

Offa's 'Orror 19th April 2009 Race Director's Report

Whilst wearing the 'Race Director' bib for the first time I was overwhelmed by a stream of runners approaching me before the race and stating their high expectations of what we would deliver in Offa's 'Orror – a tough act to follow from previous years.

Back at race HQ a couple of hours later a host of tired and happy finishers were filled with praise for the support and inspiration they got from all the marshals and waters station attendants around the course.

I am confident in saying that – they got what they came for!

I did not receive any negative comments – even from the 30 souls who took a wrong turn after some kids turned an arrow around – We'll nail them to the tree next year and may be dispense with the arrow!

I am indebted to a number of Harriers who took full responsibility for huge chunks of both getting us to and through race day so successfully and all those (including the extended Harriers friends and family) who turned up as promised and fulfilled their role or lent a hand when required.

Last year's winner Tom Fisher returned to better his previous time to finish in 1.22.49, followed by Laurence Humphreys (Fairwater Runners) and Tom Gibbs (Chepstow Harriers).

Last year's female champion, Laura Kent of Cheltenham Harriers, finished in 1.34.57 ahead of Lesley Whiley (Reading Roadrunners) and Annie Baumber (Civil Service Sports Club).

Tom Gibbs, Martin Pengilly and Ivan Teed, running for host club Chepstow Harriers, took the Team prize. While the women's team prize was taken back to London by the ladies of the Serpentine Club who make the annual trip to the Wye Valley for this popular 12 mile hilly run through the Tintern Woods.

Did we get anything wrong – of course we did – but we got all the key things right and will give very serious thought to changing much about this classic event when we fully debrief and start planning for next year – I would welcome any comments good, bad or off the wall.

THANK YOU

- To all the Helpers – Car park, Race HQ, Marshalls, Water etc you know who you are
- To our race sponsors – Cymru Kitchens
- To our prize donators – Run and Become of Cardiff

Finally – thanks to all of you who ran, WE COULDNT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU
See you next year!

Colin – Race Director