

SWALLOWFIELD 10K

Report by David Dibben, photos by Sev Konieczny

TEN was the vogue number at Swallowfield on Sunday, where no fewer than 10 Reading Roadrunners turned the village 10k race, the 10th round of the club championship, into a personal best fest.

That's as near as makes no difference a quarter of the number of our members who faced the starter.

A couple of hours later no fewer than five of our runners featured at the prize-giving.

Pride of place went to Ben Paviour, who beat the field for the second successive weekend. Ben was also victorious at the Pangbourne 10k on the previous Sunday and although there was no pb for him he chalked up a season's best with a time of 34mins 4secs.

David McCoy (the younger) was runner-up in 34:38 over a course which defined the word 'undulating'. This was also a championship race for the Datchet Dashers and Bracknell Forest clubs, but Ben and Dave showed them all the way home.



Nigel Hoult took home the Vet 60 award and there were also age group prizes for our leading lady, Helen Pool, as well as Adele Graham.

Heading our list of personal bests was newish member Stuart Bradburn (39:11), proving the value of doing a recce of the course by finishing 15th.



Also delighted to set a new mark was Eugene McSorley (41:29), the distinguished professor being surprised to learn of his achievement.

Next man to keep the Run Britain pb department busy was David Clay in 43:35, followed by Joe Blair in 44:37. This was a major triumph for Joe as he had joined the Vet 60 age group two days before the race, a milestone marked by celebrations which were not entirely teetotal.



The rest of the pb story was another triumph for Katie Gumbrell's training group. Katie may not coach the fastest section in the club but she sure has the most improvers. On the day Hannah McPhee, Helen Dixon, Kevin Strong, Diane Hodder, Jill Dibben and the coach herself all claimed new marks.

The race ended with one of the little vignettes which makes the Roadrunners such a great club, the coach suggesting to a couple of her earlier finishers that they might like to go back out on to the course and accompany home the final member of their group over the last 400 metres. Top job, Katie!





There was some initial confusion regarding the results, but they were as follows:

1 Ben Paviour 34:04; 2 Dave McCoy 34:38; 15 Stuart Bradburn 39:11; 24 Chris Cutting 40:58; 28 Ian Giggs 41:22; 31 Eugene McSorley 41:29; 34 Helen Pool 41:50; 35 Pete Jewell 41:51; 39 Peter Cook 42:19; 40 David Caswell 42:27; 48 David Clay 43:35; 50 Peter Manning 43:37; 52 Nigel Houlton 43:44; 59 Joe Blair 44:37; 61 David Dibben 44:41; 62 Chris James 44:42; 69 Keith Ellis 45:21; 76 Kevin Jones 46:09; 78 Chris Manton 46:19; 86 Gary Brampton 46:58; 115 Catherine Bruce 49:18; 126 Simon Brimacombe 50:06; 135 Diane Hodder 51:03; 137 Katie Gumbrell 51:14; 143 Gurpritpal Singh 51:42; 146 Neil Carpenter 51:54; 168 Charlie Macklin 54:50; 175 Phil Reay 55:45; 192 Adele Graham 56:47; 195 Bob Thomas 56:48; 198 Linda Wright 57:11; 208 Sarah Hicks 58:03; 210 Heather Bowley 58:08; 212 Kevin Strong 58:17; 256 Fiona Blennerhassett 63:00; 266 Janice Thomas 64:25; 267 Sarah Walters 64:52; 268 Helen Dixon 64:56; 285 Cecilia Csemiczky 67:44; 309 Hannah McPhee 74:00; 314 Jill Dibben 77:40.

Hopefully the timing issues were a one-off; I would recommend this charming little well-run village race to anyone.

Congratulations are also due to Lee Hinton, Peter Higgs, Andrea Marnoch, and all those who competed in the Swallowfield Duathlon, but this report is only concerned with the club championship event.

According to my mathematics these results have given Ian Giggs the lead in the senior men's championship race.

Dr McSorley is still out in front in the Vet 40 section but it will be interesting to see if Ben Whalley turns up at the final 10k or 10 mile races for an academics' shoot-out for the crown.

In the ladies Vet 35 group Helen Pool appears to have captured the title, thanks at Swallowfield in no small measure to the excellent judgment of Pete Jewell Pacing Services Ltd, who I understand charge a very reasonable fee!

Also taking the lead in her section after this race was Charlie Macklin (Women's Vet 45), although, like everyone else, she should wait until general secretary Bob Thomas releases the official figures before celebrating.

Focus on the club championship now switches to round 11, the Reading O20 10k on October 1st. I mention this not just because I like this race, having picked up a prize there in each of the last three years, but because there are championship points to be won.



This date clashes with a lot of popular half marathons, such as Basingstoke, Cardiff, Clarendon and Salisbury, but if you want your championship points there's only one place to be.

