

Organiser's report

Rob Truswell (FVO)

This was very much a team effort, with over 50 people helping out over the weekend. Most were from FVO, but about 1/4 of the volunteers were people from ScotJOS families and elsewhere. I'm very grateful to all of them. This was my first time organising an event this size, and if it went well (which I think it did!), it's because of the small army of volunteers propping me up.

One helper needs to be singled out. James Fathers made the mistake of telling Jason Inman he could help on the Sunday event at Lochan Spling. Soon, he was Assistant Organiser for the Sunday, so Jason could focus on supporting the Scotland team. It became apparent that part of his role would be helping move kit from Edinchip to Aberfoyle, so he became de facto Assistant Organiser on Saturday too. James did four days' work for the events, including probably the worst job of all (bringing the wet, messy bales back by wheelbarrow from the crossing points), and was one of the last people working, as he returned kit to store after Sunday's race. Truly above and beyond.

Edinchip as an area is not completely straightforward, but organising the event was generally a very constructive, comfortable experience, thanks to owners Brett and Jane Simpson and manager Alex Bowers, assisted by David. Alex and David offered us good-natured and helpful support during our 4 months of site visits; they both did a big day's work moving sheep from the crucial fields for the event (including the parking field); and Alex also found us the bales which became crossing points, and which made sure runners could make it through the quagmire around the start kite.

It was great to see the owners' grandchildren giving it a go, with an impressive 3rd place on Yellow and a win on White!

Special thanks to James and John from Killin Mountain Rescue for providing superb first aid cover on the day. We agreed only quite late in the day that first aid duties on an area like this would be best covered by Mountain Rescue, and I'm very grateful that the team agreed to find some members to help us out. Happily, we didn't need much from them on the day.

Working with Vicky, Heather, and Dave was quite an experience (in a good way!). Vicky and Heather are forces of nature, who have worked on this event day and night for the past 6 months. Over thousands of WhatsApps and hundreds of emails, I've sometimes felt that my main job has been just to keep up, and meet their high standards. It was intense, and I believe we're all very proud of what we pulled off.

There's no point in hiding the fact that the final prep on Saturday morning was grim, as the rain settled in and the wind turned our tent into a sail. The mood lifted as the JHI teams arrived, and

the rain passed not too long afterwards. I like to think the juniors caused the sun to come out. I've never seen a JHI before, and it's clear that the real stars of the weekend are this amazing group of juniors. It was such a pleasure to be involved in both JHI races and the ceilidh - on Saturday, their energy lifted everything and set us up for a great day.