

GOOLE VIKING STRIDERS

RIVERBANK CHALLENGE

Goole's annual Riverbank Challenge went off without a hitch on Sunday, thanks to a great team of Striders and their family and friends acting as marshals. The event was made possible in the first place by very generous sponsorship from Howdens Joinery and Tunstall Healthcare.

The course for the race, run mostly on the bank as the name suggests, goes from the Rugby Club up to the bandstand in Goole, then back to Boothferry Bridge before finishing along Westfield Banks. The winner this year was Paul Marchant of Northern Masters AC in 49.26, over three minutes ahead of James Clark of Pudsey Pacers in 52.35.

The first lady was Keri Pearson of City of Hull in 60.15, followed by Rachel Cullen (unattached) in 62.31.

The Striders showed up well in the race despite their depleted numbers, with Jonny McFaul and Matt Shillings leading the charge in 6th and 7th places. Steve Cowling and Martin Booth also went under the hour, and both won their age categories.

Nicole Masterman was first Striders lady in another PB, while Harry Patrick gave a hint of his potential in his debut for the club. Neil Stead joined the club on Sunday morning and promptly ran the race in under 80 minutes, not a bad start to his Striders career.

Earlier the 2.5 mile Fun Run had been a triumph for Goole Youth AC, holding off a strong challenge from a big Beverley contingent in both male and female sections. Eddie Marwood won the race in 12.04, with Amy Parnell 1st lady in 13.48.

Striders' positions and times: 6th Jonny McFaul 55.56, 7th Matt Shillings 56.55, 10th Steve Cowling 58.47, 13th Martin Booth 59.57, 15th Matty Archibald 60.28, 26th James Williamson 64.17, 31st Harry Patrick 66.44, 44th Ryan Hamilton 71.43, 63rd Nicole Masterman 75.17, 82nd Neil Stead 79.57, 101st Philippa Oldridge 87.50.