

## Killlearn 10k 2014 Race Report

Well done to everyone who made it to the start line for the second ever Killlearn 10k; a sell out once again. The build up to the day was tempered by the forecast of heavy rain but when Saturday arrived – we were blessed with much kinder weather and the sun shone - for the morning at least! Registration started at 9am, but all runners had entered on-line and so most started to appear at The Killlearn Hotel nearer 10am. Killlearn Primary PTA once again held their Family Fun Day in conjunction with The Killlearn Hotel's BBQ in order to give spectators and supporters opportunities for entertainment and sustenance.

Down in the park, the first event on the Killlearn Hoolie calendar was kicking off: The Hoolie Mile. This event was also organised by the Killlearn 10k committee in association with Active Stirling's Alison Grey and sponsored by Heron House Early Years. This proved to be a very popular event with many locals, young and old, giving it their all for a mile round the streets of Killlearn. It was also a useful warm up for some 10k runners who made it back just in time to gather by the Buchanan Monument for the 10k race briefing. With anticipation and nerves building, runners were led out to the start line by the War Memorial where an entertaining brush with a bus held the race up by only 2 minutes! Runners repositioned themselves and, with the piper playing proudly, they went off just after 11am.

This beautiful route is not one for the faint hearted and, whilst the heat was not as fierce as last year, it was humid and this certainly added to the challenge. The scouts did a fantastic job keeping the runners hydrated out on the track and once again, some helpful locals were hosing hot heads on Ibert Road; a greatly appreciated shower and something of a feature of the final stretch. Roddie Stewart (RS100) did an awesome job getting the atmosphere rising and welcomed the runners back into the park as they passed the piper on the home straight. The powerful, confident strides of Garry Mathew carried him home in 36.56s, taking a new course record too. Coming in second, Peter Harper managed to look comfortable in second place – an improved time and stance from last year's 3<sup>rd</sup> placing and, therefore, successfully maintaining the coveted fastest G63 local male runner title. Central AC's Alan Hume arrived hot on Peter's heels not giving him a single opportunity to let up.

Only a couple of minutes later, and in an incredible 6<sup>th</sup> place overall, Stephanie Hannigan (unattached) came through as first woman home in 41.17s – smashing her course PB (which also means the female course record) by almost 2 minutes. This year the gap between the front ladies was significantly tighter with Keziah Higgins of Harmony AC just over a minute behind (and 9<sup>th</sup> overall) and Kim Stewart a few minutes thereafter. Once again, and as per last year, the first 50 runners recorded sub 50 minute finishing times which is remarkable given the terrain, but demonstrates the calibre of entrants attracted to the Killlearn 10k. Sarah Bridge, first local G63 female runner, recorded an impressive 48.01s and the U20 winners were Sarah McArthur (54.28s) and Euan Woodley (45.01s). Due to the generosity of local sponsors additional categories were added this year with prizes to V50 winners, Gary and Pauline Henderson and V60 winners Andrew Llanwarne (Dundee Road Runners AC) and Maggie Hendry of Westerwoods Running Club.

With marshals full of encouragement and enthusiasm, all the resilient runners were soon racing through the finish line at Killlearn Park to be greeted by the Brownies and Cubs handing out our lovely medals: a real treat for runners and an opportunity for the committee to develop the Killlearn 10k bespoke medals and place them right up there with prized race bling! Plenty water, bananas and goody bags with souvenir water bottles were presented to all finishers. A special mention should also go out to Killlearn Football Club who

flooded the field in their black and white tops, a great team effort and some fantastic performances in there too. This year there was special KFC Killearn 10k Trophy which was awarded to Richard Burt, based on significant time improvements from last year. Well done everyone. All winners were presented with medals and prizes generously provided by Mulberry Bush Montessori, Glengoyne Distillery, The Co-operative, Bridge of Allan Run4it and Killearn 10k.

There has been a huge amount of positive feedback from the runners who have commented on the friendliness of the helpers and marshals, the fantastic views, the experience of running along such a scenic yet challenging route and the general atmosphere on the day. Once again runners came from all over Scotland, including Aberdeen and Skye, many of whom had never been to the area before and who left impressed with the village and scenery, promising to come back next year. Many thanks to all those who completed the on-line survey, the results of which help us guide our planning for next year.

None of this would have been possible without the fantastic contribution and support from the local community, people and businesses, from the brownies and scouts to the volunteers who turned up on the day to help with the huge range of tasks needed to make the event run safely and smoothly. Last but not least, many thanks to the Killearn 10k Race Committee for their extraordinary dedication and commitment in organising such a fantastic event. Roll on Killearn 10k 2015, confirmed for Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2015. Slainte Mhath.

<b>Killearn 10k 2014</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Female</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Male</b>
<b>Overall</b>	Stephanie Hannigan 41.17	Garry Mathew 36.56s
<b>Course Record Holders</b>	2014 Stephanie Hannigan 41.17	2014 Garry Mathew 36.56s
<b>V50</b>	Pauline Henderson 50.56	Garry Henderson 45.03
<b>V60</b>	Maggie Hendry 52.52	Andrew Llanwarne 45.03
<b>U20</b>	Sarah McArthur 54.28	Euan Woodley 45.01
<b>Local G63 runner</b>	Sarah Bridge 48.01	Peter Harper 37.42
<b>Killearn Football Club</b>		Richard Burt 57.58

<b>Killearn 10k 2013</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Female</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Male</b>
<b>Overall</b>	Stephanie Hannigan 42.49	Gordon Curran 37.29
<b>Local G63 runner</b>	Jude Holt 47.36	Peter Harper 39.04
<b>U20</b>	Ailsa Peters 58.22	Euan Michie 46.55
<b>Course Record Holders</b>	2013 Stephanie Hannigan 42.49	2013 Gordon Curran 37.29