

GOOLE VIKING STRIDERS

RIVERBANK CHALLENGE

After no race in 2013, last Sunday saw the return of Goole's famous Riverbank Challenge.

The race is one third of a marathon from Westfield Banks through to Goole and back. As such it doesn't represent much of a challenge to the seasoned runner, but the name is a throwback to the days when it was 15 miles in length, which was certainly an ordeal. Whatever the distance, running the bank is hard work, especially in Sunday's sweltering temperatures.

On paper Sunday's race had everything going for it. More than generous sponsorship from Howdens Joinery and Drax Power, a willing band of Striders' marshals and helpers, invaluable support from St Johns Ambulance, and that glorious weather.

What it didn't have was people. Not as many as the race deserved anyway. The absence of the race from last year's calendar, coupled with competition from other races in the region, notably the Humber Bridge 10k, meant that entries fell to a record low of 118 compared to the norm of well in excess of 200.

However, for those who did run, a good time was had by all. Tim Midgley of Bingley Harriers won the race in 50.24, followed by Pete Baker and Chris Adams, both of City of Hull. The ladies race was won by the proverbial street by Goole Youth's Sian Edwards in 54.19, with Chloe Wood of Rothwell and Elizbieta Lisowska in second and third.

Ryan Hamilton was first Strider home and therefore the winner of the Jack and Kath Hopton Memorial Shield.

Striders' times: Ryan Hamilton 55.35, Julie Masterman 61.35, Ryan King 61.50, Lee Clarkson 66.36, Steve Whitlam 68.54, Jonny McFaul 69.42, Mark Thompson 69.42, Dave Locke 71.32, Nicole Masterman 81.45.

Earlier the Fun Run had been won in fine style by Goole Youth's Connor Broughton and the Striders' Amy Parnell.

Junior striders' Fun Run times: Jack Martin 13.32, George Ounsley 13.37, Joseph Ounsley 13.48, Amy Parnell 14.27, Bentley Abbey 14.58, Rhys Clifford 15.32, Harley Abbey 15.48, Millie Martin 18.21, Robbie Robinson 20.33, Bethany West 20.44, Katy Falkingham 21.54.