

Sandy 10 mile race and 3km fun run – 3rd April 2011

Will and Gill triumphant in Sandy 10

Will Green of Serpentine Running Club cruised to a comfortable victory in the Sandy 10 mile road race, well clear of his rivals, and bettering his 2nd placing of last year. His winning time of 53m 35s was over 4 minutes faster than his previous best time. In the ladies race Bedford Harrier Gill Fullen stamped her authority on the race from early on and won in a superb time of 63m 12s.

The men's podium places were completed by Phil Critchlow of Beaumont RC who won the Oakley 20 mile race the previous week, and Michael Moore of Werrington Joggers in third place. Another Werrington Jogger Elinor Richmond came second in the ladies race, and Astrid McKeown of North Herts Road Runners finished in third place. The fact that the first three men and ladies in the race were representing five clubs from all over the south east region, gives a good indication of the prominence of the Sandy 10.

With 517 finishers in the main race, this was one of the biggest fields in the history of the Sandy 10. The race was started by the Mayor of Sandy Geoff White and Deputy Mayor Susan Sutton, and the runners were quickly heading for the picturesque leafy roads around Everton and Gamlingay Heath. The event was blessed with sunny weather with a cooling breeze, and many runners recorded personal best times in the near ideal conditions. All finishers in the 10 mile event received a commemorative tee-shirt and Jordans cereal bar from the Mayor and Mayoress. The prize winners received a fine trophy and the race winners also received vouchers generously donated by Brooks Running and Advance Performance of Cambridge. Biggleswade AC would like to thank all the sponsors including Brooks Running, Advance Performance, Jordans Cereals, Balancise, GrumpGrip tents and Primary Networks for their generous sponsorship.

A new trophy in memory of great Biggleswade club runner Roger Wadeley was presented to the best age-graded performance in the race, and John Oakes of Cambridge & Coleridge AC won with a magnificent rating of over 85%.

In the men's veteran categories, Greg Spellman of Rugby & Northampton won the Male Vet 40 award from Biggleswade resident Simon Fawcett of the Beds Harriers club. The Vet 50 prize was won by Dave Randall of Cheltenham & County Harriers who has been run the Sandy 10 for over ten years. David Green of Harpenden ARO Runners was 2nd Male vet 50. The men's Vet 60 category was keenly contested by no fewer than 25 runners, and the prize went to last year's winner William Quinn of Dunstable RR in 68mins 55secs, followed by Thomas Fairclough from Werrington Joggers. There were also an amazing five runners contesting the men's over 70 category, and Tony Lack of Ramsey Road Runners triumphed in 85mins 51secs.

In the ladies veteran categories, runners from five different clubs picked up the prizes, with Fiona Tideswell of Saffron Striders retaining her Lady Vet 35 title from Carla Fisher from Bedford Harriers. The lady vet 45 trophies were won by Kathy Horsman of Beds Harriers and Alison Cooper of Riverside Runners. In the lady vet 55 category Pauline Bambury of Beds Harriers won the trophy followed by Margaret Dewinter

from Dunstable RR. And finally Sandra Butler of Ramsey RR won the ladies over 65 award.

Bedford Harriers dominated the team prizes with both the men and ladies winning the team titles. With over 90 entries in the 10 mile race, it was not surprising that they also retained the Erlensee Cup which is awarded to the club that enters the most runners in the 10 mile and 3km Fun Run.

The 3k Fun Run was a great success with over 50 finishers. Sam Smith won the race and Biggleswade AC took the team prize having the first 3 runners home. There were also a lot of fancy dress runners raising money for Great Ormond Street Hospital. The event was supported by Sainsbury's in Biggleswade and Harpers of Wyboston so each runner received a quality medal and goody bag.

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| First Male | Sam Smith | Biggleswade AC |
| First Female | Hannah Farmer | |
| First Under 11 Girl | Maisie Pritchard | Riverside Runners |
| First Under 11 Boy | Sam Fee | |
| First Under 13 Girl | Tasha Smith | Biggleswade AC |
| First Under 13 Boy | William Forster | Riverside Runners |
| First Under 15 Girl | Anna Bright | |

Team 1st Biggleswade Ac
2nd Riverside Runners

Family 1st The Smiths
2nd The Forsters
3rd The Taylors
4th The Stratfords

With over 70 course marshals and officials on duty, Biggleswade AC can be justifiably proud of another well organised and successful event. Dozens of messages of thanks have already been received from runners who appreciated the slick organisation and the friendly encouragement of the course marshals, superbly organised by chief marshal Tim Huxtable. A selection of bright and bizarre “funny hats” were worn by all the marshals to raise the spirits of the runners, and PA announcer Chris Addams managed to cheer home many of the runners as they sprinted for the finish line. After the race was over and packed away for another year, race director Nigel Bush said that the race organisation ran incredibly smoothly thanks to the outstanding support, professionalism and commitment of all the club members who helped on the day.

If you feel the urge to come along to the club, but feel that you are not “up to the required standard” don't hold back. The club accommodate runners and joggers of all standards, and you will be warmly welcomed at Sandy Sports Centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 7pm. Visit the club's website at www.biggleswadeac.org.uk