

2022 – the first Mob Match – a report

64 runners assembled on the start line at 7:30 on August 17th.



Various tactical/racing/survival approaches were taken to the conundrum of:

a) a flat first half of the race, followed by

b) gruelling climb, aquatic hazard and speedy, semi-technical descent (which, in the event, was plunged into unexpected darkness by a particularly gloomy evening).

That aquatic hazard: runners were unavoidably required to take a view on **Bridge or Splash**: a choice of a) a dryshod-but-longer route *over* the Inchewan Burn or b) a wetter, shorter and faster dash *through* it. Photos taken at 'Bridge or Splash' provide irrefutable evidence of which route was chosen by whom and reveal the following statistics:

Table of Splashers (eg 61% of PRR's men went Splash => 39% went Bridge)

	Men	Ladies	
PRR	61%	45%	55%
KRR	56%	63%	59%
	58%	56%	

Those photos also show an intriguing number of approaches taken to – and facial expressions adopted at – the Inchewan Burn.



Bridge or Splash? I

Men's race winner **James Waldie**, **Kenny Cairns** and **Lou Ella Cole** (from left) all go aquatic, but show varying degrees of aggression and balance.



Bridge or Splash? II

From left: the wet route for ladies winner, KRR's **Caroline Jones** ... **Paige Brown** displays great fording finesse; **Kristen Bain** (shadowed by **Rhiannon Laing**) gets over-excited; **Dean Abberley** seems particularly pleased with his drier routing.

In the ladies race, a leading trio held close together until some 5km into the race, where the upward slopes began to tell. KRR's **Caroline Jones** (notably, formerly a PRR) escaped her pursuers to come home 40 seconds clear of PRR's **Paige Brown** who withstood a late downhill surge from KRR's **Sarah Paterson**.

James Waldie of PRR ran away with the men's race, finishing over a minute clear of KRR's **Gregor Malcolm** who was, in turn, another 90 seconds ahead of PRR's **Mike McConnell**.

63 of the 64 runners completed the course and headed to Birnam Arts for tea. By the time the excellent results/admin team of David Stokoe and Sue Bothwell had reached race HQ with the scoresheets, they were already pretty sure of the results. Nobody else really was, however. Numbers were crunched over sandwiches, cake and some high-octane sausage rolls.

Results:

It emerged that no margin-of-victory tiebreaks were required in the final analysis.

- **Kinross ladies secured a competitive/tight 65-73 win** (8 runners per team scoring)...
- while **KRR's men carried off a classy 210-260 victory** (15 scorers per team), even over a strong PRR team. As the numbers were revealed, the cheers of the Kinross teams could be heard across the Tay in Dunkeld.



Race organiser **Mark Crawford** may be all smiles but experiences a painful handing-over of the rabbit/trophy to KRR captain, **Scott Strachan**.