

## UMSTEAD EQUALIZER 2001

Umstead Park, September 16, 2001

The second running of the Umstead Equalizer handicap race, and first race of the Godiva 2001-2002 Winter Series, took place in Umstead Park in ideal running conditions on a sunny September morning. Eighteen Godiva members and friends turned up to race, including Ole Holsti who agreed to join in at the last minute to make up a team, thereby allowing the Race Director to keep his promise not to participate himself this year. Each runner was given a "handicap score" based on age and sex, and six teams of three were drawn by computer to equalize (approximately) the sum of handicap scores within each team. The runners were then asked to predict their own times on this accurately measured, but very tough, 5 kilometre course, and the predicted times were converted to starting handicap times (the runner predicted to be slowest on each time started at 0:00, with the other two members of each team starting at times which, if the predicted times were accurate, would just allow them to catch the first starter). The final performances were then converted into team times, through a formula designed to reward both fast running and accurate judgement of handicap times.

When all the running and mathematics were completed, team number 2, consisting of Tom Mitchell, Rob Wilson and Denise Fry, emerged as the winners with a team time of 24:03, giving them a margin of over a minute on runners up team 3 (Randy Dykes, Dan DuVarney and Ole Holsti) in 25:25. Dan had the consolation of the day's fastest time with a 19:45 performance. Pat Bruer had the second fastest individual time and also the best age- and sex-adjusted Performance Score (time in seconds divided by Handicap Score). Karla Henderson proved to be the best predictor of her own time, with a discrepancy of only ten seconds between her actual and predicted performances.

Full results follow below. The "team time" is the Finish Time of the last runner to cross the line, minus one third the sum of Handicap Times. Net Time is the actual time taken by each runner to cover the course.

Several volunteers helped put the race together. Carolyn Vincent stepped in at the last minute to serve as our First Aid Officer. Thanks also to Deb Bialeschki, Amy Grady, Ole Holsti, Bruce Koenig, Cathy Mencarini, Anne-Marie Mulhern and Gary Schultz.

Richard Smith  
Race Director

TEAM SCORES:

Team	Name	Sex	Age	Handicap Score	Pred Time	Handicap Time	Finish Time	Net Time
1	Dan Esson	M	32	82	25 0	4 30	28 33	24 3
1	Charles Alden	M	55	98	25 40	3 50	28 30	24 40
1	Susan Slade	F	45	102	29 30	0 0	28 33	28 33
Total Handicap Score		282,		Team time is		25 min	46 sec	
2	Tom Mitchell	M	60	102	25 0	2 30	26 48	24 18
2	Rob Wilson	M	34	82	21 45	5 45	26 48	21 3
2	Denise Fry	F	41	98	27 30	0 0	26 48	26 48
Total Handicap Score		282,		Team time is		24 min	3 sec	
3	Randy Dykes	M	38	85	27 0	4 0	29 24	25 24
3	Dan DuVarney	M	37	85	20 30	10 30	30 15	19 45
3	Ole Holsti	M	68	111	31 0	0 0	28 37	28 37
Total Handicap Score		281,		Team time is		25 min	25 sec	
4	Walter Rogan	M	52	96	29 0	0 0	27 15	27 15
4	Carolyn Huettel	F	37	94	27 0	2 0	27 15	25 15
4	Ray Dooley	M	48	93	25 0	4 0	28 3	24 3
Total Handicap Score		283,		Team time is		26 min	3 sec	
5	Conrad Kirby	M	15	93	21 30	6 30	28 45	22 15
5	Karla Henderson	F	51	108	28 0	0 0	28 10	28 10
5	Greg Prospero (went off course)	M	28	81	24 30	3 30	29 30	26 0
Total Handicap Score		282,		Team time is		26 min	10 sec	
6	Carolyn Vincent	F	32	92	29 40	0 0	29 54	29 54
6	Patrick Bruer	M	43	89	20 15	9 25	29 56	20 31
6	Joanne Piscitelli	F	45	102	29 20	0 20	29 55	29 35
Total Handicap Score		283,		Team time is		26 min	41 sec	

INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES:

Name	Net Time	Predicted Time	Performance Score
Walter Rogan	27 15	29 0	17.03
Conrad Kirby	22 15	21 30	14.35
Tom Mitchell	24 18	25 0	14.29
Carolyn Vincent	29 54	29 40	19.50
Randy Dykes	25 24	27 0	17.93
Dan Esson	24 3	25 0	17.60
Carolyn Huettel	25 15	27 0	16.12
Dan DuVarney	19 45	20 30	13.94
Karla Henderson	28 10	28 0	15.65
Charles Alden	24 40	25 40	15.10
Rob Wilson	21 3	21 45	15.40
Denise Fry	26 48	27 30	16.41
Ole Holsti	28 37	31 0	15.47
Patrick Bruer	20 31	20 15	13.83
Joanne Piscidelli	29 35	29 20	17.40
Ray Dooley	24 3	25 0	15.52
Susan Slade	28 33	29 30	16.79
Greg Prospero	26 0	24 30	19.26
(Richard Smith M 48	22 28	unofficial self-timed)	

Gary Schultz has suggested an alternative system in which the age- and sex-based Handicap Scores are replaced by runners' own scores determined by their predicted finish times. As an experiment, I've shown how this race might have worked out if this system had been in place (but assuming the same scoring system for deciding the final result). In this case, the "Handicap Score" is the runner's predicted time in seconds. Note, however, that the runners would not necessarily have run the same net times under this system, because it was clear that some runners slowed down in order to pace their team mates.

Team	Name	Sex	Age	Handicap Score	Pred Time	Handicap Time	Finish Time	Net Time
1	Walter Rogan	M	52	1740	29 0	0 0	27 15	27 15
1	Ray Dooley	M	48	1500	25 0	4 0	28 3	24 3
1	Greg Prospero	M	28	1470	24 30	4 30	30 30	26 0
Total Handicap Score 4710, Team time is					27 min	40 sec		
2	Tom Mitchell	M	60	1500	25 0	2 0	26 18	24 18
2	Randy Dykes	M	38	1620	27 0	0 0	25 24	25 24
2	Charles Alden	M	55	1540	25 40	1 20	26 0	24 40
Total Handicap Score 4660, Team time is					25 min	11 sec		
3	Conrad Kirby	M	15	1290	21 30	7 50	30 5	22 15
3	Carolyn Huettel	F	37	1620	27 0	2 20	27 35	25 15
3	Joanne Piscidelli	F	45	1760	29 20	0 0	29 35	29 35
Total Handicap Score 4670, Team time is					26 min	42 sec		
4	Carolyn Vincent	F	32	1780	29 40	0 0	29 54	29 54
4	Dan DuVarney	M	37	1230	20 30	9 10	28 55	19 45
4	Denise Fry	F	41	1650	27 30	2 10	28 58	26 48
Total Handicap Score 4660, Team time is					26 min	7 sec		
5	Karla Henderson	F	51	1680	28 0	1 30	29 40	28 10
5	Patrick Bruer	M	43	1215	20 15	9 15	29 46	20 31
5	Susan Slade	F	45	1770	29 30	0 0	28 33	28 33
Total Handicap Score 4665, Team time is					26 min	11 sec		
6	Dan Esson	M	32	1500	25 0	6 0	30 3	24 3
6	Rob Wilson	M	34	1305	21 45	9 15	30 18	21 3
6	Ole Holsti	M	68	1860	31 0	0 0	28 37	28 37
Total Handicap Score 4665, Team time is					25 min	13 sec		