

CompassSport Cup Final 16th September 2016 – Tankersley Woods, Sheffield

Deeside finish 4th out of 9 teams - thanks to all who came and joined in the fun.

The Harris's and two Smithards saved their legs by taking the club tent so Duncan pulled the new mobile club hut up at the tent drop off point in a large puddle just as the heavens opened. Donning waterproof trousers in the changing room before opening the doors, we immediately closed them again and waited for the rain to ease off. A few Deesiders were waiting for us at the changeover so the tent was quickly erected. A visit to the last control at the top of the hill gave a sparse view of Chapeltown below but not a lot else in the cloud/mist. Early starters got wet but the rain seemed to stop about 11:15 – somewhat earlier than the forecast had suggested. It was also quite warm so those with early starts who had thought otherwise got a bit overheated out in the forest. Lots of path running for most with areas of undergrowth putting people off direct routes and lots of paths and pits causing confusion in places. With a large team (about 67), there were the normal tales of woe from several but, with a large gap in front of us to 3rd place, no-one could blame themselves for dropping us down the order – though that won't have assuaged their sense of disappointment or worse. My own little headless chicken moment may have wasted over 2 minutes but merely meant that Steve finished ahead of me as there was a 3 minute gap ahead of him so no loss of points. Chris Smithard was leading Kris Jones at the 2nd last control but lost 4 seconds to him on the run up the hill and down the run-in to lose a place by 2 seconds. His actual run route was 11.3km in 55 minutes.

Our 25 counters were:

Brown course: Chris Smithard 3rd, Ciaran Allen 12th

Short Brown: Ed Calow 8th

Blue Women: Grace Majumdar 24th

Blue Men: John Embrey 11th, Duncan Harris 12th, Iain Bell 19th, Andy Allen 23rd

Green Women: Liz Jackson 13th, Sara Campbell 15th, Catherine Hill 24th

Green Men, Steve Ingleby 6th, Mike Smithard 7th, Mal Irvine 19th, Norman Hall 21st

Veteran: Alan Mullock 4th, John Padget 15th, Jean Payne 21st,

M/W18-: Lachlan Chavasse 6th, Dan Weaver 8th, Connor Smith 10th, Evelyn Elmes 10th

M/W14-: Anna Harris 2nd, Emma Weaver 9th, Sam Williams 11th

Looking at our positions, it seems strange that, out of 9 teams, we finished 4th as with only 5 seniors in the top 10 (the junior classes were disappointingly small once again), that would indicate a lower position. However, what it shows is how strong the top 3 teams are, averaging 6.5th, 8th and 8.5th for their top 25 runners as opposed to our 14.5th (Junior positions have to be doubled to give equivalence to seniors in points terms). What it does show is that DEE have a large group of people willing to go to this competition which gives us options if a few don't run well. In the heat, LOC did not turn up as strong as anticipated and, if they had won, we would have still gone to the final as they were in the top 3 last year in the final. In the final, OD were short of some as they have won this competition not so long ago and were in the top 3 on several occasions. So we could have easily been 6th. So, on behalf of the club, thanks for turning up.

What for 2017? With the final on Dartmoor, (date seems to be beginning of half term? Good for traffic free roads on Saturday - not?) (5hrs by car or an hour by plane to Exeter), do we go to Simpson Ground in the Lakes for a good area for the NW heat or Park Hall Country Park – POTO – for max turn out for the WM heat? LOC or OD? Perhaps we shouldn't worry about the final!

Mike Smithard