

Yahoo 2023 – Tues 12th December 2023

For more general detail, see [the Yahoo page of the website](#).

Where: the start (and finish) is **outside Bell's on the North Inch path**. The club's (very green) gazebo tent will be pitched at the start line.

Course: is the classic Yahoo course, albeit allowing the Peri-Peri shortcut onto Crieff Road + the sneak-round the advert boards onto Feus Road. The course will be marked, as best possible, with flour arrows, but, in the dark, these markings will not be foolproof. Key turns will be marshalled. See both a [course map](#) and [navigation guide](#).

When: the first runner will set off at 6:20 pm (that's slightly earlier this year given the wider spread of runners). Most runners will start between 6:30 and 7:00pm. The handicap will set out each runner's start time. This is the actual clock start time (GMT) at which each runner will set off. The handicap will appear on the Yahoo page (at the top of it) of the PRR website, see [here](#), at 8pm on the evening of Sunday 10th December. Please be sure to check in after that for the handicap and your start time. Watch the website also for any ice-driven postponements.

It's obviously recommended to get there earlier for number collection, warm-up etc. Set off late and there are no corrections made. Runners will be, in many cases and where possible, batched together. A good cluster of waiting PRRs to cheer earlier runners on their way is always very welcome.

How it works: the first runner over the finish line is the handicap trophy winner. It's that simple. There are also trophies for the fastest male and female over the course.

The handicap: has been based on the racing of the season and as much knowledge as can be mustered on current form. Everyone **always** claims to be 'not running all-out', to 'have a cold', to be 'not in form' etc. This is the timeless tradition of the Yahoo. Equally traditional, however, is everyone 'going for it' once they leave the North Inch. The handicapper largely disregards this all this tosh. Everyone does it; it is, if you will, a B*****t Arms Race. Appeals over an individual's handicap are doomed to failure. In an ideal world, all runners will cross the finish line together. The beauty of the Yahoo is that it is not an ideal world.

Numbers: are to be worn (it's impossible to identify runners emerging from the gloom without them). They'll be available at the start/club tent. **Please bring safety pins. There are shiny, new, Yahoo-specific numbers this year. We will be collecting them in at the finish; do please hand them in.**

Kit: club kit is **not** required. However, all runners must be dressed very visibly – some combination of hi-viz, day-glo, flashing lights etc.

Refreshments: in an extension of our experiment of last year, we'll be serving **hot chocolate** and **stovie** (both traditional and veg/vegan) at the finish line/tent. If you want any of that, please bring your own plate + cutlery and/or mug. We're happy to see other (spectating) club members and (obviously) marshals and helpers there, too. Please make sure we know whether you're a vegetarian if planning to take food.

Stuff: you can leave bags, kit (inc the above plates and mugs) etc in the gazebo.

Trophies: will be presented shortly after the last runner crosses the finish line. (They'll then be confiscated again for engraving and presentation at the presentation night in March).

Final thoughts:

- 1) Anyone can win the Yahoo.** That's the whole idea. You may be used to the idea of getting beaten by the club's faster runners. The handicap does all that it can to correct for that. Run the course hard and you have every chance of winning.
- 2) Don't go out too hard.** Unless you start as number 1, you have runners to chase down. There seems to be a long-standing but erroneous assumption that you should be catching them a few minutes into the course (rather as in a cycling time trial). But if the handicap is any way proficient, you shouldn't be catching runners until the last mile or two of the course. If you are, one or more of these is true: 1) **you** have gone out too fast; 2) **they** have gone out too slowly or 3) **I** have messed up the handicap.

Good luck to all runners, and thanks in advance to all helpers!

MAC, 1.12.23