

## **ARDS CHARITY 5-MILE CHALLENGE 2008**

### **Runners In The Rain at 24<sup>th</sup> Challenge**

The weather this summer has been decidedly uncharitable to outside sporting events, and, in last Friday night's 5-Mile Challenge, being organised for the 24<sup>th</sup> time by the Newtownards and District Charity Committee, the runners had to contend with heavy rain and flooded roads.

The conditions did not make it straightforward for the organisers either, with the finishing line scrutineers being particularly hard-pressed. Indeed, the wet conditions meant that identification numbers were 'lost' out on the course, and, in spite of the extreme efforts of the experienced recorders, it was almost inevitable that some finishers were unclassified.

114 participants lined up for the start which was staged on time in spite of the conditions. The weather certainly made the experience quite daunting, and it was really no surprise on the occasion that no records tumbled.

Nevertheless there were quite a number of laudable performances on the night. Simon Seaton, Mark Wright and Pete Barbour, who claimed places in the top six finishers last time, were again among the leading runners, but the trio all ended up behind the winner Willowfield Harrier Andrew Gourley from Dundonald.

Bangor's Brian Barron, who was first home in the Boys Under 16 category in 2007, again dominated that grouping, and only missed out on bettering Matthew Milliken's 2001 record time by a mere 9 seconds.

Eddie Bell from Carnmoney, who is a regular participant in the Challenge, romped home in the Men's Vets category, just edging out Terry Eakin and Eric Montgomery.

Debbie Matchett, who lead the women home last year, finished fourth on this occasion behind Lisa Tracey, Jessica Craig and Fiona Johnston.

Jessica Craig's record time for the Girls event still holds, with Iona Macey Lillie, the only girl entrant last Friday evening, missing the target by well over one minute.

Maureen Oliver, first Lady Vet to finish twelve months ago, couldn't find the pace to repeat the triumph, and finished second, behind record-holder Ruth Magill, who was 1.17 minutes off improving on her 2006 time.

Regent Business Equipment once more supplied the support they have been supplying since the event first started in 1985. Richard Heywood from the sponsors was the official starter, with Clive O'Neill organising the assembly of the entrants.

Daphne Coffey and Joan McMillan were in charge of registration, with David Seaton, Chairman of the Northern Ireland Athletics Federation, Tommy Welsh, Barry Scarth, Eddie Wilson and Phyllis Welsh dealing with the taxing and onerous task of logging the results.

The starting field, as well as being made up of runners from Newtownards and throughout the Ards Borough, enticed entrants from a very wide area of Northern Ireland. The fact that the

occasion, which is fully registered with the Northern Ireland Athletics Federation, brought participants from such a broad base, underlines the claim that the local venture is now regarded as a very popular and approved part of the athletic calendar.

Runners from Ballymena, Belfast, Ballyclare, Ballynahinch, Bangor, Lisburn, Carrickfergus, Killyleagh, Holywood, Glengormley, Jordanstown, Newtownabbey, Newcastle, Portglenone, Dundonald, Templepatrick and Randalstown were in the starting area, and it would be correct to say that few regular sporting event organised in Newtownards bring so much widespread a gathering to the town.

*We even had one runner North Wales, said Dessie Coffey from the Charity Committee, and it is no empty claim now that this occasion really does bring as much sporting attention to the town as any other annual event.*

Profits from the Challenge will be directed towards the costs of the annual Senior Citizens Dinner which is organised by Newtownards Lions Club. Clive O'Neill, who organised the starting procedures, paid tribute to the sponsors, St John Ambulance Brigade and to the local police. *The weather was wet, and conditions were extremely awkward for recorders and marshals, commented Clive, but we are absolutely delighted with the response, and would thank all the runners for their support. We also fully appreciate the help and assistance given by Londonderry Park Warden Alex Hillen.*

Julian Hanna, Mark Kennedy, Arnold Robinson, Trevor Dillon, Jonathan Coates, Sharon Dillon and Ernie Trew were course marshals.

The Newtownards and District Charity Committee are intending to mark the event's 25<sup>th</sup> staging by adding innovative procedures in 2009 ? and no doubt those will include a supply of all-weather race numbers!!!

