



The winning Stubbington South Downs Way Relay men's team pictured with the magnificent trophy after the awards presentation held at Chilcomb.

(from left to right): Alasdair Ewing, Gordon Reid, Richard Thomas, Andy Simpson, Zippy Grice, Mark Le Gassick.

Nice work boys

IT'S coming home....the South Downs Way Relay trophy is coming home after a year on loan.

Twelve months ago, in a spirit of amazing generosity, Stubbington's men relinquished their grip on the prestigious South Downs Way Relay title after an unprecedented four-year grip.

But this past year has been hard and the trophy has been missed, so last month the men in green took on the pride of the south coast to storm away with an impressive victory.

The Stubbies won the title with a fairly comfortable margin from nearest challengers, Chichester Runners & AC, with Steyning AC in third place.

Once again, the race was blessed with incredible weather, with hot and sticky conditions for most of the day as teams set out from Beachy Head near Eastbourne from as early as 6am.

Besides the victorious men's team, the Greens also fielded a veteran's and a B team, and for the

first time, a ladies team, with Chris Hall taking on the role of minibus driver, supported by Tony Allen.

All four teams successfully completed the 18-leg six-person relay spread over a 100-mile route across the Downs to the finish at Chilcomb, just outside of Winchester.

The only major incident of the day was severe traffic delays around Storrington which caused all sorts of problems for teams which meant some support teams were unable to get to one of the change-over legs ahead of their runners.

For the Stubbettes, this meant some last minute juggling with Chris and Tony running with one of the ladies along routes they had not been before.

This prompted some complaints from other teams who instead had persuaded runners to complete two consecutive legs.

✦ Full story - see page 3.