

Fineshade 17/02/2013

It's no small matter to have beaten SYO in the CompassSport Cup, however complacent they may have been, and indeed, the last time DVO managed it was probably in the head to head nail-biter at Hawksmoor in 1986 when at 63-63 the result went our way on having more second (or third?) places than them. Since then SYO has been the most successful club in the competition with an amazing twelve victories when nobody else has won it more than three times. Their record over the last seven years reads 2nd, 3rd, 1st, 1st, 1st, 1st, 3rd and they have been unbeaten at the qualifying stage since 2005. So, apart from being far better organised and mobilised (well done Liz), how did we manage to put them out?

It was desperately close and it was a good job that our place in the final didn't depend on it. But having got to the final ourselves we have removed perhaps our biggest threat. One striking way of looking at it is to consider the effect of some of our more unsung team members. The final margin was 22 points. The attached table (next page) shows scoring runners from each club as well as all of our runners who scored over 50 points. Our 25 scorers are highlighted in bold red with a bright yellow background (thank goodness for the Green course) and there are also 11 other runners highlighted with a pale yellow background. I want to focus on them. These runners didn't score us any points but what they have in common is that they beat scoring SYO runners. If you look at it carefully you will be able to work out that they pushed SYO scorers down by a total of 30 points. Conversely there were just 2 SYO runners who pushed our scorers down, both on Blue Men, and they took 4 points off us. That's a net swing of 26 points in our favour and that is what could be said to have won us the match – without it we would have lost by 4 points.

So, take a bow Gale, Bleakman, Swalwell, Lindsay, Whitehead, Burgess, Ellis, Parkin, Middleton, Keeling and Berwick. You may have thought your contribution counted for nothing but you are wrong. Your contribution won us the match.

Everybody else reduced the points of at least one runner from another club – remember this when Liz chases you up for the Final!

