

# THE BLAYDON RACE

*Given Along the Spotswood Road for the 28th time  
at 7.15pm on Monday the Ninth of June 2008*

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Dear Club Secretary.

5 July 2008

## 'ILLEGAL' RUNNERS

I am writing to clubs to ask for your help with what has become a particularly serious problem for me this year. As you probably realise, verifying the results of around 3500 finishers in a race with no fewer than 24 different prize categories is not a simple task. It takes me around 8 hours to get through it and there are only 2 days to do it between receiving them from the Results Team and publication in the Journal.

The problem is caused by people passing on their race numbers to others who have not entered the race or by running without a number at all.

Among those who ran in 'illegal' numbers, I know of at least 4 who finished in prize-winning positions. This has caused a lot of extra work and inconvenience in re-working the results (and the prize winners) and has rendered some of the published results incorrect. We could have done without this at a time when we are trying to demonstrate good organisation to a new sponsor who we want to persuade to stay with us for next year.

There are other issues, too.

- In the event of a runner requiring hospital treatment, he/she may be wrongly identified via the race number worn and may receive inappropriate treatment and/or the wrong family may be contacted by the hospital.
- Uka insurance is likely to be invalid in any incident involving a runner who has not had an entry accepted by the race organisers and the runner may also be open to legal action for damages if someone else is injured in the incident.
- All accepted entrants are told in the letter which comes with the race number that 'only you are entitled to run in the Race with this number' and they are advised about our 'rollover' arrangements if they cannot run.
- No entrant has the right to decide who may run in the race by handing on his race number to someone of his choosing. Several hundreds of would-be runners have been rejected because of the race safety limits and no-one has priority over these, least of all people who have not entered.

I should point that we operate a policy of doing the very best we can for runners, especially club runners, and are always ready to help if we can; they only have to pick up the phone and ask.

**We have always sought to make the Blaydon Race a friendly celebration of our Geordie culture but, sadly, we may be obliged to take a firmer line with offenders in future including declining their entries for the race.**

I would be very grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of all your members so that the problems may be reduced to more manageable proportions in the future.

Many thanks



Bob

cc: Mrs J Tinkler, NECAA

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