



## 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2016

Now in its 4<sup>th</sup> year the Northampton Half Marathon continues its steady growth in participation numbers and with a winning time of 1:11:10 running performances of real quality.

To some extent, inspired by the opening ceremony at London 2012, the course aims to visit in its relatively short 13.1 miles areas of the town which are significant in terms of its past, present and future – as well as an homage to the Park Run by taking in part of its course on the town's old race course site.

Starting in the impressive shadow of the Guildhall and following the visit to the racecourse runners are brought back towards the town centre, taking in one or the towns oldest churches and the law courts before running through the centre of the main shopping area before returning to the Guildhall.



The course then passes the shoe museum recognising its manufacturing past, the Derngate Theatre and onto the river and the future “under construction” which is the towns new university campus. The current business centre of the town is represented by Brackmills home to such pneumatic brands such as Barlaycard and then into Great Houghton proving that village life still thrives close to the town centre.



The finish is at Delapre Abbey, another link to the past but also providing a great finish for the runners and space for athletes to recover, collect their bags, grab a massage and chill with family and friends. We hope also that the routing of the race provides real variety in the sights and sounds around the course.

To the 2016 race, in contrast to the miserable weather on Saturday, Sunday dawned bright and breezy at with the temperature around 15 degrees all in all pretty good running

conditions. The race was won in some style by Elliott Hind who finished well clear of the field it a time of 1:11:10 and was followed in by James Stringer in a time of 1:16:28 and then Matthew Crosse who completed the podium in 1:17:17 with all three winning their age categories.

Other stand out top ten Age group winners were Jean-Pierre Mitchell in 6<sup>th</sup> and Greg Spellman in 9<sup>th</sup>.



In the ladies' race Katie Godof moved past Kelly Barnett towards the end to win in a time of 1:26:36 a mere 35 seconds ahead. 3<sup>rd</sup> in was Jo Windrum in 1:32:13 and as with the men all these ladies won their respective age groups

The event, which is fundamentally based in charity has now also attracted a wide base of charity partners and these include; McMillan, Cynthia Spencer Hospice, Hope Centre, KidsAid, the Air Ambulance and Headway to name a few.

It is also great to see charity runners "dressing" for the occasion and as well as a clown we must have had every super hero represented and this together with the charities getting involved with the drinks stations really helped with the generally friendly and fun feel of the event.

As with the town, the race will continue to evolve and the varied sights and sounds will continue. In 2017 with the link to the University campus complete, runners will be able to follow the river all the way from Becketts Park to the white water rafting centre.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who turned out to support the event either manning registration, on course marshals, lead and tail bikes and the finish crew – universally runners mentioned how supportive they were all around the course adding generally to the friendly atmosphere. Also we are very grateful for the support we have received from **Connor Ratcliff at the Running Shop** in Northampton



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Top three men (Matthew Crosse, Elliot Hind, James Stringer) and top two ladies (Katie Godof and Kelly Barnett) left, for the full results, please [click here](#)

Hopefully the participation and charity fundraising will continue to grow in 2017

**Steve Adams**

**RD, Northampton Half Marathon**