

## Prestonpans Half Marathon

Over a hundred athletes travelled to Prestonpans on Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> of September to take part in the half marathon which has not taken place for 20 years. The new route by Levenhall, Wallyford, Preston, Longniddry and Port Seton suited most runners because of the long straights and the absence of hills. Race organiser Grant Aitken was delighted with the turn out and apologised for the wet weather conditions which in fact was to the liking of the majority of the participants.

First home overall was Russian visitor Alexandr Federov who is preparing for this weekend's Loch Ness Marathon and a double victory is highly possible. His time of 1hour 14min 30secs was only 12 secs. in front of John Kennedy of Clydesdale with the unattached Mark Shaw only another 2 secs. Down in third place. Willie Jarvie (1:17:43) from Portobello in 7<sup>th</sup> place took the veteran prize and Alan Lawson (1:18:52) from Dundee and Robin Scott (1:21:26) from Kilbarchan were the winners of the super vet and over sixty trophies. Portobello had the biggest representation on the day and were outright winners of the team event with 39 points.

Pre race favourite Kate Jenkins (1:22:44) from Gala Harriers was beaten into second place by Jill Morrow (1:21:41) from Portobello in 17<sup>th</sup> place. Edinburgh RCs Angela Kidd (1:27:59) took the bronze medal with Claire Gilchrest (1:28:43) finishing first veteran and Gillian McKelvie (1:38:12) the supervet champion.

Local clubs were well represented with HELP fielding a strong team. Gavin Lightwood (1:20:32) had the best run of the day coming in 14<sup>th</sup>, four in front of super vet Sandy Wallace (1:21:44) with Finlay Smith (1:25:56) and Frank McPartland (1:27:02) not far behind. Neil Scott (1:32:52), Ray Harris (1:33:47) and Scott Wallace (1:36:38) all finished in the top fifty. Further down Paddy McDonald (1:37:44), Kerry Gordon and Eric Foster (both 1:41:31) and Brian Tait (2:02:07) all had steady runs.

Musselburgh RC were led in by Steve Pattison and Tony Segall (both 1:30:58) and in 41<sup>st</sup> place followed by Stewart McConnel (1:39:06). Their representation was completed by Mary Ennis (1:41:32) and Dixie Deans (1:54:32).

Further afield HELP was also represented at the Angelsey Marathon where Brian Carr (3hours38min) and George "Ironman" Armstrong (3:57) had a much tougher challenge than their local clubmates.