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First lady wins race plaudits

DRAX-based Kirsteen Young was once again the first local runner home (male or female) when the annual Tate & Lyle Selby Half Marathon was held on Sunday thanks to a late reprieve.

She also won the ladies' race, finishing almost five minutes ahead of second-placed Dawn Broom of Holmfirth.

The Leeds City AC runner crossed the line in 1:23:34 – in 31st place overall and over a minute ahead of local rivals Mark Williams (a club colleague) and Rob McWilliam of Selby Striders in 1:25:02 and 1:26:55 respectively. Rob was the first local male and Mark the first local veteran male.

The race had been under threat because of police withdrawal from involvement, but was saved when a new and less expensive route (minimising road closures) was approved by the highways authority.

Meanwhile nine years after his first success in the event, Otley AC's Ian Fisher breasted the tape in 1:09:48 after leading all the way to hold off the challenge of the winner for the last two years Pumlani Bangani of Salford Harriers who finished in 1:10:14. Paul Marchant of Rothwell Harriers was third in 1:12:35 and there was a very tight battle for the next three places with Ackworth Road Runners pair Andrew Jackson (1:13:00) and Martin Sanders (1:13:04) finishing just ahead of Russell Maddams of Horwich RMI (1:13:10).

The male veteran winners were Alan Squires (M/40) of Horsforth in 1:20:00, Mark Hall (M/45) of Midlands Masters in 1:13:54, Kevin Newman (M/50) Doncaster AC 1:19:44, Richard Gay (M55) Beverley AC 1:19:22, David Mathews (M/60) Ilkley Harriers 1:23:12 and Ronnie Sherwood (M/65) New Marske Harriers in 1:36:17.

The lady veteran winners were Carmel Marchant (F/35) of Rothwell Harriers in 1:36:55, Erica Hiorns (F/40) Valley Striders 1:33:10, Linda Harris (F/45) Ackworth RR 1:31:40, Pamella Costello (F/50) Redcar AC 1:47:31, Gail Tombs (F/55) Ackworth RR 1:48:54 and Pam Atkins (F/60) Beverley AC in 2:00:08.

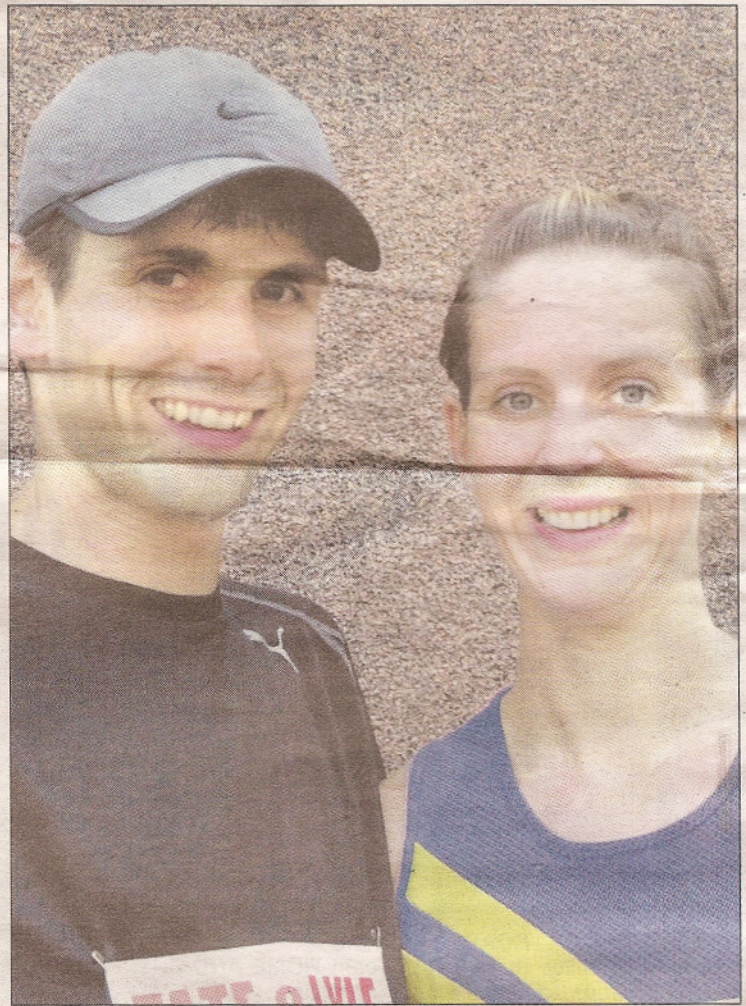
Otley took the men's team prize with 38 points ahead of Horsforth Harriers on 49 and Doncaster AC on 62 while the ladies team winners were Rothwell Harriers with 336 points.

CSL Science Laboratory near York won the Corporate Team Shield and Brayton-based Rachel Spencer was the first local lady veteran in 1:46:17.

Organisers Selby Striders wish to thank Tate & Lyle, JWP Creers and the Selby Times for their sponsorship and support in staging the event.

They also wish to thank Chevinside Boarding Kennels and Mr and Mrs Cudworth of Wistow, Mrs K Macmanaman and Mr J Walker for their co-operation and assistance on the drinks stations around the new course, and the staff of Tate & Lyle for helping at the finish. And a special thanks to the staff and caretaker of the Selby Community School.

Finally, a big thank you to all the residents of the roads around the route for their patience and co-operation as some of them had to experience inconvenience during the event.



MARATHON PARTNERSHIP: First lady home Kirsteen Young of Long Drax and her boyfriend Simon Deakin ran the race together. See inside for more photos. (d0025j741) Picture: Gary Foster