



Date: 12 December 2016
Release: immediate

Fairy wins Cracker 10k

A sea of snowmen, elves, santas, fairies and reindeer took to the beach at Weston-super-Mare for the annual Weston Athletic Club Christmas Cracker 10k yesterday. The sun shone throughout the day, and there was barely any wind this year which was welcome for the 2,000 runners who completed the race.

The main race is now in its 29th year, and has now also been joined by the Mini Cracker 2k race for younger runners.

The male winner was Ronnie Richmond of Bideford AAC who ran the race dressed as a fetching blue fairy complete with wings and tutu, finishing in 33.16. Tom Lander of BAD Tri followed in 33.47 with another Bideford runner, Keith Shapland, taking third place in 35.27.

Annabel Granger, of Bristol and West AC is no stranger to victory on Weston's beach and was first woman home in 37.52 - her fourth consecutive victory in the race. Annabel was followed a minute later by Mary Menon of Ilfracombe RC in 38.52 and Kelly Dicks from Great Western Runners in 40.30.

In the junior race, over 150 younger runners sprinted down the beach from the pier for a kilometre, before heading back down the home straight cheered on by enthusiastic family and friends. Oliver Andrews and Stephanie Brooks won the 11-13 year-old categories in 8.04 and 8.18, placing them first and third overall. Thomas Darton finished second overall in 8.13 to take the 7-10 year-old category along with Millie Redman in 8.33. Olivia Simmonds finished first in the 14-15 year-old category in 8.23 and was joined in her age group by Kyle Beard who completed the race in 9.32.

The fancy dress outfits showed huge imagination this year, proving that some people will do anything for a mince pie, and included a tin full of Quality Street chocolates, a sniper Christmas tree and a rather fetching team of Christmas puddings.

The race did not pass without incident through, and unfortunately two runners required medical assistance while out on the course. In one case, a runner collapsed requiring urgent medical attention. Malcolm Gammon, race director said: "I am extremely grateful for the swift and competent care that this runner received. He was attended to immediately by one of our club members who is a nurse, and another runner who is a GP, before ambulances arrived at the scene and he was transferred to hospital.

"On behalf of the club I wish him a full and speedy recovery and hope that he will be back running soon."

Many of the people running the race yesterday were raising money for Weston Hospicecare. The largest amount raised by a group came from the 'Elves in Training' who had been raising money while training for the event with Weston Athletic Club. Before the race they presented a cheque for £1,950 to the hospice.

Malcolm added: "I'd like to thank everyone who raised funds for our race charity Weston Hospicecare this year, and also our main event sponsors Easy Runner for all the support they have given to us again this year."

For more information about the race, including results in full, go to www.westonac.co.uk which also has information about all of the club's 13 races throughout the year.

Anyone who missed out on the Christmas Cracker might be interested in the club's next 10k race which takes place on New Year's Day in Kewstoke. "The Hangover" follows an on-road course around Kewstoke and Sand Bay and is the perfect antidote to the excesses of the night before. Runners can enter online at www.westonac.co.uk/hangover by Christmas Eve or on the day at Kewstoke Village Hall.

ENDS

For more information and photos contact vanessa.andrews@westonac.co.uk

Follow the club on Twitter @Weston_AC and on Facebook /westonathleticclub