Huntington Chase

Five days out and the forecast was dire but as the week wore on, it improved. But on Chase day under a warm sun with billowing cloud, the first walkers in a field of 75 set out on the hilly 11k. course which takes in sections of road, track, mountain and moorland. An hour later, an eclectic gathering of horse riders, bikes and runners were ready to go, many in fancy dress to enliven the proceedings, some with dogs in harness, one with a toddler seated on the crossbar and a few juniors.

Bikes were just heading the field at the foot of Hergest Ridge but after the climb to the Trig point, four legs made it ahead of two wheels. Everyone was treated to the glorious panorama along Offas Dyke and down into Gladestry, spreading out under some short sharp showers. Up the steep Stonehouse Bank and back to Huntington saw Elizabeth and Johnny on horseback, a mere three minutes ahead of Ollie and Tom screeching past the finish on bikes. Credit to Nick on two legs, only a few minutes later and to those who walked the course.

Steaming bowls of soup and sandwiches awaited all under a precautionary tent at the Swan Inn where Jane had the usual roaring fire and shelves of beers, ciders and wines for weary finishers and friends.

Sincere thanks go to the ladies of Huntington catering for 100 or so, to marshals out on the course, Co-op and Nisa for their donations, to The Grapevine, No 25 Delicatessen and Paul Lewis for the raffle prizes, sponsor S W Maddy and Son and for many others without whose help and support, the event could not be put on.

The highlight of post Chase was the fancy dress parade, with the Jones' sisters as the Kiss, unanimously acclaimed.

Half of the £1,307 raised has gone to St Thomas a Becket Church in the village. At quite an opportune time, the balance is earmarked to the starting up Kington Youth Hub that seems such a needed and valuable resource for the town.

Finally, big thanks are extended to all the entrants who in such good spirits took part in this years' Chase, run for fun.

Peter