

CLWB GORPHWYSFA CLUB

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Dear competitor and helper,

With the race hovering around its 40th anniversary (we celebrate this in 2011) the race organizer should expect things to go like clockwork – after all there have been 38 or so years to get it right! Without a doubt from a position of organising we got the weather right! The comments from quite a few combatants suggest that we also seem to have got the organization right too! ‘Just a quick email to say thank you for the hard work/organising on the day of the race. I started 10 yrs ago and have now moved into the veterans’ class, where I hope to do a few more! I can appreciate the effort you all must put into the event.’ A few words that probably say it all for the organizers and helpers.

But it is not only the competitors who have a good time, I must quote one of the marshal who writes ‘Just to let you know ...had a great day out with the team on Snowdon summit. We will be back next year come sun or rain. (now there is a commitment for you). Just hope my knees will take it – ah, sod it, they will just have to. Well done to all your efforts, we now see what it takes to put this on’.

A number of changes introduced following the 2009 problems set the scene. During the months leading up to the event Andy Middleton’s IT team worked long and hard to launch a system, based at the new race HQ in Capel Curig, that sounded promising. Having moved on from the Year of the Dibber in 2008 we were now arriving at the Year of the Osprey Transmitter 2010, an expensive way of keeping an eye on competitors, but as it works then it must be a good idea. On the day minor blips were ironed out; to say it ran like clockwork may be a minor exaggeration, but the proof of the pudding was that we had race results, for an extremely complex event by 5 30pm, 30 minutes after the close.

The new lead-in control (Alpha) did not seem to add navigational difficulties and the repositioned Foxtrot Safety control helped the flow of competitors off Delta. Class D team event changes seemed to work very well; one wonders why we did not adopt this change some time ago. The new Summit building on Snowdon added a touch of luxury (??) to the finish control.

An arduous complex event like this presents a multitude of problems in the field of health & safety. Number one, of course, is accident prevention, followed by where the responsibility lies when things go wrong. I think our new regulations and procedures meet the requirements, and we thank Judith Holt for work in this area, – but I realise that in this event there is no area for complacency; competitors who traverse CribGoch to get to Ugain should consider what their actions might lead to.

It was really nice to see so many competitors inconveniencing themselves to attend the prize giving. Tim Davies of Mercia Fell Runners produced a brilliant performance to bring the finish time for Class A to less than 4 hours, the first time for a number of years. Yiannis Tridimas, Bowland Fell Runners, a V60 in class A finished in the remarkable time of 6:26:37. Congratulations too to all other prize winners, and also to all the other competitors, without you we would not have a race.

Many thanks again for the nice comments competitors have sent in and a very special thanks to Alister Tye and others who have brought together a brilliant photographic gallery, now on the Web - try our new posh web site, www.welsh1000m.org, the work of Kate Williams, who is willing to put together similar sites for other events. Again special thanks to Jean Hall for the entries and the forty or so dogsbodies who spread themselves over northern Snowdonia; we draw persons from near and far, it was nice this year to know that the sun sometimes shines on the righteous! Your comments on aspects of the race are very welcome. The Gorphwysfa look forward to seeing you all on the start line in 2011, our 40th year. HARVEYLLOYD. 09 06 10

Thanks to our sponsors and helpers who added so much to the event. Many thanks to First Hydro, Llanberis, for an extremely generous grant. The Snowdon Mountain Railway and local people helped in many ways: the farmer at the start: all the helpful staff at Pen y Pass Youth Hostel: George and Jayne Wainwright and the staff at the Tyn-y-Coed hotel: Padarn Coaches, Llanberis: The National Trust. And Thank You to all the marshals and everyone who contributed. The army of helpers and marshals contribute so much to the success of the day. It is heartening that so many people will volunteer, at some expense to themselves, to help the Gorphwysfa to run this race. I also extend my thanks, on your behalf, to Rosie Lloyd, and the pasta team for bringing the Pasta meal together. Hilary Malyon did a sterling job running RACE CONTROL and also John Cooke who sat at the computer on a hot day, all day!