

CLENT HILLS JUNE JAUNTER - Thursday June 16th 2016

The June Jaunter is billed as a "footpath run" but this year I thought it more like a "river run". Easily the wettest JJ I have ever run, and as far as I can recall the first with thunder and lightning all around.

I apologise that it has taken me some time to tabulate all the split times (I have to type them in manually) together with comments - I was abroad on holiday shortly after the event. However, I previously listed the headline times for the 14 brave (foolhardy?) souls who got round safely and sent them to the webmaster for the HOC website.

Suffice it to congratulate Dave Aldridge on his first JJ run for snatching victory from David Williams - by just 15 seconds. Noteworthy is the dead heat for 5th place between John Leeson and Andy Johnson (going round different directions). And the younger Mitchell brothers, Seb and Arthur, show promise for the future supported by their mum, Kerstin. A good time for their older brother, Alex, too, albeit a couple of minutes slower than last year - but slower times were not surprising in those conditions. Special thanks to Robert Rose for shadowing Alex on the road sections, without which he could not have been permitted to take part.

Once again, my thanks to my helpers Andy and Marian W, Peter L and Andy J for running the admin and getting soaked collecting in the controls.

Robert Vickers

[As a postscript, this was the second year that we have had to contend with the evening closure of the Nimmings car park, where we have traditionally sited the event assembly, start and finish. This results in the need to climb over, or crawl through, the wooden boundary fence which is not very satisfactory. In 2015, it was a lovely evening and it was practicable to organise the administration from one of the benches inside the car park. but you will have gathered that in the 2016 downpour this was not an option and it was necessary to run the show from the back of a car outside the gates.

I'll try to put something on the Forum to suggest how we might deal with this enforced change. I am thinking that we might do better to relocate the assembly to the Walton Hill car park, though this would require an additional passage control+in (or on the fence bordering) Nimmings car park to enforce the traditional route in its entirety. Any thoughts will be welcomed in due course].