

Northants “Shires and Spires” Ultra 35

20th May 2018

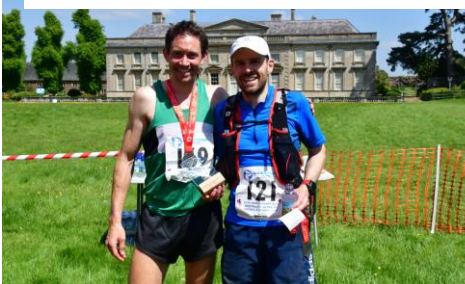
At 8:30 am on Sunday 20th May 2018 one hundred and seventy eight runners crossed the start line at the picturesque Lamport Hall under a beautiful May sky for the 10th “Shires and Spires” ultramarathon with just shy of 35 miles of beautiful rolling Northamptonshire countryside ahead of them. The weather was set to be a defining feature of the race with runners finding the hot conditions a real challenge.



However the hot weather made no difference to Andrew Siggers from Kenilworth Runners who smashed the course record with a blistering 03:59:29, it was a further 24 minutes before we saw the second place finisher Stephen Marks with a solid 04:23:18, which was quicker than last year’s winning time, Stephen also won 1st in the age category M40+. In third place was Ed Fisher with an equally impressive 04:31:11.

In the ladies’ race, Julie Pickering from Mornington Chasers led the way in a time of 05:29:54, 20 minutes ahead of her nearest rival Rachel Dench who came in second in 05:50:57, Sarah Challans from Lincoln and District grabbed third place by a slim margin of 29 seconds in a time of 06:00:03. In the Team competition it was Wellingborough & District AC who took first place again this year with an impressive turn out and some great results.

1st and 2nd Male: Andrew Siggers (left) and Stephen Marks (right) .



Team Prize to Wellingborough & District AC Gordon, Michael, Neil (standing in) ,Helen



Julie Pickering 1st Female



Northants “Shires and Spires” Ultra 35 continues to attract those runners taking their first tentative steps into the world of ultra-running and, as with every year, there were plenty of first timers treading the same trails as the seasoned runners. For the third year ‘The Juggler’, aka Tim Butler from Lincoln & District Runners, was back running the race – wearing his tiger mask. As well as Tim being a bit of a talking point amongst the runners, it is great to see some fantastic team spirit, so many making new friends, conquering personal goals, and gaining new stories to tell.





Rachel Dench 2nd Female

Sarah Challans 3rd Female

David Prior M70+ Winner

Congratulations also go out to David Prior winner of the M70+ category in an impressive time of 08:13:07 at the young age of 71 along with Dick Scroop from Run Further who came in with a time of 08:25:22 showing the younger runners how it is done.



The day ended with a nail biting finish to get the last three finishers across the line before the 5.30pm cut off time. All three, Katy, Katherine and Kev managed it with a time of 08:57,3 minutes to spare! It was a great way for Katy to celebrate her birthday!

All in all it was also a great way to celebrate the 10th birthday of this beautiful race.

As always, immense praise and thanks was voiced for the enthusiastic Go Beyond Events Team.

Our thanks go out to the estate team at [Lampton Hall and Gardens](#) who have, as always, been very supportive and I feel privileged that we get to base the race in such stunning surroundings. We also thank [Boston Therapeutic Massage](#) who worked tirelessly at the finish working their own particular brand of magic on tired and aching legs and [Adrian Howes Photography](#) for capturing your achievements. Of course special thanks go to our sponsors and retail partners and [The Running Shop Northampton](#) for helping to make sure the event can take place.