

Christmas Handicap 2017 - Results

| Pos | Name | Actual Time | Handicap | Watch Time | |
|-----|--------------------|-------------|----------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Andy Gibbons | 01:06:03 | 00:25:00 | 01:31:03 | Fastest Man |
| 2 | Phil Hawkswell | 01:25:54 | 00:10:00 | 01:35:54 | |
| 3 | Lesley Watson | 01:14:12 | 00:22:00 | 01:36:12 | Fastest Lady |
| 4 | Adam Warrallo | 01:09:15 | 00:27:00 | 01:36:15 | |
| 5 | Robbie Williams | 01:11:17 | 00:27:00 | 01:38:17 | |
| 6 | John Gallucci | 01:16:01 | 00:23:00 | 01:39:01 | |
| 7 | Ryhs North | 01:33:02 | 00:08:00 | 01:41:02 | |
| 8 | Greg Trusselle | 01:23:55 | 00:20:00 | 01:43:55 | |
| 9 | Vicky Omelianowicz | 01:29:30 | 00:20:00 | 01:49:30 | |
| 10 | Richard Murray | 01:41:30 | 00:18:00 | 01:59:30 | |
| 11 | Ruey Starky | DNF | 00:15:00 | DNF | Went wrong and didn't complete course |

The annual club Christmas Handicap tradition was broken this year by being held just after Christmas but due to a clash with other events.

The basically out and back, tough 8.5 mile course starting on the canal bank near the Fisherman pub takes in Hope Hill and Spring Woods near Hawksworth and attracted eleven competitors who braved the overcast weather and very muddy course after melted snow from the previous day.

As a handicap, the event should not favour any competitor and is therefore ideal for novice and experienced club members and this was reflected in the different abilities of the entrants. The course is not marked and with limited marshals also gives scope for some route variations, so recceing beforehand is recommended.

After a few injury and illness problems Andy Gibbons took advantage of his handicap to not only be the first runner back but also the fastest. Similarly, Lesley Watson was first Lady in fourth place overall but also fastest Lady.

The prize presentation was held in the Fisherman pub afterwards. The event made a deficit of about five pounds.

Many thanks to the marshals who turned out at short notice, Vicky Omelianowicz and Richard Murray for bringing along a couple prizes, the Fisherman staff who were very cooperative, John Capenerhurst who rose from his flu bed to do the timekeeping, Martin Peace for guidance on the handicapping and of course to the competitors who made it all worthwhile.

Stephen Firth and David Weatherhead

December 2017