

BROOKS WESTWARD LEAGUE – BIDEFORD SUNDAY 11TH JANUARY 2009

Dave Varney writes:

Charlotte Cayton-Smith's winter season continued to blossom at Bideford as she stormed to her third win & led home the largest Newquay & Par team of the day to victory, maintaining their top place in the Brooks Westward league.

Bideford is a course you either love or hate, it's the only one of six that is truly multi-terrain but predominantly road. All races have a rough track on the way out & back, the under 13's drop onto the estuary sand for a short distance, the under 15's climb a couple of stiles & cross a field & the older athletes have all this plus a steep climb through a muddy wood & return on the coastal footpath.

The Senior women set off first, combined with the under 17 men, as with all but the Under 13 Girls, the club could only muster two athletes & with no separate finishing places given, Lucy Kelvey's 21st place & Caroline Steven's 23rd will be much higher in the Women's race. Caroline's should also keep her on track to take the W40 veteran title & only needs one more win from the last two fixtures to wrap this up.

The under 13 girls absolutely dominated the race, taking not only first place with the three front scorers but also third with the 'B' team. Charlotte was well clear of the Sidmouth runner up as she entered the park for the long sweep to the finish but behind her, the rest of the girls packed in between 8th & 13th. Katie Yeomans was in at 8th, Diana Chalmers 9th, Lowenna Hawkey 10th, Lucy Bowden 11th & Ashley Smith 13th.

With only two in each of the other races, the club's team placings overall are looking doubtful, the under 15 Girls possibly having the best chance to redeem their earlier top spot.

Hobie Martin was the best placed & looking to get back closer to his form after illness, finishing third in the under 15 Boys where Josh Steven was pleased with his 11th. Danny Old was 8th & James Craddock 13th in the under 13 Boys. Ailsa Sharrock was another one that seemed to enjoy the course, in at 8th for the under 15 Girls but a recurrence of a knee injury saw Melissa Blake-Lomax hobble to the line at 12th. Graham Hodgson completed the 8Km Senior course in 40th with Mike Carpenter 84th.