

Greensand Ridge Relay 2005 - Results

It was a blisteringly hot day. We often enjoy good weather for the Greensand, but this was taking it to extremes. Well done to all who persevered in the adverse conditions. Many of you will know that one of our runners, MKAC's Anick Valapinee, suffered badly and was taken to hospital on the day. I'm happy to be able to pass on that she is recovered, if a little shaken, and sends her thanks to all who helped her and enquired after her.

The competition was hot too. We missed our old friends Amphill & Flitwick Flyers this year, but welcomed a new team from the Open University, as well as the return of WAOC after more than a few years. So eleven teams toed the line at Waterside Park.

Ultimate glory went this year to MKAC originals, who were first across the line an impressive 24 minutes ahead of handicap. Team manager Brian Graves said that it was the first time in 17 years of trying, so full marks for dogged determination. MKAC made it a 1 - 2 - 3 this year, with Tigers in 2nd place and Fine Blend Mk III in 3rd.

Incidentally, the sharp-eyed may have noticed a subtle change in the handicapping this year. Instead of allocating handicaps according to the previous performances of runners in each age-group (which sometimes led to runners being more heavily handicapped than those 5 or 10 years their junior), I used previous under-40 performances as a baseline, and calculated the other handicaps using age-grading factors. I hope this resulted in a fairer balance.

The battle for the fastest team was not without incident either. On paper it looked like a walkover, with the Flying Buzzards' collection of speedy M21's odds-on favourite. But the Greensand is about running fast *in the right direction*, and a hefty detour by Tom May on leg 4 seemed to have left the door open to MKAC Tigers to take the trophy. When the sums were done, though, the Buzzards still managed to come out on top, by a cruel 7 seconds.

More trophies for MKAC, with New Kids on the Block taking the Ladies title, and Fine Blend Mk III taking the Mixed for the second year running.

The weather also limited the number of new age-group / leg records to only three. New names on the record books are Rebecca Plumb (MKAC, W21, Leg 2), Joe Hurley (LBAC, M40, Leg 2), and Milf Callow (MKAC, M70, Leg 6). For all the leg records, past trophy winners, and lots of other detail on the race. See the SMOC website at: <http://www.smoc.info>

Use the worksheet tabs below to see the full results.

Comments: This page

Results: Tabular results showing leg times and ranks, and changing positions in the handicap and 'elapsed time' races.

The "+/- on H'cap" column shows how much each runner gained or lost over their handicap time.

Chart: Illustrates the change in handicap positions over the course of the race.

Thanks for supporting the race once again. Hope to see you back on the Ridge next year. Bring some friends!

Next year's race will probably be Saturday June 17th. I'll circulate a confirmed date in the spring.

Richard Pownall
SMOC