

Thames Trot 2018 Race Report

After the sunshine of 2017, runners had cold and rain to contend with for the tenth Thames Trot race. At the start the weather clearly hadn't dampened the runners enthusiasm for their journey along the Thames Path National Trail.

This doesn't mean that it was plain sailing to the finish line for them on the Thames Trot. Extremely muddy conditions made the going very tough on most parts of the course, the occasional tarmac sections giving welcome rest bite and the beautiful scenery was some compensation for the hard work!



There was a great atmosphere at registration as runners made final preparations before heading out to the start line at the Hawkwell House Hotel in Iffley. The race started bang on 08.30 and the journey to the first check point at Culham Lock began.

At the front of the race Alex Whearity who finished 2nd last year was back with a vengeance to lead the race from start to finish with a time of 6 hours and 12 minutes, although second place runner David I'Anson was only 3 seconds behind him at CP2! Third place went to Matthew Blackburn with a great time of 06:34 only 12 minutes behind his second place rival.



Here you can see Alex with his winner's trophy, flanked to the left of the picture by Matthew and to the right by David. In the other categories there were impressive results for Pierre Godof with a 5th place finish and grabbing the Men's 45+ win; Matthew Lynas who took first in Men's 50+ and 7th overall; Robert Moore 1st in Men's 40+ and Leslie Cupis's 7 hours and 42 minutes of running earnt him 1st in Men's 55+

Congratulations also go to Ken Fancett for another class win this year dominating the 65+ category again in an impressive 8 hours 26 minutes, and not forgetting Peter Johnson for a hard fought win in Men's 60+ in just over 10 hours

What a tough day for a race!



The battle of the ladies was fought between Anna Troup, Leanne Rive and Rebecca Ash. Anna not only took the first place win but also first in the 45+ category. Behind Anna it was the closest of finishes with only 11 seconds separating second and third places, Leanne Rive just pipping Rebecca Ash to the post to grab 2nd place. Other notable ladies results fall to Ute Baird in women's 50+ in an impressive 8.41 and Karen Galpin securing the win for the ladies 55+ category.



Top 3 Females - Anna (centre) with Rebecca to on the left and Leanne on the right

By its very nature running 50 miles is not easy and given the amount of mud even more challenging but by night fall and with the steady rain still coming down our hardy participants were still crossing the finish line, each with their own story to tell and everyone having achieved a finish in a tough ultra-marathon, every medal and t shirt hard fought. Amazingly some still managed a sprint finish!!



And finally...

As always, a very big thank you goes out to the crew out on the course, the baggage handlers, medal awarders, the tea and coffee makers and the guys in the vans and mini buses getting the supplies out to the check points, getting people safely to the start from the station and picking up injured runners at the CPs and taking them back to the finish to where their bags had been safely delivered for their collection. Not forgetting Adrian Howes for the great photos of the event.

To the management staff of the Hawkwell House Hotel who provided such a great venue to start the race from.

Lastly and by no means least our sponsors Apex Sports who have been our apparel sponsor for the last few years, Mike and the guys have also been participants in the event and their support has been invaluable. Please check them out at www.apex-sports.co.uk



The next event on our Ultra Calendar is **The Shires and Spires Ultra** which is based at **Lampport Hall** in Northamptonshire. The course takes in some stunning scenery and hopefully we should look forward to the beautiful conditions of the last few years. For more information, please [CLICK HERE](#)

Simon Hollis
Go Beyond