

Rain Fails to Dampen Spirits at BTR Port Sunlight 10K Race and Village festival

May 13th 2014

Testing weather conditions failed to dampen the spirits of participants and spectators at yesterday's the BTR Port Sunlight 10K (Sunday, 11 May).

The third annual event in the picturesque Wirral village attracted over 1,800 runners who took part in the 10K, 5K, and 1K children's Fun Run – with an increase in runners across all distances. The 5K race sold out at 300 places.

The event was organised by race organisers BTR and the Port Sunlight Museum & Garden Village (PSM&GV), who incorporated the best parts of the popular annual Port Sunlight Village Festival to take place alongside the running events as part of the Village's 125th Anniversary celebrations.

The event was sponsored by Unilever's Project Sunlight, who had almost 100 runners taking part in the two adult races and the Unilever Choir performed on the Village Green stage. Unilever also provided the 5K and 10K goodie bags.

Wirral Autistic Society in Bromborough was the official charity. As well as runners taking part and a fundraising stall on the Village Green, the charity also helped out on the finish line by handing out medals to finishers.

Runners and spectators braved the wet weather conditions to enjoy entertainment and refreshments on the Village Green, and Pillbox Vintage Fair in nearby Church Drive School.

BTR Race Director Alan Rothwell commented: "Port Sunlight Village provides one of the most picturesque backdrops to a race event anywhere in the UK, and we've had excellent feedback on the improved course. Race entries notably increased this year across all distances, with the 5K entries doubling, which is testament to how much people enjoy running in the Village.

"The 5K runners started the race proceedings with a single lap of the course, followed by the massed ranks of 10K runners. Then it was the turn of the youngsters with the children's 1K Fun Run which sold out before midday – all 200 places were snapped up in record time. Plans are already in place to meet the demand for more junior places next year, further making it a real family running event."

Once the running had concluded, Port Sunlight Wheelers cycling club hosted a number of races around part of the course.

Katherine Lynch, Heritage Manager of PSM&GV, added: "We were delighted with the turn-out, despite the challenging weather conditions. Port Sunlight is such a unique location, which lends itself so well to hosting events such as the BTR Port Sunlight 10K. The added entertainment and stalls enhanced the overall appeal for runners and spectators, at what is quickly becoming an established annual event in the

Village. A big thank must go to the spectators, volunteers and marshalls, who also helped to make the event a big success.”

EVENT STATISTICS

Winners 10K

Male:

- 1: Taurus Ely, Salford Harrier 31mins 26 seconds
- 2: James Riley, Liverpool Harriers 31mins 37 seconds
- 3: Alex Hall, Chester Tri 33mins 16 seconds

Female

- 1: Sophie Hunt, 38mins 26 seconds
- 2: Jenny Claque, Liverpool Harriers 38 mins 51 seconds
- 3: Caroline Harlan Marks, Bournville Harriers 40 mins 38 seconds

Winners 5K

Male:

- 1: Jack Atkins, Knowsley Harriers 16 mins 52 seconds
- 2: Dan Harris, City Of Stoke 17 mins 06 seconds
- 3: Richard Davies, Wirral AC 17 mins 21 seconds

Female:

- 1: Amy Gibbons, Warrington AC 20 minutes 42 seconds
- 2: Gillian Verdin, Liverpool Running Club 21 mins 30 seconds
- 3: Helen Kelsall, 22 mins 52 seconds