

# Perth runners have a Spring in their step tackling hills and roads



**Spring in the step** Struan Gatherer, Iain Niblock and Thomas Knox

## ROBBIE CHALMERS

The Scottish Hill Running season doesn't wait for Spring to arrive and is already well under way.

Three members of Perth Road Runners left the roads far behind to tackle the tough Newtyle Hill Race near Dunkeld on April 17.

Struan Gatherer came away with the race win, with Iain Niblock 3rd (both running in club colours for the first time) and Thomas Knox in 5th.

The hilly theme continued with the second race in the club's Hills are Alive series

taking the form of a specially arranged event, the 'Sidlaws Saunter'.

A great turnout of 21 members took on a challenging muddy five-mile course above Coupar Angus.

Back on the roads, the Spring marathon season has arrived and PRRs have been travelling far and wide to run the fabled 26.2 miles.

Elliot Collins, Lou Ella Cole and Caroline Duffin took on Manchester while Gillian Edwards, Kevin Riddell, Tessa Ward and Richard Ward ventured to the second Abbott Marathon Major of the year in

Boston.

On Sunday, April 21 attention turned to the London Marathon PRR, which is always well represented locally with seven runners toeing the line in the green vests.

First home with another incredibly metronomic performance was Stuart Robertson in 2:42:35.

Rhiannon Laing ran a superb 3:12:31 making her the fastest PRR lady marathoner since 2009.

Harvey Mackie, Lisa Aikman, Richard Ward (just six days after Boston) and Roy Mitchell all had brilliant runs.

Duncan Ryan deserves special mention for a perfectly executed performance as an official 3:30 pacer.

This Sunday saw a highlight of the PRR calendar with the running of the Tay Ten 10 mile race starting at the George Duncan Athletics Arena with 350 runners taking on the flat and fast route.

Perth Road Runners welcomes experienced runners and newcomers alike, meeting on Tuesday evenings at Bells Sport Centre, and on alternate Wednesdays/Thursdays for track and hill training.