

## Weetslade Relay - 27th June 2012

Famous last words of our Chairman: "Good news Julian. You won't be needed tomorrow, everybody's fit."

The next day, small children choked on their Coco Pops as the usual morning calm of Wylam was shattered by a very loud expletive. Julian had just discovered that he would be required to step up to the plate after David Reed had succumbed to a vicious strain of man flu in the early hours.

And so it came to pass that Julian joined the merry band of Striders in Lockey Park. It was announced that recent rain had made the multi-terrain course 'a bit clarty'. Julian cheered up considerably when he realised that those of us doing the first leg would benefit from better conditions underfoot than those who ran the 'clartier' later legs.

Having taken the register, David Leat, Julian and myself set off across a soggy field, along puddle-strewn tracks and down a very damp meadow. We then ascended an artificial hill before scampering back to the start to handover to the elegant trio of Catherine, Kim and Eliza. The three of us then stood by the finish line, smugly watching the suffering of the other runners, knowing that the pain was over for us.

The final leg was run by Jonny, Andy and Mark. Jonny didn't need to worry about the clarty conditions as he runs too quickly for either mud or water to have any effect on his flying feet. An admirable performance from Andy had Julian on the verge of offering the second piece of a Bounty that he was happily chomping on. The largest cheer of the evening was reserved for Mark; a man so popular that he needed out-riders (courtesy of St. John's Ambulance) to prevent the frenzied ladies of Allen Valley Striders from ripping his Blaydon Race shirt off!

The evening concluded with a presentation and a surreal goody bag for each team. We then we all wandered happily off, earnestly discussing whether the winner of the Ladies Over 35 prize had actually celebrated her 25<sup>th</sup> birthday yet.

Phil Sturgess

A		B		C	
David Leat	17.40	Phil Sturgess	19.00	Julian Bates	22.14
Catherine Hall	18.41	Kim Taylor	19.57	Eliza Leat	21.49
Jonny Walker	17.00	Andrew Moore	18.24	Mark Russell	23.08