

Worksop Half Marathon - Sunday 25th October - Grand Prix Leg 8

Race eight of the nine event series took place over in Worksop and Retford sent five competitors to join the field of 1639 runners. A fine morning awaited the gathered athletes for this ever popular scenic half marathon, and Ollie Lord took full advantage of the good conditions to register another personal best for the season. Ollie has gone from strength to strength all year and recorded a time of 1:31:04 to finish 141st, his nearest rival was Iain Storey (277th) who completed the race in 1:37:02, this was a better run for Iain who had a troubled race in Leicester two weeks previously, though was some way off his best form.

Simon Lord ran well again to take 438th position in 1:42:24 and push his claims for the club over 50's title, while Raashad Gossiel recorded 1:49:24 for his 713th place picking up useful GP points on his way. Nick Alexander (755th) completed the quintet, in a time of 1:50:14, his placing seeing him comfortably in the top half of the finishers.

Dublin Marathon - Monday 26th October

Three Retford members made the journey over the Irish Sea to take part in the 30th Dublin Marathon and all enjoyed the experience tremendously. There were 10,446 finishers in the race as Dublin enjoyed a glorious Autumn morning made perfect for distance running. Andy Sly in his 31st marathon recorded another quality performance with a very disciplined even paced run, completing the classic distance in 2 hours 50 minutes and 37 seconds. This being his fifth sub 3 hour marathon of the year so far, his final race position was 130th overall, whilst he managed 10th in his age category. Becky Duggan and Martin Stanton had both arrived in Ireland suffering with heavy colds and it's to their credit they performed so well in the event. Becky, along with Andy had run the Leicester Marathon only two weeks prior to this event and although her time slipped slightly, a run of 3:51:57 was very impressive. Becky finished in 3,173rd position, and actually passed well over 200 competitors in the second half of the race, she also earned a 173rd placing in her age category.

Martin had taken a more sensible and conservative stance in that he did the half marathon at Leicester, but he suffered badly with illness throughout the 26.2 miles and in the circumstances it was a brave and determined effort to actually complete the race. With this in mind to finish in 4:23:08 was an outstanding achievement, Martin was 5,901st overall and 496th in his age category, he also seemed to finish strongly and overtook almost 200 runners in the final 12km.

After the success of this venture overseas the trio were busily discussing which event to enter next year, with Amsterdam being a likely option, where it is hoped they will be joined by several more members.