

Round Rotherham Run

Michelle's lovely surprise

MICHELLE Harle says the news of her success in the Round Rotherham Race came out of the blue.

Michelle, from Rotherham Harriers, completed the 50 miles in 9hrs 58mins 5secs but didn't know she was the quickest solo female in the 140-strong field until she'd headed for home.

"I had got all the way home when they rung me to tell me," she said. "The event has staggered starts now, so it is harder to know."

"It was a bit of a surprise, but a lovely surprise, because it was a bit of a slower time."

Michael, who last took part five years ago, admitted she felt the strain. She finished 11th place overall.

"It was hard," she said. "I did about 30 miles with a couple of friends and then ten miles on my own. You're in your own head then and every pain you can feel more intensely."

"When I came to the 45-mile checkpoint at Hooton Roberts I was thinking: 'I'm

41 years old. Should I be doing this?'"

"Ray Matthews, who is a local running legend, was there and he said if I didn't feel like that at some point then I would think there was something wrong."

Michelle's time was a couple of hours better than in her last appearance five years ago which included a lot of walking.

After her success, she is considering coming back for a third stab.

"I am in two minds about doing it next year. I might have to show up and try and get it in what I'd class as a proper women's time, maybe shave a good hour off," she smiled.



PARTICIPANTS in the Round Rotherham event including (right, top) first solo male Kevin Hoult and runner-up Rory Harris. Pictures by KERRIE BEDDOWS

RUNAWAY SUCCESS

Runners (and walkers) rise to 50-mile challenge

THE Round Rotherham Run was blessed by decent weather and home-town successes as runners and walkers demonstrated their staying power.

The 39th edition of the main event attracted 140 competitors to the start line at Manvers Waterfront Boat Club early last Saturday morning, with some of the walkers setting off in the small hours.

They tackled an energy-sapping 50-mile route around the borough in staggered starts, taking in checkpoints at Grange, Treeton, Harthill, Woodsetts, Firbeck and Maltby before the finish back at Manvers in a race against the clock.

Quickest male was Kevin Hoult of Calder Valley Runners, who came home in 7hrs 6mins 33sec to take the title for the fifth time.

Kevin, who finished runner-up last year, pipped last year's male winner, Rory Harris, by around seven seconds.

There were successes for Kimberworth Striders and debutants Rotherham Running Club while Rotherham Harriers had the quickest female finisher in Michelle Harle.

She clocked 9:58.05, beating Shannon Hardcastle of Team Man-

- FOUR runners hit Round Rotherham milestones this year.
- Jim Fulton of Dark Peak Fell Runners and David Oxley of 100 Marathon Club both clocked up their 20th outings.
- There were tenth appearances for Roger Taylor (Mercia Fell Runners) and Karl Williams (Trail Running Association).

vers into second place in 10:07.49.

Rotherham Running Club's Adelle Marsden and Sarah Millns also made the female top five.

There were 118 finishers.

Organiser Sharon Burton said: "Apart from one downpour in the morning, we had decent weather."

"The event was well organised and the feedback has been really positive."

"Next year's event will be the 40th, so we are looking forward to that."

HOW THEY FINISHED

Men's Solo

1. Kevin Hoult (Calder Valley Fell Runners) 07:06.33
2. Rory Harris 7:13.59
3. Adam Worrallo (Bingley Harriers) 07:32.46
4. Mark Plant (Rotherham Harriers) 08:23.06
5. Ed Matthews (Kent AC) 08:43.40

Women's Solo

1. Michelle Harle (Rotherham Harriers) 09:58.05
2. Shannon Hardcastle (Team Manvers) 10:07.49
- 3= Adelle Marsden (Rotherham Running Club) 10:24.40
- 3= Sarah Millns (Rotherham Running Club) 10:24.40
4. Katherine Sutton (Kaleighs Fitness RC) 11:07.36

Striders bag first place in team relay

KIMBERWORTH Striders had an excellent day at the Round Rotherham event.

The Men's Relay Team triumphed, heading off the challenge of Rotherham Running Club by 14 minutes.

Kevin Doyle set the ball rolling, running the opening and longest leg at 15.6K from Manvers to Grange Park at Kimberworth in 1:10.04.

He handed over the reigns to Tom Hardman, who polished off his 10.1K leg to Treeton in 43.41.

Team Captain Kieron Cawkwell was next on his 11.9K section to Harhill in 53.54.

David Stocks was waiting and he timed 48.49 on his 9.2K route to Woodsetts before Lee Weatherall took over and headed to Firbeck in 44.03 for the 9K.

Michael Jackson danced his way towards Maltby (6.3K) posting 35.18 and Lee Rawson took the next leg to Hooton Roberts (9.1K) and clocked 39.45.

Kieron Cawkwell doubled up due to a late illness withdrawal and took the final leg (9.5K) back to Manvers (41.54)

A total time of 6:17.28 gave the Striders top spot and a podium finish.

