

Friday

Planes, trains, buses and ferries –back to the Isle of Beer! The 20 intrepid Alehousians, clad in beautiful orange (not dirty yellow) made their way to the Strathmore and then back outside to take in the glorious weather – it never rains on the Isle of Man!

Port Erin 10k: good conditions for the runners (and for the drinkers). Great runs by Katie Good (2nd), Sarah Pemberton (6th) and Joe Vis (9th; 2nd junior). Teams: Men 4th, Women 3rd.

Back to the Strathmore – decisions on virgin challenges and the important beer-racing trials! Deliberations on the challenges had been on-going since the ferry. Pint of orange? Pint of milk? Pint of orange and milk? Read a book? Eat a book? Eat orange? This may take a while... some good ones what we liked: Dhruv having to carry around a box of eggs for the weekend (forfeits for every egg broken); Ben running the 5k only in his Speedos with a bottle of beer strapped to his person.

Saturday

Rain! Thankfully, by race time, the storms had more-or-less passed; by pub-crawl time, it were a nice day!

Peel Hill race: Notable performances again by Katie (5th) and Sarah (7th), with Tommo leading the men home (20th). Teams: Men 6th, Women 4th.

Pub crawl! Rob stop! A-team (beer) decided: Holden M., Ansell, Glassey, Gooch. All sub-4. 9-man beer race vs Doss in the Quarterbridge. Narrow defeat, although the two-girl rule wasn't in our favour and they had a ringer in their team (a sub-4 Pete Riley). We remained confident for Sunday.

Sunday

Groans as people stumbled out of bed and limped to breakfast in readiness for the 5k races.

Douglas 5k/5k relays: Katie (2nd; 2nd overall) and Sarah (6th; 5th overall) again with good performances; Men's A team with a consistent pace coming home in 4th. Teams: Men's (4th; 3rd overall); Women's (3rd; 3rd overall).

Alehouse v Doss football: A close match. Some great performances, most notably from Dhruv "midfield marauder" and a couple of nifty scousers on the wings (Vis and Luscombe). 0-0 at half time – tight match. They grabbed a couple. We got one back (cool finish from Glassey). Pushing for an equaliser, a few agonising near-misses... and they grab a couple more just before the final whistle. A 4-1 loss – harsh on the boys, they done us proud.

Sunburn all round... it never rains on the Isle of Man!

Beer races: Well. This was a hard one to take. 'B' team disqualified in the 1st round after a little bit of a pint mishap for Laurie. Harsh. 'A' team looking favourites to make it 6 in a row – sub-17 for the team and

sub-3 for Ansell, leading the team off. The final: Doss vs Alehouse vs UCLAN. Messy all round – too close to call, yet called it was, nonetheless... in Doss's favour. Difficult to take, but we took it.

Monday

Horrible hangovers. Ferry trips, plane trips. Goodbyes. Excitement for next year – the 50th anniversary! Bound to be a big one.

A great weekend!

Full results at

http://www.manxtimingsolutions.com/Results/2011/20110422_EAF/EAF_MainPage_2011.aspx

Yours in running and in beer,

Dan Ansell