Fantasy XC League 2017/18 – Race 5 Blog

Race 5, confusingly perhaps, is Race 4 in the Kent League and brings us to the half way point of the season. Although this can also be numerically challenging as each athlete can only score in 9 events; unless that is you are an extremely cunning U20 and race in the last Kent League race in the SM or SW category. But to add to the mental torture, this year we have a headscratcher; and I don’t mean a hedgehog on the ceiling. What are we going to do about the South of England Champs? Do we or don’t we include it in FL? What will happen to the statistics? They are sure to be affected! How will we cope? Watch this space, your committee is on the case and mathematical modelling has already begun together with war games to simulate all scenarios.

The season’s 100% list has fallen slightly to 13 exactly the same as at this point last season with U17M featuring 4 members. So yet again I have been forced to trawl the FL archives to find a new best streaker; and it is D Seagrove who is on a streak of 12 and has an 18/23 FL record. L Kingston resumes her FL career and now stands on a 22/23 record. Bede P-K drops to a 21/23 record.

We also have a new top points scorer this week- M Heslop with 100 points from first place in the SW race. This is all the more impressive as Maria is in fact a Masters athlete, although you would never guess. Best average was another Masters athlete in her debut season –S Jeddo with 27ppm which also takes her into the bullseye club from only two races!

There were 7 more FL3 debutants this week taking the total to 177 so far for the year. This statistic has risen steadily from 149 to 160 to 177 over the three year history of FL, from which I think we can confidently conclude that more athletes than ever are racing!

Another 7 athletes joined the Bullseye Club taking the total to 28 compared to 21 this time last season. This shows either that athlete pricing is more generous, or that performances are better this year. New inductees are D Seagrove (U20M); O Dunn (U20M); J Kingston (U17M); S Slack (U13G); B Heslop (U13G); S Puxty (U17W); and S Jeddo (VetW).

Best performance in a new age group goes to M Taylor with 3rd in the U15B race. Step up in Class prize for the day, I Ellis with 10th in the U17/U20W race. Other Mentions in Despatches: J Kingston 5th U17M as he came out as top dog again of a very competitive U17M cadre; and O Breed (U13G) who completed a Grand Slam of Kent League victories in her debut season, which is only the second time this has happened for FL (not sure if any other TAC athletes have matched it prior to FL). A prize if you know who the previous Grand Slam holder was.

Now to the main action – the teams. This week’s victor in the A team category (6 athletes; one athlete from each age group) for the second time was Iain Presnell’s Sprint Finishers comprising O Breed, F Croll, D Schofield, J Puxty, R Driscoll and M Heslop with 277 points. In the B team category (6 athletes from any age group) the best score of the day was from experienced FL manager Sally Emm with her Tonbridge Teens team of K Goodge, F Gordon, T Emm, J Kingston, D Schofield and A Van der Plas with 288 points. Keeping it in the family the best Player Manager was Toby Emm with his Oasis Bottles team an all U17M affair comprising himself, T Grey, A Thompson, A Sandberg, J Kingston and A Van der Plas with 180 points. And finally the best Bargain Team, with 26 points was J Bryant’s imaginatively named Third Team comprising J Pigot, Andy Wood, I Harding, B Murphy, E Cohen and M Crabb. All of Jamie’s teams have won a stage so far which I think is a first for any multiple team manager. At the other end of the table too many zeros to count but I feel that both Alex and Mark Hookway should receive a special mention for scoring their third zero of the season – 3/5 not bad chaps.

For the first time there is no change at the top, rendering offensive going backwards jokes redundant, which I think is a shame, but A Roeder’s Budget team continues to front run on 2761 points.

Finally, the 5th nomination for the season defining, Terrible Team Names prize, to continue the music theme for the third week, is Amber Crush’s The Hills are Alive with the Sound of ASICs – which actually I think is very good.

STOP PRESS

The latest thinking on how Fantasy League addresses the crisis of the South of England Champs is that we will run a “Pools Panel” forecasting what the results would have been. This will take into account the likelihood that individuals would have run and also their form. In this respect running well at the Kent Champs will be a key indicator. So you are advised to run, as it could be worth valuable league points from the S of E Champs as well. In keeping with the club’s stand on this matter any actual results will be voided and replaced with Pool’s Panel results. No doubt this won’t please everyone, but if I was a magician I’d be leading the Labour party by now. Ooops!