

*Stop Press...Stop Press... Stop Press...Stop Press... Stop Press...Stop Press...Stop Press*

## Curiosity Killed the Cat

From our European Correspondent

**Sunday 23 July 2006** – The Swiss Alps held the 34<sup>th</sup> Course Pedestre Les Plans – Cabane Plan Neve – a race with a long title and one that deserves a long title. Because if you have ever stepped foot on such a challenge, you would want it to have a long title – just so you could own a tee shirt that turned heads. You may wonder why “pedestre” well that’s because it is impossible to run and more suited to those athletes who don’t. Ah that means me – the walker of the Barclay family.

This was an uphill only route and started at 1090m above sea level and soared to lung busting 2280m in a paltry 6.4km. For those fell runners out there, that means 3627ft of ascent in less than 4 miles. To put that into perspective, Skiddaw is 3000ft of ascent over 4½ miles, even starting at a wave above sea level.

The main attraction was the bowls of Swiss chocolate and sweet peach tea waiting for you at the end of the course before the leisurely stroll down with your fellow 150 competitors, where you could discuss the intricacies of the zigs and the zags, and there were plenty of them.

The presentation looked like harvest festival had come early – with the winners smiling as they took their baskets of vegetables and salad provisions for the next month. The Swiss equivalent of a Dave Woodhead fell race, minus the Soreen.

The UK was represented by the Devines and the Barclays. Gary as ever, took this event seriously and came 5<sup>th</sup> overall and 2<sup>nd</sup> in his category in a time of 54:49. Emma clocked 1hr 6mins positioning herself in 46<sup>th</sup> overall and 3<sup>rd</sup> lady, meaning that she had the choice of the fruit baskets. The other halves followed on as normal, with Steve in 77<sup>th</sup> overall in 1hr 14mins and Debbie 119<sup>th</sup> overall, 7<sup>th</sup> lady in 1hr 28mins.

*Stop Press...Stop Press... Stop Press...Stop Press... Stop Press...Stop Press...Stop Press*