

The **2024 race** saw 30 runners go to post. As ever, that number fell slightly on the day, this year (apparently) due to colds and untoward intestines. The race HQ team – housed within the club gazebo at the start on the North Inch – busily speculated on the likely winner and weaknesses in the handicap, following on from plenty of same on Facebook in the previous 48 hours. As the first starter left HQ, the smart money appeared to be on Michael Wardlaw (“the bookies’ favourite”) or David Stokoe, both being viewed in rich form relative to their handicap.

Ann Reed (#1) set off some 30’30” ahead of Mike McConnell (#32), these two book-ending the handicap. This was one seriously cold evening: the gazebo sides froze solid inside an hour. The marshals’ comms channel allowed marshals out on the course to update HQ of progress, but no clear picture of the race emerged until the leader arrived at Smeaton’s Bridge.

Jo Brinkman (#2) came under the bridge first, having overtaken Ann Reed and been untroubled by any challengers behind. Her impressive run saw her finish almost 6’ ahead of the field, and exactly 9 minutes ahead of her expected/handicap time. **Ann Reed** also held off all other challengers behind for second place, while hotly-tipped **Michael Wardlaw** took over 10 minutes off his 2023 time to finish third. **Ronan McDonnell** and **Peter Will** made fine runs for 4th and 5th (resp), both beating their expected times by over two minutes.

The Fastest Lady quaich was recaptured by **Paige Brown** (previously held by her in 2022) in 64:16, this being the fastest time we have on record for a ladies’ Yahoo. **Mike McConnell** also did some recapturing of the Fastest Man trophy in 54:33; he last won the trophy in 2016 in a time almost 3 minutes slower.



Above: Yahoo trophy winners 2024: Mike McConnell (Fastest Man), Jo Brinkman (handicap trophy winner), Paige Brown (Fastest Lady)