

## **BROOKS WESTWARD LEAGUE , BOVEY TRACEY – SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup>** **FEBRUARY 2009**

Dave Varney writes:

Located just 3 miles from the edge of Dartmoor, a last minute inspection of the venue for the fifth Brooks Westward League gave it the 'all clear' after the blizzards that closed off this part of snow struck Devon. The nearby Haytor was still experiencing deep standing snow, enjoyed by numerous skiers & snowboarders but the grounds of the Parke Estate at Bovey Tracey had reverted back to the open pasture & muddy woodland tracks.

With one more fixture remaining at Redruth, next month, this was the opportunity to consolidate points from previous fixtures where five of the six matches will count in the individual & team prizes.

Two winning individual performances kept up the 100% records of Charlotte Cayton-Smith in the under 13 Girls & Caroline Steven in the W40 veteran section. Charlotte's was one of the biggest winning margins of the day but having missed the fixture at Exeter, needs the final score to take the title. This is helped by all three of the leading contestants also having missed a race. The Under 13 Girls team were leading the table overall & although beaten by the Penair girls by a single point, are now guaranteed the trophy. Katie Yeomans romped in at 8th followed closely by Lowenna Hawkey at 10th & Lucy Bowden 12th



Charlotte, Lowenna & Katie looking remarkably clean after their 3km run in the mud!!!

Lucy Bowden – U13 Girls



Caroline also needs to appear at the final fixture to make certain of retaining the trophy she has held for the last three years. An excellent 6th in the Senior race put her in front of the other veteran category athletes.

After a gruelling three laps of the large Senior Men's course, including having to tackle the huge climb through the woods on each, saw the most exciting & closest finish of the day as Cornwall's Ollie Shilston overtook the lead of Tavistock's Pete Freedman who dropped back to fourth, split by the chasing Jim Cole, also Tavistock & the first outing of the winter for N&P's Kevin Toher. In this race, John Horton at 72nd, chalked up another second place in the M60 veteran category & should take the runners up trophy. John Bowden was 89th.

Dogged with an achilles injury, Kevin was not looking to repeat the last two seasons when he won this race by a country mile but on his favourite course of the series kept well up with the leaders & was well pleased with his third place & now looking to complete the end of the winter at the two National Championships which remain.

Danny Old has returned from the illness that laid him low over Christmas & for the first time got the better of local rival, Sam Heslop-George. Danny finish second behind a Plymouth athlete who has not been inside the top 10 before. However, with overall leader, Tom Rogers (East Cornwall) down at tenth & missing a race, the lead swapped to Sam, who has also only competed in four. Danny's second has put him into this placing overall when he can 'drop' his worst score of 8th at Bideford. James Craddock finished 15th but the team place now looks unlikely.



Danny on his way to a well deserved 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the U13 Boys race.

Another possible team prize which took a knock was the Under 15 Girls but with a full team at Redruth, can still take the silver behind Penair who should make up for the missing score at Exeter. After a long injury layoff since December & a set back at last week's school championships, Amy Sweet needed a confidence booster. A steady start & making up ground on the hill got her the result she wanted at 5th. Ailsa Sharrock was close to a group of Penair girls in front of her & was 12th in a race dominated by the Cornish athletes.



Amy Sweet – Under 15 Girls.

The lone athlete in the Under 15 Boys for the club was Joshua Steven who finished 14th