**COMPASSSPORT CUP QUALIFYING ROUND**

**AIRE FINISH SECOND AT BEANLEY – WCOC GO THROUGH**

A heartfelt thank you to the hardy bunch of Aires who travelled all the way up to Beanley in Northumbria to represent the club in the CSC. We were very much the “away team” in this fixture, competing against CLOK and WCOC for a place in the final. Unfortunately many of our star performers were not able to attend on this occasion, but nevertheless we had a good entry of 35 prepared to make the journey and had good coverage across the courses from Brown to Orange. I was particularly impressed that both Charlie Alcock and Kate Parkinson were prepared to tackle the Orange courses for the first time, and those courses turned out to be at the long end of the usual range for Orange.

The racing took place in dry but extremely blustery conditions on a moorland area with rock detail, evidence of antiquities but mainly lots of deep heather which made for tough going. The recent Northern Champs at Burbage was good practice for the heather bashing!

We actually held the lead for a long time, but WCOC had turned up in big numbers (they had 50 entrants) and with surprisingly good quality, and when their late starters began winning courses they took the tie away from us. Final scores were:

WCOC 2460, AIRE 2380, CLOK 2318

The Trophy competition for small clubs was incredibly close, with NN taking the win just 3 points ahead of BL and with host club NATO only 3 points further back.

These were our gallant 25 points scorers:

100 Steve Webb

99 David Bowman, Tony Thornley

98 Liz Carter, Kate Parkinson, Jo Buckley, Natasha Conway, Katie Buckley, Tony Carlyle

97 David Alcock, Anne Murgatroyd, Neil Conway

96 Joyce Marshall, Tom Crowther

95 Shirley Wood

94 Judith Powell, Robert Gatenby

92 Paul Wood, Wendy Carlyle, Henry Stitson

91 Tom Woodham, Peter Carter

90 James Woodham, Megan Robinson, Ian Marshall

So on this occasion we had only the one course winner as I managed to sneak the victory on Green by 9.5 minutes (second place took 30% longer!). All the other courses were won by WCOC. Good luck to them for their trip down the M6 and M5 for the final, which will be hosted by Bristol OK in November.

Steve Webb