## **RESULTS**

MEN      Record Time 24.26 minutes set by Paul Rowan in 2003

1 <sup>st</sup>	26.17	Andrew	Gourley	(Dundonald)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	27.18	Simon	Seaton	(Holywood)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	27.44	Mark	Wright	(Belfast)
4 <sup>th</sup>	28.06	Pete	Barbour	(Comber)
5 <sup>th</sup>	29.22	Jason	Black	(Belfast)
6 <sup>th</sup>	29.35	Kerry	Blinston	(Conwy, N Wales)
7 <sup>th</sup>	31.03	Michael	Forrester	(Newtownards)
8 <sup>th</sup>	32.34	Douglas	Grant	(Bangor)
9 <sup>th</sup>	32.38	William	Moody	(Belfast)
10 <sup>th</sup>	32.47	Ben	Wilson	(Ballynahinch)
11 <sup>th</sup>	32.38	Reg	Kapur	(Jordanstown)
12 <sup>th</sup>	33.30	John	Graham	(Newtownabbey)
13 <sup>th</sup>	33.47	Donal	Gorman	(Bangor)
14 <sup>th</sup>	34.05	John	McGarvey	(Newtownards)
15 <sup>th</sup>	34.14	Peter	Fleming	(Ballymena)
16 <sup>th</sup>	34.35	Jonathan	McGrath	(Bangor)
17 <sup>th</sup>	34.50	Mark	Reid	(Donaghadee)

18 <sup>th</sup>	35.09	Shaun	McKitterick	(Newtownards)
19 <sup>th</sup>	35.42	Wm Stephen	Ferguson	(Belfast)
20 <sup>th</sup>	36.10	Paul	Burch	(Carrowdore)
21 <sup>st</sup>	36.23	Stephen	Houston	(Newtownards)
22 <sup>nd</sup>	36.39	Michael	Honeyman	(Newtownards)
23 <sup>rd</sup>	37.50	James	Lemon	(Bangor)
24 <sup>th</sup>	37.55	Stephen	Rollo	(Newtownards)
25 <sup>th</sup>	38.10	Kieran	Swail	(Carryduff)
26 <sup>th</sup>	39.09	Hugh	Oram	(Newcastle)
27 <sup>th</sup>	39.12	Jeff	Hollinger	(Newtownards)
28 <sup>th</sup>	39.21	Simon	Thompson	(Bangor)
29 <sup>th</sup>	39.37	Todd	Watson	(Bangor)
30 <sup>th</sup>	40.17	Jamie	Conroy	(Newtownards)
31 <sup>st</sup>	40.22	Simon	MacKay	(Newtownards)
32 <sup>nd</sup>	40.50	Philip	Scott	(Newtownards)
33 <sup>rd</sup>	40.52	Darren	Houston	(Bangor)
34 <sup>th</sup>	41.22	Stephen	Dougherty	(Newtownards)
35 <sup>th</sup>	41.32	John	Murray	(Newtownards)
36 <sup>th</sup>	41.56	David	Wilkinson	(Dundonald)
37 <sup>th</sup>	43.07	Paul	Moore	(Newtownards)
38 <sup>th</sup>	43.10	Gary	Kirk	(Newtownards)
39 <sup>th</sup>	43.11	Jonathan	Boal	(Bangor)
40 <sup>th</sup>	45.43	Gary	McDonald	(Portglenone)
41 <sup>st</sup>	46.10	Michael	Brown	(Newtownards)

