

## **2012 Handicap Race Series**

The second annual Almost Athletes handicap race series saw a number of new faces at the event, although sadly a lower than hoped turnout. Unfortunately our reigning champion Fiona Judson was unable to compete due to recurrent injury. The committee hope that next year we can increase participants for the benefit of all those taking part.

The first race saw an exceptional run by Edward Collier – highlighting just how much he had improved over the winter and spring. Winning by over a minute set him up with a commanding lead which would prove advantageous for the series.

Race two saw newcomer Jon O’Hanlon first home closely followed by an inform Steve Wallbridge. A disappointing turnout, meant that future races were to take place on a Monday to avoid clashes with the tri-club.

The move to a Monday saw more new faces and an increase in numbers. An error on my part (sorry!) meant that Paul Thomas came in first place – although as ever the gent, be bequeathed the bottle prize to Sam McGrath whom he pipped to the post. Meanwhile Dale Midwinter raced hard and ploughed through the field. Catherine Mason, Norm Lever and Kim Davenport all remained consistently high finishers putting themselves in contention for the final top placings.

The final race was to decide the all the top final standings. Newcomer Katy Gaze ran well finishing 5<sup>th</sup> while an overly generous handicap meant that Andrew Limb, another first timer, won by over four minutes. Edward Collier made a valiant effort but couldn’t quite reel in enough places – in the end being beaten by Norm Lever by a single point. Catherine Mason also ran well but in the end she was unable to secure 3<sup>rd</sup> place which went to Kim Davenport.

So there will be a new name to be added to the shield, which will be presented along with the other awards at the Christmas dinner evening. Thanks again for those who turned up, and see you in 2013.