

21st February 2010 Beverley Urban O – Organiser's Comments

What a morning!

It started off fairly normally, if a little cold, as the alarm woke me at 6:00am.

There was no indication of the weather to come as I set off before dawn, although some light flurries of snow did appear as I joined the motorway.

And then my mobile started, "We've got 4 inches of snow here, what's it like in Beverley?" At that stage I had no answer, so I contacted the Smith team, who were in Beverley putting controls out from (probably before) first light. "Very little snow here, nearly all the controls out."

By 9 o'clock however, the snow was getting heavier, but we had managed to erect the tent, much to the amusement of the early morning dog walkers. We couldn't actually lift the tent at one point due to the weight of the snow that had fallen in the few minutes that the canvas had been laid out.



After discussion, we decided to go ahead with the event. The controls were out, the paths weren't particularly slippery, the parking area was OK. Many people rang, our response was simply, "If you can get here safely, there will be an event to take part in".

I received more phone calls that morning than I normally do in a year.

Understandably many people did not travel, but 50 competitors from 12 different clubs from as far afield as Forth Valley, South Lancs and Walton Chaser, did battle the conditions and thoroughly enjoyed their run in the snow.

There were some difficult journeys, a family from Peterborough were travelling for two and a half hours and I hope the competitor from CLOK who called in for a run on his way to Wales didn't regret the detour. A number of people rang approaching 12noon hoping that we might extend the

normal starting times as they were on their way but their journey times had been extended by the conditions. Which of course we did.

Amazingly by the time we were packing away, we were greeted by blue skies, a far cry from a few hours earlier!



Many thanks to all the helpers, in particular John Fulwood, who travelled from near Skegness, stood manfully on the start and didn't even get a run. But the event probably wouldn't have gone ahead if the Smiths (Helen, Mike and Dorothy) hadn't organised themselves so well and got the controls out well before the heaviest of the snow started.

Neil Harvatt