

Reading O2O 10k

Report by David Dibben, photos by Chris Drew

The final 10k event of this year's club championship resulted in a runaway win for Roadrunners' own wonder boy Rob Corney.



Corney destroyed the field in the Blueiron Reading O2O race (quite literally in some cases) to take victory in a time of 34mins 4secs.

Afterwards he admitted he had considered making a full-out tilt on the course record but was not motivated to through lack of any challenge and he finished 37 seconds outside the record.

He was also mindful of the fact that he was just about to start an extremely long day's work.

Now he will concentrate his training on some longer-distance trail events before making a serious attempt on a good time and placing at next year's London Marathon.

Two other Roadrunners were among the prizes... usual suspects Nigel Hoults (MV60) and Lesley Whiley (WV50). Lesley was also the first lady Roadrunner to finish but Nigel was far from happy with his time and current form.



Another of the big heroes on the day was coach Roger Pritchard, and he didn't even compete in the race! New member Beth Rudd tells the story...



"I had my first training session on Wednesday and I'd like to say a huge thank-you to coach Roger for teaching me what an aerobic threshold is," said Beth. "I think I found it today."

"I managed to knock four minutes and 10 seconds off my previous PB. I would never have imagined that possible until today."

The only other pb claimed immediately after the event was achieved by Veronika Royle on a course which resembled a mud slide in its first and last kilometres.



Here're the full results:

1 Rob Corney 34:04; 8 Ben Whalley 38:01; 14 Brian Kirsopp 40.08; 15 Stuart Bradburn 40:32; 19 Aron Chai 41:00; 21 Ed Dodwell 41:10; 22 Justin Simons 41:16; 23 Tony Long 41:49; 31 Bill Watson 42:45; 39 Dave Caswell 43:54; 40 Stuart Jones 43:58; 43 Nigel Hoults 44:36; 53 Chris James 45:50; 56 Keith Ellis 45:53; 57 Lee Hinton 45:55; 59 Lesley Whiley 46:04; 62 David Dibben 46:17; 63 Joe Blair 46:26; 67 Mary Janssen 46:54; 70 Gabriel Mudzi 47:20; 75

Dave Brown 47:51; 82 Gary Brampton 48:30; 88 Sam Poskitt 49:08; 106 Clive Bate 50:46; 116 Sam Whalley 51:47; 131 Beth Rudd 53:06; 134 Jo Sollesse 53:29; 136 Diane Hodder 53:32; 145 Gillian Gillard 53:53; 149 Stewart Wing 54:21; 151 Tina Woffington 54:24; 165 Nick Adley 55:56; 175 Veronika Royle 56:26; 176 Ian McGuinness 56:27; 197 Kim Stevens 57:33; 198 Adele Graham 57:35; 220 Bob Thomas 59:22; 224 Linda Wright 59:31; 234 Kevin Strong 59:57; 240 Tom Harrison 1:00:17; 262 Sarah Hicks 1:01:51; 270 Sarah Richmond-Devoy 1:02:06; 303 Janice Thomas 1:07:29; 305 Annette Russell 1:07:46; 320 Sarah Walters 1:10:30; 321 Sarah Drew 1:10:31; 331 Kathy Tytler 1:14:21; 333 Hannah McPhee 1:14:46; 334 Palee D'Souza 1:14:50; 354 Gill Manton 1:20:01; 357 Julie Wing 1:22:53; 358 Stephen Wing 1:25:36.



By my reckoning those results mean that Tina Woffington has secured the championship title in the ladies V60 and Justin Simons has grabbed the crown in the senior men's group. That's my provisional assessment... best wait until Bob Thomas confirms the standings.

Meanwhile another coach who should take a bow is Lee Hinton, who went back out on to the course twice after his race to escort our final two finishers over the last 400 metres. Top job, Lee!



But it wasn't all sweetness and light after the race. Many Roadrunners took to social media to lambast the organisers, Purple Patch Running, for a variety of shortcomings.

A poor 'goody bag' (consisting only of a small bottle of water and a banana), a disappointing medal (undated), a lack of food and coffee in the tented village, no information packs sent out before the event and, worst of all, an interminable wait for results from a race where chip timing was used.

Were we downhearted? Of course not! As Roadrunners we're bigger than that. We won't bellyache or hold a grudge. But unfortunately for Purple Patch, who are reportedly under new management recently, what is most likely to happen is that people will simply sign up for other events in future.

There are always plenty of other 10k races around and Roadrunners will simply compete in those which they consider the best value for money.

In the meantime the club championship focus switches to our final event, the Tadley 10 miles, on October 15th, with all to play for in at least three categories.