

Kielder 10k - 8th October 2011

First bad omen of the day – rain. First good omen of the day – bringing children to support means you get to park at Leaplish, avoiding the bus transfer to the start!

Having had a sneaky peak at the route the previous weekend in the glorious sunshine I was a little disappointed with the persistent drizzle, it meant the support banner the kids had spend all morning colouring in was going to go soggy!

In my usual pessimistic way I positioned myself at the back of the pack at the start, everyone else was going to be fast right? I regretted this for the whole of the first kilometre as the pace was glacial and little chance to over-take, or no opportunity if you had any inclination to keep your trainers out of the exceedingly muddy puddles. However at about the 1km mark the long incline starts, the path widened out and all the hill training over the last couple of months paid off, easy! Lots of short, sharp hills after this with longer gentler declines, just my sort of running. With each hill I managed to overtake a runner or two before being occasionally re-overtaken on the downhills!

Despite all my puffing and wheezing I did manage a giggle at signage on the route, those warning of “steep bends”, or “steep declines” made sense however the one for a “steep incline”? Did they really think it needed bringing to my attention?

The last kilometre was really hard, it was definitely longer than all the rest! But the supporters cheering us on made a big difference, including the slightly soggy banner held by two very bouncy children. I was delighted to finish in a much faster than expected 53.33. I was even more amazed to find I was the 19th woman (or 115 overall).

Jo Mitchell