

Road Runners



Starting line The men get ready to start the race

Friendly competition in clubs' annual Mob Match

The highlight of the Perthshire running calendar – the annual Mob Match showdown between its two largest running clubs– took place last week.

The popular event is organised by Perth Road Runners (PRR) and Kinross Road Runners (KRR).

First held in 2022 – the race has alternative hosts each year – this trail race provokes fierce rivalry and club pride, drawing out many runners to compete, bedecked in club colours and face paint.

There is no limit to how many runners may race for each side. The first two fixtures were won by KRR with PRR then levelling the score in 2024 and 2025.

Separate matches are held for men and ladies. 60 men and 37 ladies lined up to race the five (very) undulating miles over two laps at Kinclaven Bluebell Woods.

A number of steep ramps and tricky turns – all topped off with the ever-steepening Hangman's Hill – awaited the runners.

Finished runners, still fighting for breath, gathered at the finish line to spur home their green (PRR) or yellow-vested (KRR) team mates.

That support reflects a race format which sees later-placed runners exert the same impact on the final team result as the first athletes home.

The last finishers crossed the line in fading sunlight. Competitors, marshals and organisers all then descended on Kinclaven Church Hall for tea, scones and the much-awaited results.

In the men's race, placings across the teams were notably even among the faster finishers. Perth took six of the first ten places. Their James Waldie and Kerr Mackinnon led the field home, Waldie making the decisive break for victory just over a mile from the finish. KRR's Ally Barnes

and Munro Strachan followed them home in third and fourth places respectively. KRR provided almost all of the age category winners: David Cuthbert (under-20 men), David Scott (M40), Matt Newton (M50) and Andrew Laycock (M60). PRR's Russell Thomson was the leading M70.

KRR's Stephanie Johnson repeated her 2024 win on Perth soil, while Caroline Jones (also KRR and first F40) secured her fourth 2nd place in five Mob Matches.

Fiona Horsfield completed a yellow-vested 1-2-3. KRR's Pauline McAdam was first F70, Christine Myerscough (KRR) the first F60 and Liz Johnston (PRR) first F50.

Repeating their home victory of 2024 – and safely dodging the nail-biting results calculations that characterised the 2025 race – Perth RR emerged victorious in both team contests. PRR's men won a very close contest 571-606 (a lower score wins) while their ladies overturned KRR's individual victors – by dint of their mid-field 'green wall' – to triumph emphatically 156-269.

The Peter Rabbit trophy will now see his smart jacket remain in PRR green paint, at least until the race returns to Kinross-shire in 2027.

Huge thanks are due to Woodland Trust Scotland, Meikleour Trust, the Kinclaven Church community, John's Scone Mad and the many marshals and volunteers who made the event possible.

Perth Road Runners welcomes experienced runners and newcomers alike, meeting on Tuesday evenings at Bells Sports Centre, and on alternate Wednesday and Thursday evenings for track and hill training. Full details can be found at www.perthroadrunners.co.uk.

• See Tuesday's edition for even more fantastic pictures from the event. Pictures by Mark Crawford/Perth Road Runners.



Keep going Two PRR men battle the course's steepest climb



Leading the way Kerr Mackinnon (second) and James Waldie (winner)



Final push A close tussle on the finishing ramp



Pushing through PRR ladies on Cairn Hill