

Yahoo 2024 - the 40th Yahoo - Tues 10th December

For more general detail (+ superfluous waffle), 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, now allowing the Piri-Piri 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. A recce is much recommended: a Club recce occurs on the morning of Sunday 8th December (ask Elvis). Key/tricky turns will be marshalled. See both a [course map](#) and [navigation guide](#).

When: **the first runner will set off at 6:30 pm. Most runners will leave 6:45-7:00pm. 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 8th December. Please be sure to check in after that for the handicap and your start time.**

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.

Weather: Watch the website also for any ice-driven postponements. These are always possible (although the forecast is good).

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. (Almost) 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 (almost) everyone properly 'going for it' once they leave the North Inch. The handicapper largely disregards this all this nonsense, however traditional as it may be. 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 timeless 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 specific Yahoo-specific numbers we use each year as part of the tradition. **We will be collecting them in after the finish; do please hand them in.**

Dropouts: if pulling out of the race, **please let me know before the start:** it helps hugely with starting runners.

Kit: club kit is **totally not** required. However, **all runners must be dressed very visibly – some combination of hi-viz, day-glo, flashing lights** etc. A **head torch** is recommended for a) those prefer to see clearly where they're going b) those afraid of the dark c) the North Inch.

Toilets: the Bell's toilets will stay open until 9:30pm. None of the rest of Bell's will be open.

Refreshments: we'll be serving **hot chocolate** (if we can find a vat big enough) and Christmas sweet goodies after the race. **If you want any of that, please bring your own mug.** No vessel => no refreshment – **so don't forget.** We're happy to see other (spectating) club members and (obviously) marshals and helpers there, too.

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). **Alan** to bring these along.

Final thoughts:

- 1) **Anyone can win the Yahoo.** That's the whole idea. You may be used to getting beaten by the club's faster runners. The handicap does all it can to correct for that. Run hard and you have every chance of winning.
- 2) **Don't go out too hard.** Unless you start #1, you have runners to chase down. There is a long-standing (but foolish) assumption that you should be catching them a few minutes into the course. But if the handicap(per) is at all right, you shouldn't be catching runners until the Edinburgh Rd. If you do, 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, 3.12.24