Fantasy XC League 2017/18 – Race 9 Blog

A bit late with this report due to a bit of altitude training which turned out to be more in theory than in practice due to various ailments. Race 9 is usually a quiet affair with only SM and SW races in the final Kent League of the season.

The season’s 100% list stands at 6 not 7 as was erroneously reported last time. All six are slated for the Nationals so hopefully will see out the season with a great record. Sadly D Seagrove missed the opportunity to secure a bonus race – I wonder who will be the first U20 to complete a unique 10 race season.

Only one debutant this week as H Willis brings our total to 220 for the year. J Bryant was the leading scorer with 127 points with N Taylor leading lady with 82. Best average was H Willis (SM) with 44ppm thus assuring a higher price in the future.

A further 2 athletes joined the Bullseye Club taking the total to 88. This total includes 24 athletes on 100+ppm.

This week’s victor in the A team category (6 athletes; one athlete from each age group) was Tony Bennett’s Auditors A Listers team of S Slack, M Wise, D Schofield, G Fleming, J Bryant and M Heslop with 186points. In the B team category (6 athletes from any age group) the best score of the day was from Mark De ‘ ath’s 2nd team of D Bradley, G Saker, J Bryant, S Fraser, H Patton and R Kinloch with 234 points. The best Player Manager was J Bryant with his Second Team of himself, S Paice, H Gordon, Andy Wood, G Cole and J Keywood with 189 points. And finally the best Bargain Teams, tied with 32 points were Mark P-K’s 30s Selection comprising T Hill, A Roeder, R Kinloch, Julie Goodge, W Beeston and H Brown AND R Tosh’s Millionaires: F Coates, L Slack, W Ross, P Pilbeam, R Kinloch and A Roeder. At the other end of the table far too many zeros to mention.

Meanwhile another change at the top as Sarah Schofield leaps into the lead with 3563 points with her What the Hill team of S Fraser, J Bryant, D Seagrove, D Schofield, J Kingston and F Gordon. This whole team is slated to run in the Nationals BUT with only 200 points between the top 9 teams it is too close to call. With 170+ entries this year the Nationals will be a high scoring affair with the TAC running order in the deciding event of the day – the SM Race – particularly hard to predict. The winning team the last two years has included either the first or second TAC runner from this last race – will it be so this year?

The final nomination for the season defining, Terrible (or Brilliant) Team Names prize, is another Gordon Emm offering Soup – A - Stars which is genuinely terrible. I will take all opinions into account before deciding Name of the Season.