

GOOLE VIKING STRIDERS

RIVERBANK CHALLENGE

Firstly, the good points from the Viking Striders' annual Riverbank Challenge on Sunday.

An entry list topping 200 for the first time in ages. Generous sponsorship from Howdens Joinery, Abbey Blinds and Technicraft. Great organisation by Nicole Masterman making her debut as Race Director, assisted by the usual army of club members, family and friends. A new results system which worked perfectly. Even the weather was kind.

And the bad points? There were no bad points. This was the RBC back to its best, with some brilliant running in both the Fun Run and the main event enveloped in the great friendly atmosphere that Goole is renowned for.

The big race, one third of a marathon as usual, was won by Richard Herrington of St Theresa's AC in 50.06, with Simon Wright of Doncaster AC only six seconds behind, and Goole's own Craig Barker (51.40) in third. This was a big step up in distance for Craig, who can usually be seen winning the 5k Park Run on a Saturday morning.

Sophie Lee of City of Hull was first lady in 55.54, with Nicola Henderson of Selby Striders second in 60.39 and Ackworth's Sarah Hunter (61.49) in third.

Many of the Striders were on marshalling duties, but of those who ran, Matt Shillings was first in, as he has been the last two races, with Andy Masterman, Pat Harness and Jonny McFaul also in top 20 positions.

Selected Vet category winners were Goole Youth's evergreen Jeremy Price in the 60-64 group, and the force of nature that is Tony Butcher in the 55-59. I can guarantee we haven't heard the last of the latter. Also worth a special mention is St Theresa's Geoff Hardman, whose 176th place would be unremarkable were he not 82 years of age.

Earlier the Fun Run was won for the second year by Goole Youth's Eddie Marwood in 13.19, with the same club's Lucas Walton second in 13.44. First lady was Olivia Nelsey, also Goole Youth, repeating her 2015 triumph in 15.10, with Scarlett Oldridge second in 16.11. Always unfair to single anybody out amongst a string of great efforts, but 9 year old Leo Woad, in third place, and 7 year old Alistair Cooper in eighth, look particularly good prospects.

Striders RBC times: 8th Matt Shillings 55.29, 11th Andy Masterman 56.19, 16th Pat Harness 58.18, 19th Jonny McFaul 58.49, 23rd Ryan Hamilton 60.21, 32nd James Williamson 62.40, 33rd Harry Patrick 63.35, 49th Wayne Gardiner 68.24, 60th Mark Thompson 70.34, 65th Steve Whitlam 71.10, 99th Neil Stead 78.17, 106th Karen Harper 79.47, 126th Tim Leighton 84.30, 138th Philippa Oldridge 85.35.