Fantasy XC League 2017/18 – Race 8 Blog

Race 8 in the FL calendar is traditionally the South of England Championship; and so it is this year albeit with a twist. For those who have not been keeping up, as TAC did not attend the SofE this year I have devised a paper race just to keep FL going consistently.

For transparency sake the criteria used were as follows. First of all I had to decide whether each athlete would have raced. I did this based on race record so far this season with added weight given to attendance at the Kent Champs and for school aged athletes the Kent schools. Consideration was also given to past attendance at SofE championships and also location insofar as university students were concerned. Race plans as disclosed to Mark Hookway were also taken into account as well as known health or injury issues. All in all I came up with a list of 131 which is much higher than previous years to hopefully everyone will have had a fair shout. Of these, all 131 finished. Race places relative to other TAC athletes were determined based on relative positions throughout the season with added weight given to more recent performances as well as known reasons for relative under or over performance in specific cases. Lastly race positions were determined by reference to other comparable Kent athletes who actually ran. Race numbers were fixed based on last year’s figures as this year’s were deemed to be abnormally lower due to the organisational issues surrounding the event. No doubt this is not completely fair; but if life was fair, I would be a benign dictator of an oil rich subtropical island with a small colony in the Swiss Alps.

Right enough of that. Obviously the season’s 100% list has remained the same at 7. D Seagrove extends his streak to 15 and Steph extends her FL record to 25/26.

One of only three debutants was Max Nicholls (justified by actually racing) and was the leading scorer with 584 points closely followed by Ben Cole, J Bryant and N Taylor. Best average was G Hopkins (U13B) with 155ppm to qualify for Bullseye Club private dining.

A further 34 athletes joined the Bullseye Club taking the total to 86 compared to 77 this time last season. This total includes 22 athletes on 100+ppm compared to 14 last year; I may have been a little bit generous on the race places!

This week’s victor in the A team category (6 athletes; one athlete from each age group) was Mark De’ath 1 comprising O Breed, M Dubery, Schofield, S Crick, B Cole and G Saker with a massive 928 points. In the B team category (6 athletes from any age group) the best score of the day was from FL stalwart - Sally Emm’s Racing for Grown Ups team of M Heslop, Lucy P-K, T Cox, N Marsh, M Ellis and J Rendall with 1010 points. The best Player Manager was M Ellis with his rather horribly named Got the Runs team of himself, R Driscoll, A Roeder, C Payas, B Cole and J Keywood with 937 points. And finally the best Bargain Team, yet again with 285 points was JT’s Sloggers comprising D Brown, A Roeder, M Dubery, J Bingham, G Hopkins and A Thompson. At the other end of the table putting in one of his regular appearances in this slot was A Hookway with Mrs Brown’s boys with a respectable shot put of 11.

Unfortunately this week’s win was not enough to keep JT’s Sloggers, at the top of the tree as the bargain teams begin to disappear faster than a plate of noodles at a sumo wrestler’s breakfast. The new leader on 3,469 points is Lucy P-K with her 11th Hour team of M Heslop, S Jeddo, Bede P-K, O Breed, K Goodge and F Gordon.

Finally, the 8th nomination for the season defining, Terrible (or Brilliant) Team Names prize, is none other than M Ellis’ Got the Runs. I can’t believe I didn’t notice it sooner!