

Maidenhead Half Marathon

Report by David Dibben

Photos by Chris Drew

THERE was a last chance to get points for the 13.1 miles distance as the Roadrunners Club Championship road show rocked up at the Maidenhead Half Marathon.

Andrew Smith took the honours as first Roadrunner home in a time of 1hr 20mins 35secs to complete a highly successful weekend.



Ignoring all logical advice to rest up before a race of that distance, Andrew not only turned out at Woodley parkrun barely 24 hours before Maidenhead, but finished first in that run in a new personal best of 17:15.

That was a pb by six seconds and the third time he has improved his parkrun time in the past month.

Everyone else who took it easy on the Saturday must be wondering how he managed that.

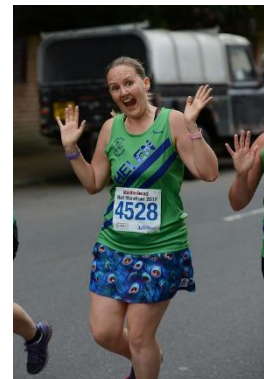
First lady home was Caroline Jackson in 1:35:35 despite the distance being about 13.1 miles too short for her!



But, in a club which always seeks to encourage the triers and improvers, the plaudits for the best performance should probably go to Helen Dixon for the second consecutive week.

A last-minute decision to enter was rewarded with a pb by no less than NINE minutes and 45 seconds.

Another to claim a pb was Anthony Eastaway, proving that coach Katie Gumbrell's 'tough love' approach is bringing rewards.



Early provisional results on the Purple Patch website appear to be just that... very provisional, with the positions being completely altered several hours after originally being released. Whatever, the Roadrunners list shows:

39 Andrew Smith 1:20:56, 130 Ian Giggs 1:28:56, 141 Anthony Long 1:29:06, 144 Stuart Bradburn 1:29:25, 176 Alan Freer 1:31:30, 190 David McCoy (the taller one) 1:32:59, 207 Chris Buley 1:33:38, 228 David Legg 1:34:39, 241 Dave Caswell 1:35:19, 241 Caroline Jackson 1:35:35, 260 Sarah Dooley 1:36:25, 271 Jane Davies 1:36:57; 318 Kevin Jones 1:38:40, 322 Gemma Stobie 1:38:35, 339 David Leake 1:39:37, 366 David Dibben 1:40:17, 374 Paul Monaghan 1:41:03, 375 Marion Loiseau 1:40:36, 381 Chris James 1:41:41, 457 Tracey Hicks 1:44:37, 486 Jonathan Belson 1:45:22, 532 Chris Manton 1:47:50, 534 Alix Eyles 1:48:19

(non-scoring), 554 Clive Bate 1:49:04, 617 Catherine Leather 1:52:58, 724 Simon Davis 1:56:32, 726 Alice Carpenter 1:56:34, 743 Gurprital Singh 1:57:57, 795 Mo Fassinhinia 1:59:17, 841 Tina Woffington 2:01:45, 842 Charlie Macklin 2:01:48, 993 Frank Cooper 2:09:20, 1013 Ian McGuinness 2:11:02, 1133 Linda Wright 2:19:41, 1175 Sarah Richmond-Devoy 2:24:30, 1177 Suzanne Bate 2:24:51st, 1178 Anthony Eastaway 2:24:58, 1185 Julie Bagley 2:25:46, 1218 Candy Cox 2:29:03, 1219 Caroline Hargreaves 2:29:00, 1220 Helen Dixon 2:29:02, 1242 Sarah Drew 2:33:27, 1310 Julie Wing 3:07.39.

Apologies for those I may have missed. There are one or two absentees I am sure I saw on the course; indeed, they appeared in Chris Drew's excellent Flickr album.



These results have resolved one or two issues, notably fit-again Jane Davies sewing up the Women's Vet 55 title. And I suspect that once all the figures have been computed Jane may not be far away from the all-racers' age grading crown.



There should be a close finish to the Women's Vet 60 title when Tina Woffington and Linda Wright do battle in the forthcoming 10k events.



In the Men's competition Ian Giggs has given himself a good chance of the Senior championship but matters are already settled in favour of Brian Kirsopp (V50), Alan Freer (V60), Frank Cooper (V70) and Tom Harrison (V80).



I hope I have finally got the better of Andy Atkinson in our tussle for the V65 crown, Andy deciding not to take me on at Maidenhead and reasoning that he has a better chance of success when he lines up against Mo Farah and the Kenyans at the Great North Run on Sunday. Good luck with that, Andy.



I fancy Sir Mo may be showered and changed by the time Andy reaches the eight-mile marker, but what do I know?

The focus on the Club Championship now switches back to 10k events, with the next fixture at Swallowfield on September 17th.

I mention this because the race has not had much publicity within the club. Instead announcements at the last four Wednesday track sessions have included 'plugs' for an obscure hill-climbing event in deepest, darkest Hampshire, which last year attracted a grand total of four Roadrunners. Odd.