The Ladies team gave their all and finished fourth in 8:25.01.

Joanne Rooney (1:23.52) started off, handing over to Hannah Atkinson who clocked 1:08.12. Amanda Wassell took over and timed 1:16.09 followed by Janet Clark in 1:02.33 and Samantha Weatherall in 51.15.

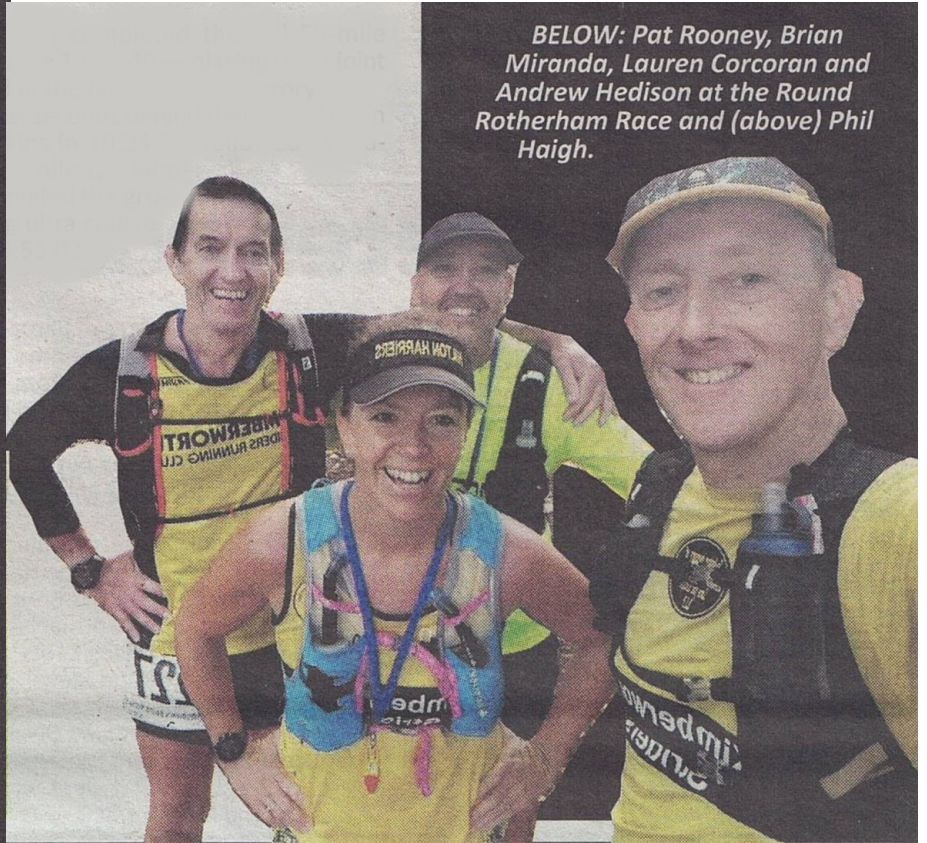
Nicola Smith was next up, timing 41.25, and Becky Stocks took the penultimate leg in 53.45 before Tina Bell timed 1:07.50 on the anchor leg.

It was an early start for the solo runners who tackled the whole 50 miles.

Andrew Hedison was the quickest Strider, returning in 11:05.55

Brian Miranda was next with 11:19.31 a clutch of Striders then followed with Pat Rooney (11:22.14) and Lauren Corcoran — fresh from her South African Ultra — in 11:22.17, and Phil Haigh with 11:22.31.

Kimberworth Striders also picked up the Solo Team Award.



BELOW: Pat Rooney, Brian Miranda, Lauren Corcoran and Andrew Hedison at the Round Rotherham Race and (above) Phil Haigh.

RRC newcomers enjoy a prominent debut

NEWLY affiliated Rotherham Running Club made their mark in their debut appearance at the Round Rotherham Race, fielding four relay teams and five solo runners in the 50-mile event.

Aqua Blast were first female team in 7:37:52 thanks to runners Carla Wragg, Toni Robinson, Anna Hardman, Louise Siddall, Joanne Rayner-Johnson, Vicki Beckitt, Helen Wade and Leanne Race.

Aqua Men also landed a podium finish in 6:21:32 to finish as second-placed male team. They were made up of Chris Cotton, Steve Beckitt, Neil Grocutt, Martin Hunt, Nick Brown, Michael Jell, Graham Dodd and Carl Ryde.

RRC's Aqua Mixed Team completed the eight-stage course in 8:17:06 through Andrew Jones, Laura Bentley, Phil Roberts, Lauren Beasley, John Slater, Sarah Taylor, Maria Toumazou and Marie Bromwich.

