

## Sandy 10 Mile Race and 2 Mile Fun Run – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2001

A bumper entry and Eric returns to recapture his crown after an absence of 13 years. Over 400 runners take part in the Sandy 10 mile road race and 2 mile Fun Run.

A bumper field of 326 runners completed the Sandy 10 mile road race on Easter Sunday, and Eric Southam (of Highgate Harriers) returned after an absence of 13 years to win the overall race in a superb time of 52 minutes and 4 seconds. Eric last won the Sandy 10 in 1988 in a record time which still stands today, and he came back last Sunday to win in a time only 1 minute slower even though he is now an over 40 veteran runner. Another over 40 veteran, David Randall of Cheltenham & Gloucester Harriers, repeated the second place he recorded in last year's race, and Nick Berill of Ilford AC was third.

Amanda Yorweth of St Albans Striders won the women's race in a fast time of 62 minutes and 42 seconds, followed closely by club mate Judy Brown, with Linda Cole of Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers third.

Sandy Mayor Michael Scott and his wife Linda did a sterling job in starting the races, presenting the medals to runners as they crossed the finishing line, and presenting the trophies after the races.

First local Sandy resident home was "London Marathon bound" Gavin Elliot of Biggleswade AC who was 16<sup>th</sup> overall. Gavin just pipped Andrew Pilling of Beeston to the prize.

Three runners from Erlensee in Germany (Biggleswade's Twin Town) completed the 10 mile race, and afterwards Peter Farnworth from Erlensee presented the new "Erlensee Cup" to the team or club who enter the most runners in the 10 mile and 2 mile events. This year Peter presented the trophy to Bedford Harriers who entered 29 runners.

In a closely fought Mens Team race Verlea AC just pipped North Herts Road Runners, and the Mens Veterans Team award was won by Bedford Harriers. St Albans Striders' ladies took the Ladies team award.

In the **2 mile Fun Run**, Phillip Hainsby of St Neots Riverside Runners led home nearly 70 runners of all ages to repeat his win of last year, in a time of 10 minutes and 51 seconds. The first female home was Emma Wright of Bedford & County AC in 13 minutes and 29 seconds. Many local youngsters and three visitors from Erlensee completed the 2 mile route through the Sand Hills, and 76 year old George Sharpe gamely finished at the back of the field with 4 year old Bethamy Smith.