

More than £20,000 raised as charity challenge attracts over 230 competitors in 55 teams in second successful year

THE second Vet Charity Challenge took place at Pershore College in Worcestershire on Saturday 28th September. Bathed in sunshine, 55 teams of four spent the day walking, running, cycling, kayaking and orienteering – along with a variety of mental tasks.

Winners were the BVC Bashers from Belmont Veterinary Centre in Hereford. Sarah Simpson, one of the large animal vets at the practice, said, "We are absolutely delighted and shocked to win. We managed to get all the kayak and cycling points and as many running checkpoints as we could manage.

"We were not bad with map reading and timekeeping and were committed to just keeping going. The event was fantastic fun and great for team bonding. We all know each other a little better now and we will definitely be back to defend our title next year."

Other comments on the day included:

■ Kerry Lambert from Ashworth Veterinary Group in Hampshire: "The day was both exhilarating and exhausting. It was very well organised and friendly – bit sore now though."

■ Jamie Walker from Dechra: "A great day, definitely do it again, fantastically organised. Our only regret is that we could not find the 50 point marker at the top of the hill on the mountain bike stage."

■ Nic Hayward of the Far Canals team: "Bit tougher than last year, with a few more hills. We did very little

training, though we are happy with our result in 6th place."

■ Caroline Gardner from Oak Vet Otters in Haverfordwest: "Thank you to everyone for a great day. Might

take a few days to get over it though, especially after the ceilidh!"

Jason Rogers, marketing manager at BCF Technology, said the response to the challenge had been

amazing with double the number of teams which took part in 2012. "It was quite a sight to see over 200 people at the briefing at the start of the day. Everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves and get into the spirit of the event."

Caitrina Harrison from Vétuquinol added: "As one of the sponsors for this year's Vet Charity Challenge, Vétuquinol had three of the 55 teams entered. The amazing team spirit, fun atmosphere and inter-



All the competitors – more than 230 – raring to go on the starting line at Pershore College in Worcestershire.



Helen Price of the Oak Vet Otters, Haverfordwest, discussing tactics with members of the Oak Vet Ospreys.

company rivalry all contributed to a fantastic event. The day was well organised and certainly our three teams – Bringing up the Rear, Evolution Q and The Veterapids – had a fantastic time. We'll be back again next year!"



Fun on the River Avon: Helen Price and Caroline Gardner of Oak Vet Otters, Haverfordwest, in the front kayak with team mates Lesley Sinclair and Emma Aldis in the second.



The team from Ashbrook Equine Hospital, Only Foals and Horses: Jodie Coutts, Sophie Meredith, Julia Shrubbs and Roger Dixon.



The winning team for 2013: the BVC Bashers from Belmont Vets, Hereford. They are (from left): Bill Main, Sarah Simpson, Heidi Young and Andrew Cooke.



The Willows Farm Animal team finished in second place and were delighted to have beaten their equine team; from left, they are: John Dawson, Rachel Adams, Sandra Cullen and Jonny Duncan.



The fourth placed team, *Bring Chocolate Fast* from BCF Technology, with (from left) Carol Harrision, Bryan Gee, Gavin Mitchell and Libby Sheridan.

The event is raising money for three animal-based charities: Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, SPANA and Animals Asia. In 2012 the event

raised £21,000. Gavin Mitchell, managing director of BCF Technology, says, "We hope to raise even more money this year and are

looking forward to handing over the cheques to the charities at the London Vet Show."

As this issue of *Veterinary Practice* went to press, the total raised was well past £20,000 with quite a few teams still to send in their money.

For more information, to see the results and to register interest in entering a team or teams in the Vet Charity Challenge 2014, see the website www.vetcharitychallenge.co.uk.

To see photos and videos of the day search for Vet Charity Challenge on Facebook (www.facebook.com/vetcharitychallenge) and vetchallenge on Twitter (twitter.com/vetchallenge).

■ The Vet Charity Challenge is sponsored by BCF Technology,



Kirk Ritchie, Jamie Menarry and Russell Brown from BCF Technology planning their route.

Kruise and Vétoquinol, with support from VPMA, Mojo Consultancy and *Veterinary Practice*.



Joy Wood and Louise Richardson (front) from Bray House Bobcats, having lots of fun in their kayak.



Katie Harwood, Marrienne Williams, Donna Hemming and Jenni Miles from Brentknoll Veterinary Centre at the post-event party.



Maz Williams and Katie Harwood with others from Brentknoll Veterinary Centre enjoying the ceilidh after the event.