Aqua Ladies teammates Honor Hamshaw, Laura Mann, Liz Burley, Amy Clements, Ania Gajek-Omafuyire, Billy Chapman, Marisa Sedgwick, and Natalie Griffin crossed the line in an im-



ROTHERHAM Running Club ladies team Joanne Rayner-Johnson, Louise Siddall, Leanne Race and Vicki Beckitt and (right) Adelle Marsden, Neil White, Simon Hopkins and Sarah Millns on Leg 2.

pressive overall time of 9:01:56.

Not to be left out of the trophy haul, solo runners Sarah Millns and Adelle

Marsden completed the full 50-mile course in 10:24:40 — placing them joint third in the female solo category.

Just seconds behind them was Simon Hopkins in 10:24:52, followed by Nadine Allott, who completed the gruelling ultra course in 13:53:02.



And a not-so-new-comer

Tribute as running ace Peter hits 60



PETER ELLIOTT in his track heyday and (right).

OLYMPIAN Peter Elliott, one of Rotherham's finest sporting sons, reaches a milestone this weekend when he turns 60.

Peter won the gold medal in the 1500 metres at the 1990 Commonwealth Games, silver in the 1500 metres at the 1988 Olympic Games, and silver in the 800 metres at the 1987 World Championships in a fine career.

And long-time friend David Haywood, life member of Rotherham Harriers, paid tribute.

"What a milestone for Peter," he said. "It only seems yesterday we were back in the 70s when this tussle-haired and bespectacled runner, with spikes a size too large, was winning a boys' half mile race by half a lap on Swallownest Miners Welfare at a meeting organised by the late Ralph Rowbotham.

"Peter left everyone aghast and asking 'who is this Elliott boy from Rawmarsh?'"

Such a question was quickly answered as the

athlete and former steelworker went from strength to strength.

David asked: "I wonder which performance gave Peter the greatest satisfaction? Olympic silver in Seoul? Commonwealth Games gold in New Zealand? Still the third fastest 800 metres by a UK athlete with his 1min 42.97secs, set in Seville 1990, or being three-times winner of the Emsley Carr mile.

"The answer is the Commonwealth gold presented to him by the late Duke of Edinburgh."

Peter turns 60 on Sunday.

David added: "His achievements add up to an outstanding career as he now hits another landmark.

"Well done Peter, Rotherham's finest."



ROTHERHAM Harriers' U17 athletes at the London Mini Marathon (from left) standing: Caitlin McCloy, Emily Bott, Evie Thomson, Lilia Harris, Sonny Boy Hughes, Jonson Hughes, Zak Ferguson and Luke Parker. Front: Katie Battle, Layla Roden, Issy Waugh, Graihagh Turner, Grace Igoe (15 girls), Maya Schofield, Rosalie Bailey (U13 girls) and Jake Parker (U15 boys). The athletes are flanked by club coaches and team managers Richard Harris and Trudy Parker.



Harriers out in force in capital

ROTHERHAM Harriers contributed a record number of athletes to the Yorkshire and Humberside team for the 2022 London Mini Marathon.

Of the group of 36, 15 were from Rotherham and the region scored some individual successes.

Thomas Thake (Hallamshire Harriers) won the U13 boys race, Harriers' own Zak Ferguson was third in the U17 men's race and Rebecca Flaherty (Bin-

gley Harriers) was third in the U17 women's race.

In addition, Harriers' Caitlin McCloy was selected for the East Midlands team because she was born and lives in Derbyshire.

The competition was fierce, with the 13 regions of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland all selecting the best team from each region, making it a UK championship standard event.

Each team had six selected athletes in each of the six races

over the final 2.6Km of the marathon route and each race winner had their award presented by Eliud Kipchoge, the world record holder for the marathon distance, set recently in Berlin in a time of 2:01.09.

Rotherham Harriers finishes and times:

Girls Under 13

14 Schofield, Maya 09:20
49 Bailey, Rosalie 10:02

Boys Under 15

61 Parker, Jake 08:48

Girls Under 15

12 Waugh, Isabella 08:53
35 Battle, Katie 09:15
50 Turner, Graihagh 09:27
60 Roden, Layla 09:38
67 Igoe, Grace 09:43

Boys Under 17

3 Ferguson, Zak 07:23
35 Hughes, Sonny Boy 07:38
38 Hughes, Jonson 07:50
60 Parker, Luke 08:10

Girls Under 17

21 Harris, Lilia 08:50
26 Bott, Emily 08:52
36 Thomson, Evie 08:55



Marathon effort from duo

ROTHERHAM Running Club's Paul Greenwood and Louise Taylor pounded the streets of the capital alongside 50,000 others at the 2022 TCS London Marathon.

Greenwood conquered the 26.2 mile course in 4:29:35, while Louise Taylor's 5:11:42 finish time earned her a whop-

ping 13 minutes improvement on her previous marathon PB.

At the Spenborough and District Greenway 10k, Adelle Marsden (left) claimed second lady prize with a time of 41:37 (PB), followed by teammate Claire Chapman, who was the first Vet 45 lady (46:13), and Nick Brown with 50:28, a PB.