

First Vet Charity Challenge a huge success



The Ashbrook Equine Hospital team attempt one of the mental and physical challenges: Roger Dixon, Vicky Rowlands, Sophie Meredith and Julia Shrubbs.



Richard Ward and Dan from Quest brief the teams on the day's activities.



Carole Irvine and Sarah O'Grady from BCF planning their route and looking cool too.

BATHED in glorious autumn sunshine, the inaugural Vet Charity Challenge took place on Saturday 15th September at the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester.

Twenty-six teams of four people took part, spending seven hours walking, running, cycling, kayaking, orienteering, along with a few mental physical challenges along the way.

The event is to raise money for a number of animal charities including SPANA, Hounds for Heroes and Pet Blood Bank. Gavin Mitchell from BCF Technology commented, "We hope to raise over £20,000 for some great causes. Speaking to a number of teams during the event, they had already raised well over their targets."

The "Challenge" started in the morning with a sprint to collect puzzles for teams to solve. This determined time slots when teams could attempt six mental



Winning team: The Complete Animal from Hyde Park Veterinary Centre – Tim Hopkins, Leah Morley, Matt Leong and Nicky Meston.



The teams get ready in the beautiful grounds of the Royal Agricultural College.



BCF Technology team Witness the Fitness – Jason Rogers, Sarah O'Grady, Carole Irvine and Scot Cowan finish the event.



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Emyr Rowlands from Willows Farm Vets gives Vicky Rowlands from Ashbrook Equine Hospital a lift to the bar.



All the competitors for the Vet Charity Challenge 2012.

and physical puzzles during the morning session. The teams then headed off on a walk or run around the surrounding countryside. The aim was to visit as many points on the map as possible. Each team could choose its own route. After lunch, the teams headed off again for the cycling stages, visiting places on the map in order to gain more points. Then finally it was onto the water for the kayaking stage.

The winning team was the Complete Animal from Hyde Park Veterinary Centre in London. Team captain Leah Morley said, "The event was great fun, really well organised, and all the teams seemed to have got right behind it. You really had to work as a team, playing to different people's strengths both physically and mentally. Everyone had a fair chance of winning. I think every practice should take part and we look forward to returning next year to defend our title."

All the teams enjoyed the day and met the challenges head on and were enthusiastic for the Vet Charity Challenge to continue next year.

Head Nurse, Angella McNellan from Glenbrae Veterinary Clinic in Bearsden, Glasgow, said, "The Vet Charity Challenge has been brilliant fun, beautiful scenery, great challenges. It has really helped get fitter through training as a team after work during the summer. We cannot wait to do it all again next year."

Vet Roger Dixon from Ashbrook Equine Hospital in Cheshire also said, "The Challenge has been great fun, we really enjoyed the team-building element. Also it was worth the pain to beat the farm team!"

To add to the level of exhaustion, following a barbeque in the evening, competitors were flung around the dance floor for a ceilidh. The band consisted of organisers from the event including caller Brian Wright from Vets Now and competitors Nicolette Haywood and Jim Hughes.

For more information, see more photos and to register interest for the challenge in 2013 visit www.vetcharitychallenge.co.uk. Also follow Vet Charity Challenge on Facebook and on Twitter @vetchallenge.

The Vet Charity Challenge was sponsored by BCF Technology, Kruise, Vets2.net and supported by Mojo consultancy, VPMA and *Veterinary Practice*.

The Glenbrae Girlies, from Glenbrae Veterinary Clinic, Bearsden, Glasgow, enjoying a well deserved drink after the event: Angela McNellan, Susan Miller, Hannah McIvor, Nikki Forbes.



Winning team: The Complete Animal from Hyde Park Veterinary Centre, try to keep the ball level. Nicky Meston, Tim Hopkins, Leah Morley and Matt Leong.



Roger Dixon from Ashbrook Equine Hospital, Cheshire. Happy to beat their farm team.



The Complete Animal Team from Hyde Park Veterinary Centre in London, Leah Morley, Nicky Meston, Tim Hopkins and Matt Leong.

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