

THE TOBLERONE TROT

This year's Turkey Trot had 80 Deesiders wading through Delamere East in ever decreasing circles in pursuit of Bob Verity's cunningly located score controls, requiring a mere 3 maps and a knowledge of prime numbers. No rubber chickens this year, but Yellow competitors were able to collect Christmas themed stickers at each control. It was rather more difficult to assemble these into a coherent picture than had been to find them in the first place.

At the elite end of the competition Chris Smithard topped the list 50 points ahead of Matthew Vokes, both of them having a comfortable gap from the rest of the field. Fastest senior woman was Anya Crocker, and quickest wrinkly was Steve Ingleby. Pat Moody was the fastest veteran woman. Hannah Hateley and Dan Weaver were the junior leaders, and Emily McCreadie won Yellow. I must have missed any acknowledgements of the prime number counters, although there may have been quite a few, as it seems there were actually two prime number combinations buried in all those carefully sequenced controls. The only casualty that I'm aware of is John Evans, who turned an ankle but stuck it out for almost the full hour and made the most of his bad luck.

When we had finished sloshing around in the seasonably wet forest Delamere Community Centre was a haven of warmth and comfort food. Vast quantities of soup and bread were supplemented by generous supplies from Turkey Trotters, and when it came to the prizegiving the Toblerones brought a gleam to the winners' eyes and a hint of green to everyone else.

The Turkey Trot is supposed to be one-person-does-it-all Christmas present from the club Chair or his nominee. Nice idea but pretty unrealistic. Bob Verity had his hands full with the planning, the SI needed maximum attention from Bob Elmes, and I could not have managed without the help of Kate Ingleby registering everyone and running the Yellow start, while I scurried about doing the jobs that still needed doing – like setting up the finish! Steve Ingleby did a great job of recruiting control pickers, to the extent that, unusually, there was some food left when they got to the Community Centre. Jill put in a lot of time stripping Tesco's of soup and bread, and then a long morning of heating up and dishing up. Many Deesiders pitched in and helped with the clearing up and cleaning up, and we were all done by mid afternoon.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the challenges of the morning, and I hope it provided a good interlude to the holiday season.

Barry Barnes
(organiser)