

Asics Haddington Half Marathon

Local athletics club HELP were hosts to the Asics Haddington Half Marathon last weekend when 200 runners took part on a course from Neilson Park around the country roads to the south of the town on a damp dull day which suited most of the competitors. Kirkintilloch Olympian's David Gardiner was first across the finishing line in 1 hour 14 mins 4 secs , in one of the slowest times of recent years, and a minute and a half in front of Chris Upson of Westerlands. The most impressive run of the day came from New Zealand internationalist Rebecca Moore representing City of Edinburgh club in third place overall and first in the ladies race in 1:16:50, and 9mins in front of Megan Wright of Hunters Bog Trotters with Gala Harriers, Kate Jenkins taking 32nd place overall in 1:28:51 . Age group trophies were presented to Karen Haldane (1:31:24) of Gala Harriers for the veteran category and the over forty five prize going to Isabel Pollard (1:40:11) of the Middle Meadow Milers in 84th place.

Martin Ferguson (1:17:7) from Edinburgh Athletic Club was third in the men's race and also took the gold medal in the Scottish East District Half Marathon championship which was incorporated into the event. The team competition is based on the positions of the first three members of competing clubs and was won by Gala Harriers with an aggregate score of 60. Unattached runner Anthony Wilson (1:26:39) took the prize or the over 50's with the super veteran trophy being awarded to James Rowley (1:30:24) of Law and District.

There was local celebration when Dunbar Running Club's Ian Rowland (1: 21:1) picked up the veteran award finishing 8th overall as well as winning his club's half marathon championship. Not far behind Stuart Hay (1:24:36) and Graeme Jones (1:31:12) took the other medals. Clubmates Steve Pattison (1:33:29), Anne Hay (1:37:36), Jamie Cherrie (1:48:46) and Jenny McFarlane (1:53:13) also took part for the seaside town.

HELP competitors were depleted because of the need to organise the event but Neil Scott (1:40:40) and Malcolm Quinn (1:49:43) both had satisfactory runs on the day. Musselburgh AC sole representative, Gordon Eadie (1:37:26) finished 67th overall.



David Gardiner