

## 2014 GRAND PRIX: maybe these were the highlights, maybe not

If you had only read about our year in the local rags it would seem much of a season, one that in light of coverage has, with ironic self-deprecation, been referred to as “a footnote to the CVFR story”. But us Tod Harriers were out there in both quantity and quality.

There was a good club turn out and some close competition in all our championships, fell, road and trail. Peter Ehrhardt and David Leslie ran the most races overall - 17; the latter with Michael Harper ran the most on the road, 7 each, and Craig Stansfield impressed on the fells completing 11 of the 15 races. Club colours were seen in force at many events, over 20 vests on the starting line for 5 fell races, 3 Trail and 1 road.



Road races had 41 different entrants with 8 qualifying - though 4 of these left it until the last race to do so. Sarah Glyde won the women's title for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year; Paul Brannigan received the male trophy for the 10<sup>th</sup> time; but only just, having to run the last race injured.

73 competitors on the fells was the same number as last year; qualifiers were up in numbers to 16 and both champions are new names on the shields. Lucy Burnett claimed the women's title and also the Eric Stoddard Trophy for best performance in the English Fell Championships where she came 11<sup>th</sup> overall. The men's went down to

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the last race and finished with Ivan Gee narrowly beating Craig Stansfield.

The Club Championship also had more qualifiers this year; a select 6 ran a short, medium and long race on both road and fell with Paul Brannigan triumphant and winning the trophy for the 5<sup>th</sup> time.

The second year of reducing Trail requirements to 3 races has resulted in another increase of qualifiers to 16 out of the total participation of 49. Michael Harper ran the most, 5 of 6 races and the overall winners were Louise Abdy, one of only 3 women qualifying and Darren Tweed.



Adding points to all of this brings us to the GP table itself where the Champion is, for the third year running, Paul Brannigan. With 88 Toddiess running at least one race exactly one quarter, 22, qualified for the Grand Prix. Of these 5 did so for the first time; a mixture of old and new members Michael Harper, Louise Abdy, Guy Whitmore, John Allen and Kirsty Patten. You defiantly need clock up a few more to get the next award - a GP Tankard goes to a runner on the completion of their 10<sup>th</sup> Grand Prix qualification. Only four members have done this - Peter Ehrhardt, Paul Brannigan, Dave O'Neill and Richard Blakeley. They

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are now joined by two others: congratulations to Andrew Bibby and Simon Galloway, who first qualified in 2002 and 1997 respectively.

Whist these are the highlights of an arduous though enjoyable racing season, none of those above have achieved or suffered more than those who make it to the end of this report. I'm guessing a few of you actually do - and I'm even more surprised that it led to a vote or two cast for Club Person of the Year. Many thanks to all those who did from the proud recipient of this honourable award and Statto's service will resume again in 2015.