

RACE SERIES AND CLUB RACES

It has been a great year for PRR running. With two out of the three PRR race series completed, and with records tumbling on a fairly regular basis, a report now follows:

Summer Series

The Summer Series got off to a flyer at the Montrose Parkrun in April. Early indications as to winners were set out from the start with Lorraine MacPherson leading the charge. It was then time for a trip to the series' furthest-away event at Thornhill where Gordon Lindsay made his first appearance.

Lorraine and Gordon eventually sealed the series after the Cambus Quarter and the East Neuk 10k respectively.

Aside from the winners, there was some fantastic competition for the other podium places with Anne Reid just pipping Maria Dale for 2nd spot. Honour was restored to the Dales family with Finday Dale taking 2nd over Dougie Robertson.

It would have been an improved series had more runners completed it. 37 took part in total but only 8 completed, but all who ran appeared to enjoy it immensely. Feedback so far has been to include more local races next year to increase participation.

The Hills Are Alive

The Hills Are Alive continued with its new-reformed mixture of trails and hills (this year, three hill races, three trail races and two that could be seen as a hybrid of both).

4 of the 8 races were internal, including the inaugural Sidlaws Saunter which was received very warmly by participants. Also included was the 'little-known' Mob Match at Murthly which was very well attended – more follow below.

Amongst the ladies, Lynn Gatherer blew her competitors away and sealed victory at the Mob Match with 2 races still to take place. The competition for 2nd was fierce with Fabienne Thompson edging out Agnieszka Mroczkowska at the final race (Creag Bheag above Kingussie).

The men's competition was not as clear cut, with Elliot Collins taking the crown at Creag Bheag ahead of James Fotheringham.

The internal races were very well attended but it would be good to have a similar level of attendance at some of the other events – most are quite local and with very reasonable entrance fees.

The Championship

As the time of going to press, there are still 2 races to take place in the Championship. Only 1 runner – Richard Ward – has so far completed the series.

There has been some magnificent running so far in our championship with no less than 4 Diamond and 11 Platinum standard runs split between 7 different runners.

Currently Rhiannon Laing and Richard Ward are ahead but can still be caught depending on results of the last 2 races. There are also a couple of late year marathons still to come which may very well impact the final standings.

Competition is particularly fierce among the men with 5 runners still in contention for the prestigious title of Club Champion.

The Hill Trophy

Included in the HAA is the Kinnoull Hill Race (organised by our own David Knight and Perth Strathtay Harriers) which serves also as the venue for our PRR Hill Race trophy. On a fine evening, the trophies went to Liz Johnston and Mike McConnell.

Internal Competitions

Duathlon

In a typical dreich Scottish Summer evening Caroline Hogarth and Richard Hughes stepped up to organise this rather quirky event. 13 PRR took part; the winners were Lynn Gatherer and Kerr MacKinnon.

Target Zero

Again a rather odd race. Lorraine MacPherson organised this event on a mixed course out in Scone. 24 PRR took part; Nathan Campbell was the winner estimating his time to within 20 seconds.

Yahoo

This is another esoteric race that remains popular within PRR. Taking place at the end of 2023, this was attended by 31 PRR and organised by the indefatigable Mark Crawford. It was no surprise that the 2 current club champions Rhiannon Laing & Elliot Collins took the prizes for fastest lady and man. However, the main prize (the huge handicap race trophy) was won by Charles Woodhead who came in 22 seconds ahead of Fabienne Thompson.

Bertha Relays

Kristen Bain again organised this two-person relay event around the new Bertha Park development (hence the name).

30 runners took part and the competition was fierce. After some fantastic running, the prize went to David Stokoe and Paul McCormick.

Mob Match

Last but by no means least there was the small matter of a competition against our local rivals Kinross Road Runners. 121 runners from the two clubs competed, with 66 from PRR.

This consisted of a race around Murthly Estate in which a fantastic effort by Perth Road Runners ensured victory for the first time.

As well as Peter (Rabbit) receiving a lovely green jacket for the first time - which he will hopefully retain - the after-run feed will also take some beating.

Full results of all races can be found on the PRR website: www.perthroadrunners.co.uk.

Alan Rigby
Championship Organiser, 2023-24