

HSBC Securities Services Winter Walking League Round 2

Andreas Sunday 23rd November 2008

56 hardy souls raced at Andreas village on Sunday morning for round 2 of the winter walks league. With frequent hail showers borne on a cold north westerly wind, conditions were far from ideal for competitors and officials alike. The inclement weather did not seem to dampen spirits though, as there were plenty of improved performances. Gill Senogles took the 10k race win, chopping over nine minutes from her time in round one and never looked in danger of being caught from lap two when she lead the field. Her brother Carl was not so lucky, having to retire with a hamstring injury mid way through the event. Debbie Kelly in second was nearly as impressive with a seven minute improvement. Steve Hall in third place walked faster than he had anticipated with a seventy seven minute clocking. John Cannell is also showing a return to form with a three minute improvement for fourth. Rob Wright just took the advantage from Dave Corrin in a ding dong battle to the tape. Jim Caley posted a two minute improvement for 7th and a tight group of racers, which included Terry Moffatt, Paul Sykes, Tony Kneale, Leon Steed and Marie Gilbertson were locked in battle for most of the race and made up the rest of the top 10. Proceedings were further livened up when some of the local resident cattle found their way on to the course. Fastest walker on the day was Steve Partington who just squeezed in to the 47 minute bracket and the fastest female performance came from Marie Jackson in a sharp looking 57 minutes.

Adam Cowin took the win in the 5k event and also walked quickest. Dave Mackey who was on the return to racing after injury took second in the handicap and another junior, James Green took third place in the second quickest time. Fastest female was Enid Watson who picked up points in 4th place from the improving Linda Green

Hannah Kelly took the handicap win in the 3k event and performed really well, racing with much more confidence as she dipped under 20 minutes for the first time. Alexandra Ross took the points for second with a much better race than in round one, when a stitch had slowed her down. This time she recorded the quickest time of the race. Sinead Kaneen was third on handicap. The whole field was only split by 90 seconds in actual time so this age group is starting to really develop in potential for some close racing as the season progresses.

Jake Cade took a resounding win on handicap in the 2k event as he paced his race much better in this round and posted a near seven minute improvement as a result. Juan Bellando was second on handicap in the fastest actual time. Alice Bell was the sole female in this event and showed great consistency by posting the same time as round one to take third on the handicap.

Thanks to Ayre United F.C. for the use of their club room and a big thanks to all the race officials and marshals who had to stand out in the trying weather conditions to ensure a safe competition for all the walkers.