

Mob rule as Perth club hosts derby

Visiting runners from Dundee take win on North Inch

SPORTS REPORTER

Saturday's busy Perth parkrun provided the venue for the inaugural Mob Match between Perth Road Runners (PRR) and their counterparts from Dundee.

The Tayside derby took place on the Fair City's North Inch and saw a close contest unfold between two clubs of similar sizes - both with between 200 and 250 members.

Matches invariably foster a fierce, if friendly, rivalry as club pride is at stake.

As the name suggests, they also prompt a large field of runners - bedecked in club colours and face paint - to compete for the fastest times.

Even allowing for the local parkrun's famous slippery grass section, the flat course was always expected to make for a quick race.

In the event, 14 of the Mob Match racers were faster than 18 minutes, with 30 dipping under 20 minutes.

In the men's race, Iain Jordan switched his orange Perth Strathtay Harriers vest for the green of PRR and led the field home in a lightning 15:18.

Behind him, Dundee Road Runners' Ewan Duthie set a new club parkrun record in 15:44, while team captain David Webster made third in 15:48.

In the ladies' race, Dundee's Mairi Littleton was a comfortable first finisher in 18:00, ahead of teammate Alison McNeilly in 18:47 and PRR's Paige Brown in 20:12.

Although Mob Matches are all about the team event, finishing positions are tallied across almost the entire field and the lowest score is the overall goal.

Some 70 DRRs and 71 PRRs took part. In both races, the visitors from Dundee secured the majority of the top 10 places, making scoring difficult for their upstream rivals.

The Dundee ladies achieved



Visit Perth Road Runners hosted rivals from Dundee on the North Inch on Saturday

a comfortable 690-919 victory.

In the men's race, matters were much closer. A PRR men's victory was initially announced, which was later revised to a DRR win such was the fine margin.

DRR eventually carried the day 1,289-1,339, this being a result where just one runner missing could have swung the result to the other side.

PRR chair Mark Crawford said: "The fixture was an excellent occasion, with coffee and results held at the Black Watch Museum after the racing.

"Plans are now afoot to see a return fixture in 2026.

"Thanks are particularly due to Perth parkrun and its volunteers for allowing the Mob Match to be accommodated."

Both clubs now head to Falkirk for the National Cross-Country Championships on Saturday this week.

Perth Road Runners welcomes experienced runners and newcomers alike, meeting on Tuesday evenings at Bell's Sports Centre and on alternate Wednesday and Thursday evenings for track and hill training.

Full details can be found at www.perthroadrunners.co.uk

Meanwhile, the date has been set for this year's Crieff 10k.

The popular multi-terrain event takes place from 11am on Sunday, July 13.

Runners are set to once again gather at Morrison's Academy's Dallerie playing fields before heading out over Laggan Hill, past the Baird Monument and back along the banks of the River Earn via Crieff's popular Lady Mary's Walk.

Last year, Michael Nitschke, from Adelaide in Australia, won the men's race in 35:27.

Gayle Lindsay won the women's event in 41:55.

Michelle Murchie was the first local woman and James Grant, of organisers Strathearn Harriers, was the first local man to cross the finish line.

The event is open to participants aged 16 years or older.

A link to enter is expected to be posted on the website www.entrycentral.com in due course, as well as the Crieff 10k Facebook page.



Good turnout Hundreds of runners could be seen in Perth