

Victorious Toddie in Ireland's Burgeoning Hill Running Sport

summer. <http://www.imra.ie/events/>

Young whipper snapper Ben Crowther claimed 7th Place in last Sundays series of 6 Munster challenge Races held in Ireland this Bar Na Stuichie, is a short sharp ascent of a race, followed by a mile of bog then fast decent through deep gully cuts in a field, or vertical sorts, full of neck high rushes, so if you don't jump quick your down the bottom of them, then you do a lap of the same route. This brought home to me the plight of Irish Runners who do not benefit from the great access we have in this country and home much the Celtic Tiger has missed out on a few good land access reform laws. We have such superb access, and this being an effective county championship, was only attended by 28 people, four juniors that only did one lap. The Race is allowed as the landowner is a runner, - Mr Shaun Toomey (a lovely native Gaelic speaker of exquisite politeness) who won, beating the erstwhile Tod Harriers Hanger-on-ner – Mr J.I. Logue to second place, on his First Vet 40 Race (he being born that day) and his First Irish Mountain Running Association Race ever – mine also. About seven miles is the course, on two laps, great prizes of Munster Challenge T's and the likes of scissors, screw and plug set and three of the finest Tea Urns you ever did see.



I hope Ireland can encourage political change to allow access to its beautiful land. It's a country benighted by its past as a authoritarian-ly ruled and subjugated state with many of the land owners hanging on to the old traditions of 'git orf moi laaaaannnd!' when the whole country could benefit in health and wealth by a change in attitude to access and 'Hill, or Mountain Running' as they called they quaintly called the fine fell running sport. I move you to petition the Irish government to open access to land like we have in this country and encourage our Celtic cousins on to the hills!

Ben

This year's "**Calder Valley Winter Score Event**" will be on **Sunday 23rd November**, from: Trough Farm, Stocks Lane, Luddenden HX2 6SR. (SE046269)

All Tod Harriers are welcome.

As usual you will have 3 hours to get to as many checkpoints as possible, in any order, and then back to the house. Back at Trough Farm there will be hot food for when you finish, and prizes for the winners.

For safety, you must carry full waterproofs, as well as full body cover of clothing and a whistle and compass. It will cost £5 (which covers the food and the pre-marked map that you'll be given when you start) and you can start at any time between 09:30 and 10:30 - everyone starts at a different time. Under 18's have to run with a senior.

Please let me know beforehand if you are intending to take part, so that we know how many maps and how much food to do.

Cheers, Bill Johnson watchcave@hotmail.com

Running Injuries Survey

Thanks to all those who filled their survey in. I have passed them onto Jenny.

You can ring her on 07815 917746 for your free ½ hour massage. Anyone not passed them back or wants to fill one in then see me - Mandy