

600 RUNNERS BRAVE ARCTIC CONDITIONS

Even snow can't stop the Snake



NOT even snow could halt this year's hugely popular Snake Lane 10 race, in which nearly 600 runners braved arctic conditions to battle around the rural course.

The race was won by Holmefirth Harrier David Watson who led all the way, and Czech international runner Anna Pichrtova came home first in the ladies event.

First Pocklington lady home was Helen Wilcock (pictured left) and top Pock male, as expected, was Tom Danby.

A comprehensive race report appears inside on page 35, together with a picture special by Post photographer Roger Pattison.

Snow can't stop the runners!

LAST Sunday Pocklington woke up to find everywhere covered in snow, causing the Snake Lane 10 hosts a few headaches! Unlike any other sporting event, a 10 mile road race with an expected field of 850 runners coming to town is very difficult to call off! So, the fourteenth running of this prestigious event eventually went ahead with Pocklington Runners welcoming runners from all over the north of England.

Despite the conditions, 557 competitors battled around this rural course through Meltonby and Bishop Wilton and returning to Pocklington. A race of this size needs sponsorship, and this year the organisers were assisted by Ken Falkingham's local Mica dealership, Sweatshop of York, Sundora and Adidas, help from Pocklington police, scouts, the rugby club and of course, the people of Pocklington.

The race itself went off well with the first person home being David Watson from Holmfirth Harriers in a time of 51:21 with the winner of the female race being Anna Pichrtova from Clayton le Moors Harriers. Anna represented the Czech Republic at last summer's Athens Olympic Games Marathon, finishing in 28th position, and she came home in the Snake race with a time of 56:55.

As far as Pocklington Runners were concerned their first runner home was the in-form Tom Danby who clocked a very creditable time of 56:16. Next home was Mike Siddall who is one of only two runners to have completed all fourteen Snake Lanes and has seen these conditions before back in 1993. This year he came in with a time of 1:01:22.

Robert Hill must have had Mike in his sights most of the way back into Pocklington with his finishing time of 1:01:54 being very impressive. A touch of magic fell upon the trainers of Howard Cross with an excellent time of 1:05:40, while Howard's partner and training companion Helen Wilcock was the first female finisher from Pocklington, clocking a very impressive 1:05:52.

Runner's very own super vet Clive Reid made short work of the day's course registering a time of 1:06:11 while next, going from strength to strength with every race he enters, was Paul Holmes (1:08:57.)

Not far behind Paul came Dave Slater who showed that his secret training is paying off with his lead up towards this year's London Marathon, clocking a time of 1:09:09.

Warwick Anderson was Pocklington's next finisher and the

look on his face when he crossed the line said that he had given everything, with a time of 1:11:16 to prove it. Patrick Piggott finished in the middle of a cluster of fellow Pock Runners, registering a time of 1:11:36.

Pock's other runner to have completed all fourteen races is Dave Barker and on Sunday he put in a performance that is probably one of his finest and with a time of 1:12:36 he went away well pleased. Another close finisher was Stuart Evans who came home just behind Dave in a time of 1:12:47. Richard Harris continued with the close finishing group clocking 1:13:04 and Martin Harrow completed this little cluster performing especially well to register 1:13:18.

Mags Vandeppear coped very well with the arctic conditions finishing in 1:15:11 and Pock's second female finisher and newcomer to both running and to Pock Runners was Jill Dawson who exceeded all of her pre-race expectations crossing the line at 1:19:07.

Brian Perkins, a veteran of many a Snake Lane race - he even featured in 1993's last snow covered event - clocked a time of 1:20:52.

One of the Runners longer serving members decided that this year was a good one to return to racing and after Rod Robinson had assisted with the car parking he went out and ran the race in 1:25:16. Adele Shipley must have been doing some secret training because when she entered the town centre she was flying and so must have been very happy with her time of 1:29:13. Kerry Slater displayed her recent rise in form with this performance clocking a time of 1:31:25. A first timer for this race was Sue Vicary who accredited herself very well with a time of 1:32:48. 'Flying Doctor' Nicky Jackson put away her pre-race nerves and with race number 1 on her chest she did it justice by registering a time of 1:42:25. Their last runner had a title around his neck that he might have wanted to keep quiet - the fact he was the oldest runner taking part on the day - but that didn't stop Keith Godfrey recording a time of 1:44:10.

There have always been some very good performances from Pocklington's own Runners, but on this occasion very special thanks must go to all of the marshals who stood for two hours in the freezing cold, and to the organisers who deserve a well-earned pat on the back. Any other sporting clubs out there wanting to know how to stage a first class event - look no further than the Snake Lane 10!

Good luck to everyone for the forthcoming season.



OFF AND RUNNING: the start of the Snake Lane 10. RP2402-5

Best foot forward...the winners



THE WINNER: Dave Watson of Pock Harriers led from the start. RP2402-24



FIRST POCK RUNNERS HOME: Helen Wilcock (left) and Tom Danby RP2402-51 and RP2402-34



AT THE START (above) RP2402-15



ONLY TWO MILES TO GO (above) RP2402-30

Photos by
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