie Hill and the Strathclyde mountain rescue team volunteer every year to provide the essential back up between the Paps. Communications and race monitoring are the forte of the Glasgow Raynet crew. Doctor Grigor stitches us up when the course bites us and sorts the ever more popular junior races. Jill Darroch and her team work tirelessly providing the race refreshments (it must take weeks to bake all those cakes!). Camping, showers, etc are provided by Fiona and Steve at the Jura Hotel. A willing team of Tod Harriers, Achille Ratties and volunteers from at least four other clubs sort the registration, kit checks and results. And we get fantastic support and sponsorship by Willie Cochrane and his team at the Jura Distillery who provide the T shirts, certificates, prizes and much more. Thank you - we couldn't do it without you.

It's hard to judge how many entries and reserves to take when the race fills up within a couple of weeks of opening but we obviously got it right this year with 179 starters against our target of 180. That's 10 more than the previous record. And with only 6 retirements and no time-outs we saw 173 finishers – another record. And what a race. Bingley's Rob Jebb had a storming run to finish only 50 seconds outside Mark Rigby's 1993 record with Ian Holmes and Jethro Lennox battling for second right up to the line. An awesome performance by Carnethy's Angela Mudge saw her knock nearly 5 minutes off her own record set in 2003. And, with 26 runners getting the coveted under 4 hours glass this was a race to remember. Amazingly the weather was kind for the second year in a row – we could get used to it but with all this good visibility people will be getting to know some of the lounge committee's jealously guarded secret trods!

First Toddlies were Jane "Leonard" finishing as first lady vet in an amazing time of 4.37.41. Next was Chris Preston in 4.48.15 as second lady vet. Other Tod results were Rhys (Pale Rider) Watkins, Richard Leonard 5.06.20, Andrew Bibby 5.16.17, John Preston 5.25.34, Kath Brierley 5.31.27, Stuart Boulton 5.48.06, Helen Hodgkinson 5.53.48, Mandy Goth & Sue Roberts 6.13.54. There are some wonderful photos on the web follow the link from the Jura website www.jurafellrace.org.uk

Next year, the 29th race, will hopefully see the first recipient of the newly inaugurated "George Broderick Plaque" for completing 21 races. We hope to see lots more recipients in subsequent years.

For those of you who have never been to Jura put it on your "to do" list. It truly is a magical place

Slainte

Mandy & Phil

