

To all Cotswold way team captains

Socially Distanced Cotswold Way relay

Well, it's only a week away until the initial date of the Cotswold Way Relay, the forecast is perfect and we hope that you're all fit and ready to go...

Except, of course, that this year you can't... for the second time in its history (Foot and Mouth Disease in 2001) we've had to cancel the CWR, so will be missing out on all the drama and fun of this iconic event (and the organisational headaches!). Ironic that we had changed the date this year so as not to clash with Glastonbury, only to find ourselves up against bigger opposition!

However, like many other race organisers, we've been considering how we could run the CWR in a 'socially distant' format, and believe that we've come up with a solution that'll give all runners the chance to have an enjoyable outing along the Cotswold Way, and provide an opportunity for good inter-club competition. The outline is:

- We're asking clubs (both EA affiliated and others) to enter teams, by simply emailing us to let us know you're interested, with a closing date of Sunday 12th July;
- Clubs can enter unlimited numbers of teams, in the normal CWR categories (but see below) – each team needs a nominated Team Manager who will then be our point of contact;
- We're asking for a £5 donation from each runner, which we will ask you to send directly to the Cotswolds Conservation Board (who would normally have received a donation from the race entry fees);
- Each runner will be responsible for running their chosen leg of the Cotswold Way, using the current route as posted on the website, at whatever time and date suits them, by the end of July;
- Legs will be preferably tracked and timed with a Garmin / Strava type app, or otherwise a timekeeper will need to confirm the runners time;
- Times will be notified to the team manager, who will collate them and then pass the overall team times onto the race organisers, by Sunday 9th August at the latest;
- The results will then be compiled and released once we are happy with the overall places.

The one change we are going to make to the format used in previous years is to recognise that clubs in the northern part of the area may not want to come down to Bath to run Leg 10, and visa versa, clubs from down here may find it difficult to get people up to Chipping Camden to run Leg 1. So what we are proposing is that we split the CWR into CWR-North, comprising Legs 1-5, and CWR-South, comprising Legs 6-10. You can choose which race you wish to enter your team in, and we will award virtual prizes for best team performance in each category in each race. If your club are happy to enter teams in both the North and South races, i.e. a full ten runners, we'll then compile an overall time for the whole race.

We hope that splitting it in this way makes it less of a daunting task to get a team together, as you only need five like-minded people to be able to enter rather than a full complement of ten.

Once we have received your team entries, and we know that this is going to be a successful format, we'll then send out more detailed instructions

So, we're hoping to hear from you all very soon with your entries and comments

Best Wishes

Tom Hutchison and Andy Mullett – TeamBath AC

reply to
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