

## **RACE REPORT – WESTWARD HO! CROSS COUNTRY**

*By Paul Wright*

### **SOME OF NEWQUAY'S FINEST TACKLE UNFAVOURABLE CONDITIONS**

The 4<sup>th</sup> race of the 6 race series Charles Stanley Westward Cross Country League took place at Westward Ho! on Sunday (15<sup>th</sup>). To say that the conditions were less than favourable is a massive understatement. The course, although uninspiring, is challenging. It is as flat as a pancake, on common land without a tree or even a bush in sight, there are a series of ditches that have to be traversed on each lap and, in view of the recent inclement conditions these were full of cold muddy water.

Added to the difficult conditions underfoot there was a strong wind blowing from the south west, as if this wasn't enough to contend with, there were also a number of hail storms. As the course was a looped affair, this meant that for half the race athletes were running into what, at times, felt like a gale and, with the wind chill, it felt very cold when out on the course. It was somewhat surprising that no athletes or spectators suffered from hypothermia as there was nowhere to shelter from the less than friendly conditions. This is where Newquay Road Runners (NRR) must thank the important team managers for the day, Nikki Edwards and Tracy McKenzie, who had to stand at the finish all afternoon collecting the NRR team members finishing discs, then passing these on to the race recorders.

The ladies race was over a distance of 5715 metres and the men's 8765 metres.. Newquay, as with nearly every other club, were missing a number of runners owing to either being away on holiday (skiing), illness or injury nevertheless, the club was delighted in managing to field 6 athletes in both the ladies and men's events.

Both the senior races were significantly down on the numbers who had ran in the previous 3 races which averaged 130 in the ladies and 160 in the men's, Westward Ho! attracted 75 lady starters and 99 men.

Despite the relatively low turn-out there was a strong field in both events. The ladies race started before the men's and this was won in some style by Taunton ACs Kirstie Booth in 20 minutes 55 seconds. The first NRR home running superbly was Eleanor Ellison whose 27.33 placed her 50<sup>th</sup> overall and places her 3<sup>rd</sup> in the F60 category after 4 races. The ladies team is in 8<sup>th</sup> position out of the 60 teams who have participated in at least 1 event. The NRR veteran's team currently lies in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the league out of the 41 teams that have competed in at least one event.

The positions and times of the NRR ladies are as follows:

Position	Name	Time
50th	Eleanor Ellison	27.33
53rd	Alison Roose	28.32
56th	Sarah Wilkinson	29.11

59th	Lisa Player	29.47
61st	Jeanette Duncan	30.41
66th	Tracy McKellar	34.20

The Men's race also had a quality field, the winner was Phil Wylie, Western Tempo, in a very impressive time of 25 minutes 54 seconds. Leading the Newquay men home was Jamie Edwards in 24<sup>th</sup> place with a time of 29.26,

Position	Name	Time
24th	Jamie Edwards	29.26
43rd	Dean Scott	31.32
54th	John Scott	32.54
58th	Darren Roose	33.55
71st	Stephen Gills	35.00
92nd	William Leck	40.35

Congratulations to Gills and Leck for competing in their first race for the NRRs.

The NRR men's team are 5<sup>th</sup> out of the 61 teams who have participated in at least one event the NRRs men's veteran team are 13<sup>th</sup> out of the 41 veteran men's teams that have registered a score.