

HADDINGTON HALF MARATHON

Local running club, HELP attracted 234 athletes to the annual Asics Haddington Half Marathon on Saturday the 12th of August. The 13 mile course from the town's Neilson Park covered the country roads to the south of the town with more hills than most runners would like. Alnwick Harrier, David Kirkland was first home in 70mins 30 secs, three minutes ahead of Alastair Morrison from Dunbarton AC followed by Ross Milne from Lothian AC another 21 secs down. Age group prizes were awarded to David Condra (78:51) from East Kilbride AC in the over forty category, Martin Ryan (81:51) from Perth RR in the over fifty year olds and Robin Scott (89:51) from Kilbarchan AAC in the over sixties. The men's team prize is calculated on the lowest aggregate placings and went to Donald Naylor, Jim Thyne and Phil Mowbray from Hunters Bog Trotters with 48 points.

Following her win at the North Berwick Law Race, Kate Jenkins from Carnethy Hill Runners led the women back in 83min 54 secs well in front of Christine Milne (88:55) from Lothian RC who also was the first lady veteran. Gala Harriers, Carole Fortune took the bronze prize a further five minutes down. The Portobello ladies were delighted to take home the team prize through the efforts of Margaret McLaren, Johanna Paananen and Sandra Aitken.

The host club was well represented with leading runner Colin Menzies (86:04) in 28th place taking the first place in the junior race. Veterans Finlay Smith (88:26) and Sandy Wallace (88:30) battled to the end with only a few yards separating them finally. Ray Harris (100:05) and East Linton's Gordon Caldwell (103:10) had their usual steady runs while new member Emily Black (112:54) was delighted to get round the difficult course in under two hours. Foppe Jellema (127:37) completed the representation with only a handful of runners behind him.

Musselburgh AC's Mary Ennis (11:08) won the first East Lothian club athlete prize in the ladies section and she was joined by her clubmates Steve Pattison (96:52) and Dixie Deans (114:27).

First East Lothian men's prize was won by Stuart Hay (83:21) from Dunbar RC who also posted a personal best over the distance. Richard Taylor (90:55) and Val Herring (119:28) also took part from the seaside club