

COSMICS COME TO PARTY

From nowhere to 6th in the FRA Relays in six years emphasises only one aspect of the success of Cosmic Hillbashers!

Formed in August 1993 with eight paid up members they now boast a membership of over a hundred but it is the style with which they have achieved it that arguably make Cosmics the best club in Britain.

Founder members Brian Lawrie, Phil Kammer and Ewen Rennie once lined up at Ben Nevis as numbers 2,3.& 4 but found that being very much a minority within Scotland's biggest athletics club (Aberdeen AAC) was not to their taste. So was conceived Cosmic Hillbashers - very much Brian's idea as far as the name went - but with a joint philosophy that to participate was to win; to be in the hills was the name of the game.

Another crucial inaugural member was Steve "social secretary" Pryor. Initially self-appointed, (after all the initial club constitution, demanded that the club be run with the minimum of officials - a secretary and a treasurer and no formal committee), Steve became part of the inner quartet who ran the club for the first five years.

Steve's forte was the club trips and social occasions! "Cosmics come to party" was the theme song long before it became "Cosmics beat Carnethy"! The Sligachan Hotel and Glamaig Race still reel from the Cosmic clothes swapping party of 1998 whilst the same venue the previous year saw Cosmics beat the Rest of the World at football thanks to the special contributions of Katie "draped on the crossbar" Boo and Margaret "Webb Ellis" Stafford.

However any aspiring club also wants success on the track. First featuring in the 1994 FRA Relays they finished 43rd. 1995 and the trip to Wales proved too far for even this intrepid bunch of travellers but in 1996 they improved to 29th with the Cosmic quines leading at the end of leg two only to fade to 6th at the end.

1997 and Cosmics improve to 13th whilst the Women's team was well in contention until a navigational error on leg three. Just to show what might have been Tracey Brindley runs the fastest last leg by some five minutes!

So to Keswick and 1998 with Cosmics finishing sixth overall, sixth "B" Team and 5th Ladies Team. Given this rate of improvement who would bet against them winning some medals in 1999 despite being denied the opportunity to take the event to their own backyard at Glenshee. (The powers that be decided that it would be too far to travel for the southern wimps and opted for Alva instead!).

And win medals they did - second in the Ladies Race, third in the Open Race, fourth in both the Veterans and 'B' team races - yes Cosmics have arrived! Will the Comet soar in the new millenium? Given the level of vocal support

available to them at Alva, Cosmics must surely soar ever upward.

Such team successes have been also been reflected in individual recognition with Cosmics making up three of the four lady members of the Scottish Ladies team at Knockdhu in 1998 as well as having a young impostor in the male vets. In 1999 it was only two Cosmic Ladies and different grey beard for Knockdhu (but it should have been two)!

1999 and Tracy Brindley and Sonia Armitage were part of the Scottish Bronze Medalists at the World Trophy Mountain Race - a fitting reward for their efforts and dedication over the years!

Yet even that was eclipsed by Cosmics having more runners than any other club in the World in the World Orienteering Championships held earlier in the year in Inverness - British (1), Norwegian (1), Spanish (2), and New Zealand (1)! They're a cosmopolitan lot and since then another New Zealand orienteer has joined them whilst Cosmic Coach Rennie raves about the uphill prowess of another new recruit (female).

Greybeard

THE OUTWARD BOUND MOUNTAIN SCHOOL, ESKDALE, CUMBRIA

John Lagoe (1952-1961), Tom Price (1961-1968), Roger Putnam (1968-1988), Bob Barton (1988-1995)

We have set up an Archive in the Cumbria Record Office, covering the first 50 years from the opening of Outward Bound Eskdale in 1950, as a memorial to the vision of the first warden, Adam Arnold-Brown, whose work established the ethos and practice of the Outward Bound experience for young people through mountains.

The Archive holds a large amount of formal material transferred from Eskdale. We would like to add personal records such as course diaries, letters, recollections of expeditions, photographs, which past staff and students may wish to contribute.

Everything will be catalogued by the Cumbria Archive Service, and confidentiality is assured.

If you have anything to contribute, original copy, now or later, please contact:

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