

CLENT HILLS JUNE JAUNTER - Thursday June 19th 2014

It was nice to enjoy a calm and pleasant evening on the Clent Hills, with dry paths. Having warned about the slipperiness of the wet paths in the last year or so, I was wondering whether the loose gravelly surfaces were perhaps more hazardous than wet ones. I know I was taking extra care on the steep downhill bits.

I don't think there are any exceptional times to report on, with the usual mix of some slower, some faster. However, the overall trend is towards longer times, especially for those of us who have been running the course for a good many years. This is to be expected!

One thing which I am pleased to report is the number of "first timers" this year: these included our Chairman (John Leeson) coming in second place with a commendable time of 26.30. I'm glad he took my advice to plan his route with a proper O-map rather than the OS map which he had brought along. Another newcomer was Sue Howarth, recording the best time of the evening for a lady in 28.50. I think she had hopes of achieving the ladies' record, but that still remains with Janet Savage (23.48), from way back in 1985. Steve Parker and Robert Rose also made their first attempts at the Jaunter, with good results.

My commiserations go to Andy White, who was nursing a hamstring injury but attempting the course with a fast race-walking pace. Competition with a horse and a car for the same bit of road just after the start forced a change of pace – and this was enough to cause the hamstring to "go" and cause Andy to retire.

My thanks go to Marian White for running the Organisation while I went out for my own run, and to John Embrey, Andy and Marian White, and Sue Howarth for collecting the controls and saving me a third ascent of the summits in one evening...

Robert Vickers