

Weather to Run? Border League Race 3- 12 December 2010- Hoylake

With temperatures hovering around zero, it was always going to be a difficult decision for Wirral AC as to whether the third Border League fixture should go ahead or not. The weather was sunny and not particularly cold compared to previous weeks, however a substantial amount of ice remained on much of the course come the expected start time of 11am. With everyone present, some of whom had come from as far as north-west Wales, it was too late to call the race off and the start was delayed by almost 45 minutes in the hope of a further thaw. Unfortunately the only real meltdown came in the inclination of most to compete on a treacherous and slow course. Some people even had to leave as they had other commitments later in the day. Those who remained were eventually called to a revised start/ finish point half a mile down the course to cut off part of the prom, and representatives from each club were consulted. As many were still there, and would probably have gone for a run of some description anyway had the event been cancelled, the decision was made there and then to run, but for it not to score in the overall league.

The athletes slithered off along the prom, towards the eventual turnoff inland onto an estate road, before heading back onto the coast for what was a shortened overall distance of just under five miles. One or two dropped out, deciding the risk not worth it and indeed, it was extremely difficult going in many places. Unsurprisingly finishing times did few people justice in what was at best a tempo/ fartlek effort and for many, little more than a steady training run.

The Deestridders were relieved in one respect by the non-scoring nature of the event, as they escaped a severe penalty for fielding just four men. Martin Witty led the club home in 31.42. Jay Jennions tried to stay with him but struggled on the ice, having to fight extra hard on the clearer stretches to eventually finish fourth in 32.02. Kev Burns was next in with a reasonable 39.05. Becki Hall, Linda Martin and Mac McColl played it safe and ran steadily together for 42.10/42.11, with Mike Norris hot (cold?) on their heels in 43.08. Leslie Ingram brought the club home and dry in 44.53.