

## Toddies Handicap 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2008



It's always a bit nerve-racking organising something.

Ever had that feeling when you have a party, and 7.30 arrives and no-one's there yet.

You know there'll be a good crowd of people but, in the back of your mind you're thinking: "What if nobody turns up...at all".

Then all hell lets loose and you spend the next two weeks clearing up the mess.

When I saw the forecast on Friday night I got that feeling again, but come Sunday, true to form, there they all were.

Fortunately Uncle Barry had agreed to take responsibility for the handicaps, so any complaints on that front could be easily deflected. I had rather underestimated the time required to flag a route but Mark and Ali had come to stay and fortunately I had a willing

volunteer.

Brian and Arthur had offered to collect the flags on their walk up to the pub. I did worry that, in their rush to get the beers in, they might take the flags in before the race had occurred but all went according to plan (well almost, eh Hazel?)

A field of 27 runners made it all worthwhile.

A worthy winner – well done Clare.

A fast time – well done Simon., And the prize for most appropriately dressed runner – see above.

A wrong turn, or two – bad luck Martin.

A number of very good runs in appalling weather.

Some cunning tactical runs which will no doubt be taken into account by the handicap committee next year.

An excellent meat pie – Well done to all at the Sportsman.

Oh, and a worthy winner of the esteemed plastic dog with the horn. It had better be well disguised next year Phil or it could become a permanent feature in your trophy cabinet!

Many thanks to all who turned out and particularly to all who helped. I will book a slot in the calendar next January for a re-run.

Roger