

Perth Road Runners



Region's runners go the distance in calendar highlight Mob Match race

Creek of Devon recently welcomed the fourth Mob Match between Kinross Road Runners (KRR) and Perth Road Runners (PRR).

This year has rapidly become a calendar highlight for Perth's two largest athletics clubs.

There was much anticipation and preparation by both sides and the first week was very busy with all the preparations.

The first race was held in 2017 at Broom's and has alternating years.

This was KRR's home terrain, held over the 6.5 mile road and woodland and for the 2020 event. It features narrow woodland tracks, many bridges and ladder steps, plus an ascent into the Devon gorges at the Buntingford Bridge.

Separate events are held for men and women. This year 18 ladies and 72 men lined up to defend their club's pride and compete for the much-prized Buntingford trophy, won for the first time by PRR last year at North.

Finished runners, freshly enjoying their breath, gathered

at the finish line to cheer home their green - (PRR) or yellow - (KRR) runners, there is the cheer of rival, but mutual sports. This is a race for fun that was later played on a playing field as much as a race to win at the first of the season.

As the first runners arrived in feeling light and feeling rain, organisers, marshals and runners all enjoyed the Creek of Devon village hall for tea, coffee and the all-important results.

PRR's first ladies won the men's race. This, despite some navigational difficulties, runs to a few extended distances and as much as 1000m of running.

He managed to overhaul KRR's runner and heathen David Scott in the final mile, KRR's new recruit Adam McGee was a comfortable winner of the ladies race, overhauling many of the men who had started their minutes earlier.

In the age category, the fastest runners were David Scott, M40 - Matt Newton (KRR) and M40 - Benney Parkborough (PRR). Fastest ladies were F40 - Alison

McGee, F50 - Diane White (PRR) and F60 - Christine Myners (KRR).

Thanks to the Mob Match it all about the team work. Five, both men and women, were arranged as remarkably close allies. KRR won the ladies' race 30:30 (a score was won), while PRR took the men's in the men's event. This was the first time since 2017.

The second destination of the highly anticipated which of the two matches is won the men's respectively.

After the repeat race of a celebration, the race had to have been achieved by Perth's men, but by the very first of the night. It is hard to imagine that any future match could go further down the road.

A spokesman from Perth Road Runners said: "Congratulations are due to both sides, to PRR for their close victory and to KRR for their close finish and a superbly organized evening."

"These folk will certainly remain green for another year with the race return to the Perth area in August 2020."



Region's runners go the distance in calendar highlight Mob Match race

Crook of Devon recently welcomed the fourth Mob Match between Kinross Road Runners (KRR) and Perth Road Runners (PRR).

This race has rapidly become a calendar highlight for Perthshire's two largest athletics clubs.

There was much anticipation and preparation by both sides and the final result was every bit worthy of that expectation.

The fixture was first held in 2022 at Birnam and has alternating hosts.

This was KRR's home fixture, held over the 5.5-mile road-and-trail course used for the 2023 event.

It features narrow wooded tracks, many bridges and ladder steps, plus an excursion into the Devon gorge at the Rumbling Bridge.

Separate matches are held for men and women. This year, 50 ladies and 72 men lined up to defend their club's pride and compete for the much-prized Peter Rabbit trophy, won for the first time by PRR last year at Murthly.

Finished runners, busily regaining their breath, gathered

at the finish line to cheer home their green- (PRR) or yellow-vested (KRR) teammates, many in the throes of vital, last-minute sprints. This is a race format that sees later-placed runners playing as crucial a role in scoring as the first athletes home.

As the last runners arrived in fading light and teeming rain, organisers, marshals and runners all converged on Crook of Devon village hall for tea, cake and the all-important results.

PRR's Iain Jordan won the men's race. This, despite some navigational difficulties, visits to a few unintended driveways and an extra 600m of running.

He managed to overhaul KRR talisman and warhorse David Scott in the closing straight. KRR's new recruit Alison McGill was a comfortable winner of the ladies' race, overhauling many of the men who had started three minutes earlier.

In the age categories, the fastest men were: M40 - David Scott, M50 - Matt Newton (KRR) and M60 - Jimmy Fotheringham (PRR). Fastest ladies were: F40 - Alison

McGill, F50 - Diane White (PRR) and F60 - Christine Myerscough (KRR).

However, the Mob Match is all about the team result. Here, both matches emerged as remarkably close affairs. KRR carried the ladies' race 361-380 (a lower score wins), while PRR took the honours in the men's event. This was the fixture's first 1-1 result.

The overall destination of the trophy is then decided by which of the two matches is won the more emphatically.

After the repeat use of a calculator, this was found to have been achieved by Perth's men, but by the very finest of margins. It is hard to imagine that any future match could go quite so down-to-the-wire.

A spokesperson from Perth Road Runners said: "Congratulations are due to both sides: to PRR for their close victory and to KRR for both a close finish and a superbly-organised evening.

"Peter Rabbit's coat will remain green for another year until the race returns to the Perth area in August 2026."