Fantasy XC League 2017/18 – Race 6 Blog

Race 6 – the Boxing Day Turkey Trot has come and gone. Regrettably I missed it and with it my opportunity to garner FL points for the season. I was put off by the handicapper’s threats of a punitive handicap based on unfair accusations of banditry the year before. This year’s bandit in chief was Alice Wood who won the race, followed (not very closely) by G Duggan even with 40s added to his handicap this year.

The season’s 100% list has fallen slightly to 9 – O Breed, B Heslop, F Gordon, S Puxty, D Schofield, J Stoney, D Seagrove, J Bryant and J Keywood and I confidently predict that this nonentity (if that is indeed the collective noun for a group of nine!) will see out the year. D Seagrove extends his streak to 13 to retain his raciest runner ranking. And Bede P-K joins L Kingston on a 22/24 FL Career record. However, on checking the archives I have discovered that in fact both are put to shame by Steph Puxty who has a 23/24 record and therefore stands at the top of the FXC obsessives table. I apologise for missing this before.

We have joint top points scorers this week- Bede and J Bryant with 58 points; both benefitting from 10 bonus points for reaching the 5 race milestone for the season. Best average was R Owen with 43 which should earn him a much stiffer handicap for next year.

There were 28 more FL3 debutants this week taking the total to a huge 205 so far for the year which is still ahead of the same time last year. I predict that by the end of the season we will have eclipsed last year’s record of 217 and reach 230 FL participants for the season with 100+ completing 5 or more races.

Another 8 athletes joined the Bullseye Club taking the total to 36 compared to 26 this time last season. New inductees are S Crick (U20M); A Adrian (U15B); J Stoney (U17M); M Dubery (U15B); A Jeddo (U13B); Ant Crush (VetM); T Cohen (VetM); and J Keywood (SM).

Special Mentions in Despatches: D Fullbrook, A Hookway and R O’Hara (three track athletes running further than they are used to) ; F Gordon, O Breed both running above their age group and M Heslop who outclassed all other Vets (Male & Female). Answer to last weeks quiz question is of course A Kinloch as an U17, not sure if there have been any previous Grand Slam winners, answers on a postcard.

Now to the main action – the teams. This week’s victor in the A team category (6 athletes; one athlete from each age group) was Mark P-K’s 2 min Selection comprising O Breed, K Goodge, D Schofield, Bede P-K, J Bryant and D Madams with 232 points. In the B team category (6 athletes from any age group) the best score of the day was from Lucy P-K with her 11th Hour team of K Goodge, F Gordon, O Breed, Bede P-K, M Heslop and S Jeddo with 248 points. The best Player Manager was J Bryant with his Second team comprising himself, J Keywood, Andy Wood, H Gordon, S Paice and G Cole with 202 points. And finally the best Bargain Team, with 85 points was A Hookway’s Mrs Brown’s boys comprising D Brown, S Brown and J Brown and then oddly C Lee and even more oddly Angie Crush and Lizzie Miller. At the other end of the table a few zeros including past stage winners T Emm and A Roeder.

And that zero sees A Roeder’s Budget team slip back into second with JT’s Sloggers taking over top spot. The bargain teams still dominate the top of the table but for how long? This is the point of the season when the fully priced teams usually begin to assert themselves, so who will come storming through the field as we head towards the three remaining majors.

Finally, the 6th nomination for the season defining, Terrible Team Names prize, is Huxley Crush’s Worst Pace Scenario – another good one from the Crush family.