Another Easter has come and gone with four great days of racing. Four central Essex clubs put on a race each over, what this year was, some wet and muddy countryside.

Dave Game of Mid Essex Casuals masterminded Day One from Fordstreet and Andy Ritchings plotted the course for Day Two at Little Baddow. Easter Sunday was Grange Farm & Dunmow Runners turn at Felsted hosted by Howard Jardine and the final day was from Great Waltham organised by Kevin Wright of Springfield Striders.

At the Old Queens Head on Friday a healthy 158 of us turned up. Dave devised three courses of 12, 6.2 and 4 miles. Charlie Harpur of the host club ran his only race of the weekend and won the long race by an impressive 5 minutes. Nikki Brockbank (Springfield) won the ladies race by a stunning 15 minutes!

In the 6.2 miler Tom Porter and John Greeney, both of Halstead, held hands to win for the men and Shannon Mason of Springfield won the ladies race. The winners of the short race were Richard Sirett and for the ladies another joined group of Halstead runners Val Kerrison, Lorraine Garnham and Wendy Carter took first spot.

On to Little Baddow where I drove through flood water to get there. On arrival I was told there was a mile along the riverbank in the 11 miler so decided to do the 5 instead. Andy acted immediately, went down to the river, and created a diversion, which meant a bit too much road, but at least no one drowned. Well done Andy.

Jimmy Smith (Halstead), James Bosher (Grange Farm) and Mark Newton (Springfield) took the honours although they did finish from the wrong direction. Nikki Brockbank was again unchallenged.

In the 5 miler James Crisp of Witham headed the field with Sarah Colbert (Springfield) the top lady. Despite the early start 123 participated in the mud.

Sunday was surprise, surprise a dry day, but Howard sent us through a thigh deep ford to make up for it. The same three from Day 2 again ran together to win on a fast course. Guess who convincingly won the ladies event. Richard Sirett and Charlotte May (Halstead) won the 4.5 miler. A very good turnout of 130 for Easter Day.

Heavy overnight rain stopped for the actual race on Monday, but the course was a true mudbath. 181 entries set off from the Rose & Crown and all returned. James Bosher running on his own took the prize and clinched the overall. Nikki finished 4th overall in the race to confirm her overall victory with a fine weekend’s running.

In all, 318 different competitors took part from 27 clubs with great turnouts not only from the host teams but also from Tiptree and Halstead. All the clubs have made a profit even after contributing to the £500 prize fund.

See you at Heybridge Basin on Sunday.