

Military League Northern Ireland Orienteering Event 6

Help 4 Heroes Special

by Major Jon Kay AFCO Belfast



The 6th race in the Military League was held in Hillsborough Forest on Wednesday 2nd December 2009, hosted by 225 Sig Sqn (ECM(FPP)) and was designated as a Help 4 Heroes Special. The event was special for three reasons; to welcome back those soldiers from NI who have recently returned from an extremely demanding tour in Afghanistan, to raise money for a charity close to our hearts and finally to score double points in the battle for league positions!



Sgt Tom Wilson, the event organiser, with Wilson McAllister the LVO chairman.

In true Northern Ireland style, the day failed to bring wall to wall sunshine but did produce some quality rain. That however did not deter 34 hardy souls from taking on one of the two courses which criss-crossed in and out of the forest's deceiving blocks of vegetation.

The full list of winners can be found by looking at the British Army Orienteering Website but the real winner was H4H. Each runner gave £5 (double the normal entry fee), in exchange for a run in the woods, a light dusting of rain, a mince pie and a glass of alcohol free gluhwein. A special mention and sincere thank you goes to Lagan Valley Orienteering club who provided the maps entirely free of charge and therefore ensured that all of the

money raised went to the H4H charity. There was a grand total of £195 collected and with a little searching around for loose change it was soon bumped up to **£200.00** - after Emma Kay raided her piggy bank!

Alan Gartside produced a special map which incorporated the Help 4 Heroes' logo to ensure that all runners had a fine memento of the day, a great map to train on and a reminder to support those servicemen and women injured whilst on Operations overseas.



Alan Gartside LVO between members of 225 Sig Sqn (ECM(FP))



Green Course Leaders:

- 1st – Declan McGrellis LVO
- 2nd – Michael Gallagher Pathfinders
- 3rd – Stephen Gilmore LVO
- 4th – WO2 Klewchuck 152 Tpt Regt
- 5th – 2Lt Preston QUOTC

Orange Course Leaders:

- 1st – Sharon Shaw LVO
- 2nd – CSgt Smyth 2 R IRISH

For further information on orienteering in Northern Ireland please go to either www.niorienteering.org.uk/lvo or www.baoc.org.uk