

## MDOC BOC RELAYS 2014 by Vicky Thornton

WOW what a day....

Cragg Estate and Chesterhope Common although a small area offered enough technical detail, due to the presence of old mine workings, and good runnability. These two features always ensures for an exciting relay. The racing was fast and furious with an energy sapping muddy run-in to finish off. The open area meant runners could see others all around them, but needed to keep a level head to maintain concentration. The compact assembly with plenty of level ground for club tents adjacent to the run in, good access to all facilities, good views of the start, finish and a good deal of the competition area made for great spectating and a great atmosphere.

I am not sure I can remember a year when MDOC has won so many medals at a BOC relay before - I could be wrong?...but with 4 teams on the podium x 3 makes a total scoop of 12 medals (drawing level with some clubs) but with only extremely strong clubs like FVO and SYO gaining more.

**M18: 1st MDOC TOP GEAR Ali, John D & Matt**, 2nd SYO, 3rd LOC

**Men's Short: 1st SN, 2nd MDOC BALLS OF STEEL Tom F, Steve D, Alex**, 3rd SO

**W50: 1st BOK, 2nd SROC, 3rd MDOC ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS Heather, Hazel & Vicky**

**W60: 1st DVO, 2nd MDOC COUNTDOWN Julie, Alison & Margaret**



On top of our podium successes we also had no less than 3 more of our teams narrowly missing out on medals!....

On Mixed Adhoc the MDOC **OUTNUMBERED Hindle family team of Laura, Trevor & Carolyn finished 4<sup>th</sup>** less than 2 minutes behind NN bronze medalists.



Our Junior Adhoc team **NINJA WARRIERS James, Ben & Tom Mc** and W60 A team **BIRDS OF A FEATHER Irene, Jan & Rae** were also in the running with strong runs by ALL team members and it has to be said that the relay 'planners comments' make an interesting read....his comment. "....There are a few points to learn from this - electronic systems are not infallible...."etc I think gives a good enough summary! (It's worth a read)....

So amid the main excitement of the day...the mass starts...the wait for our runners on the run-in...the mud and lost shoes - the day was not without it's 'hiccups'...our W50 team had a nervous wait to be re-instated while officials realised an SI box really wasn't working and Tom's unfortunate experience with an SI box not working leaves me wondering if his time lost dibbing, re-dibbing and then queuing to punch his map could have cost him as much as 44secs....I prefer to think not!

Our remaining teams also performed well:

**THE IT CROWD John B, Chris & Ian** competing in the highly competitive M60 class got off to a flying start with our British champ John Britton racing down the run-in first place Chris and Ian followed this with solid runs to finish 10<sup>th</sup> overall.

**M/W70 MDOC OFF THEIR ROCKERS Andrew, Sue & Pete** achieved 5<sup>th</sup> place while **M/W70 MDOC DEAL OR NO DEAL Dave & Graham** also performed well and were joined by an extra runner from a different club and so remained non-comp.

**Mixed Adhoc MDOC GRAND DESIGNS Jane, Dave & Andy** remained the Adhoc B team on the grounds of 'extra years' but achieved a creditable 10<sup>th</sup> place in the class with the most teams entered.

The finest performances of the day should always get a special mention and for these I have looked at the individual course positions **Heather, Ali and Matt all WON their courses outright!** Steve D, Tom F and John D were 2nd and Alex and Vicky 3rd. I have to say I am in AWE of the lads who achieved the magical 5mins/k on that hilly terrain....you know who you are! However I have also looked at 'staying power' and Margaret needs to be congratulated, along with Julie and Alison, for her sheer grit and determination to ensure that the MDOC efforts in the W60 class to clinch medals were not thwarted!

**THANKS TO ALL FOR SO MUCH FUN** (not least the organiser, planner & controller etc)

And so until next year.....

