



## TEST WAY RELAY 2009

This year's event, due to a busy Sunday racing calendar (Victory 5, Stanstead Slog & Studland Stampede) saw a welcome reduction to 29 teams taking part, versus the 35 in 2008. This made the usual traffic chaos at the change-over points much less – thank goodness. Again we were treated to some superb late summer sunshine with some runners complaining of the 24C afternoon temperatures. This however made fantastic clear views at Inkpen for the start and a very social gathering at the finish at Eling.

As usual we had numerous runners, especially poor Gosport, who managed to miss place the correct route and add valuable minutes to team times, but this was all taken with good humour. Lessons to be learned on pre- race route reccys.

In the Ladies race honours' went again to **WINCHESTER** (05:35:04). Helped by Lorna Russell's new leg 4 record, they took over the lead from **EASTLEIGH** on the Wherwell to Stockbridge leg, staying in the lead until the finish. **STUBBINGTON GREEN 'A'** finished 3<sup>rd</sup> team.

In the mixed race honours went to the local club **TOTTON 'A'** team (05:33:41) who led from start to finish, with team minibus frantically trying to keep up. Last years winners **TEAM SOUTHAMPTON** finish 5 minutes behind them with **WINCHESTER** 6 minutes behind.

The men's race saw **SOUTHAMPTON RC** lead from start to finish (04:41:04) from **WINCHESTER AC** in 2<sup>nd</sup> and **STUBBINGTON GREEN** in 3<sup>rd</sup> position despite Lewis Chalk running the 2<sup>nd</sup> record of the day on leg 9.

Thank you to Martin Loveless who replaced Andy Suswain as my co-helper on the day, especially with the compiling of the race results – he did a fine job – and enjoyed it !!!

Also much appreciation to the timekeepers at the change-over's, namely – Malc Price & Eryl/SRC (Linkenholt) , Me (Stoke Hill), Martin/Hardley (Middleton), Mike Delauney/Hardley (Wherwell) Mike Callus/Hardley (Stockbridge) Graham Clarke /Hardley (Mottisfont), Brian Harvey/Totton (Romsey) and finally Ali Woodcock/Hardley (Lee Lane).

Thank you also for your response to the sharing of transport which as mentioned earlier made a big difference at the change-over's, especially with considerate parking.

The full results can be found on the RR10 website and the Hardley website [www.hardleyrunners.co.uk](http://www.hardleyrunners.co.uk). If you spot any obvious errors please contact Martin Loveless on [martin.loveless@openreach.co.uk](mailto:martin.loveless@openreach.co.uk).

We hope you all enjoyed the day and look forward to next year's race, which will be the incredible 25<sup>th</sup> running of the event. It will be confirmed next Spring, so plenty of time to get familiar with the route !!!

*Ray Noke*

*Martin Loveless*