**WOMEN Record Time 30.22 minutes set by Suzanne McCormick in 2002.**

1 <sup>st</sup>	33.28	Lisa	Tracey	(Newtownabbey)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	34.37	Jessica	Craig	(Bangor)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	34.48	Fiona	Johnston	(Bangor)
4 <sup>th</sup>	34.57	Debbie	Matchett	(Belfast)
5 <sup>th</sup>	36.00	Sarah	Gilmour	(Newtownabbey)
6 <sup>th</sup>	36.48	Martina	Elliott	(Belfast)
7 <sup>th</sup>	37.59	Janelle	Trevelyan	(Dundonald)
8 <sup>th</sup>	38.06	Karen	Hamilton	(Comber)
9 <sup>th</sup>	38.25	Hazel	Hunter	(Belfast)
10 <sup>th</sup>	39.18	Sarah	Benton	(Bangor)
11 <sup>th</sup>	42.26	Claire	Gilmour	(Comber)
12 <sup>th</sup>	43.11	Carol	Braniff	(Bangor)
13 <sup>th</sup>	46.28	Mary	Robb	(Randalstown)
14 <sup>th</sup>	54.02	Victoria	Colville	(Millisle)
15 <sup>th</sup>	54.29	Pamela	Williamson	(Newtownards)
16 <sup>th=</sup>	64.39	Yvonne	Miller	(Newtownards)
16 <sup>th=</sup>	64.39	Ruth	Campbell	(Newtownards)
18 <sup>th=</sup>	64.53	Linda	Campbell	(Newtownards)
18 <sup>th=</sup>	64.53	Janet	McBlain	(Newtownards)

**MENS VETS (45 and Over)**

Record Time 28.01 minutes set by Matt Shields in 2002.

1 <sup>st</sup>	29.56	Eddie	Bell	(Carnmoney)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	29.57	Terry	Eakin	(Donaghadee)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	29.58	Eric	Montgomery	(Newtownabbey))
4 <sup>th</sup>	31.10	Andrew	Edwards	(Belfast)
5 <sup>th</sup>	32.46	Hugh	Thurgate	(Killyleagh)
6 <sup>th</sup>	33.56	Brian	Andrews	(Newtownards)
7 <sup>th</sup>	34.04	Joe	Miller	(Belfast)
8 <sup>th</sup>	34.42	Pat	McMullan	(Bangor)
9 <sup>th</sup>	35.03	Sam	Dunn	(Ballycarry)
10 <sup>th</sup>	35.14	Gary	Nicholl	(Belfast)
11 <sup>th</sup>	35.41	Peter	Jeffers	(Newtownards)
12 <sup>th</sup>	35.59	Philip	Gilmour	(Comber)
13 <sup>th</sup>	36.22	Frank	Walker	(Bangor)
14 <sup>th</sup>	36.47	Fred	Strickland	(Comber)
15 <sup>th</sup>	37.41	John	Johnston	(Crossgar)
16 <sup>th</sup>	38.24	Kenneth	Hughes	(Kircubbin)
17 <sup>th</sup>	38.50	Alex	Blackstock	(Belfast)
18 <sup>th</sup>	39.44	Alister	MacGregor	(Belfast)
19 <sup>th</sup>	39.48	David	Matthews	(Belfast)
20 <sup>th</sup>	40.01	Pat	O'Driscoll	(Bangor)
21 <sup>st</sup> =	41.09	Kevin	Mawhinney	(C?fergus)
21 <sup>st</sup> =	41.09	Barry	Coleman	(Carrickfergus)
23 <sup>rd</sup>	41.34	Desmond	Reid	(Dromara)
24 <sup>th</sup>	41.41	Hugh	Young	(Newtownards)
25 <sup>th</sup>	46.29	Mark	Roe	(Newtownards)
26 <sup>th</sup>	51.37	Norman	Pollock	(Belfast)
27 <sup>th</sup>	51.49	Robert	Grimason	(Newtownabbey)
28 <sup>th</sup>	51.53	David	Rainey	(Dundonald)
29 <sup>th</sup>	46.29	Colwyn	Griffiths	(Donaghadee)

WOMEN VETS (45 and Over)

Record Time 33.12 minutes set by Ruth Magill in 2006

1 <sup>st</sup>	34.29	Ruth	Magill	(Belfast)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	40.14	Maureen	Oliver	(Belfast)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	43.11	Lorraine	Lindsay	(Newtownards)
4 <sup>th</sup>	46.31	Jean	Dolan	(Templepatrick)
5 <sup>th</sup>	46.57	Jackie	Robinson	(Lisburn)
6 <sup>th</sup>	47.10	Jeanette	Burton	(Ballyclare)
7 <sup>th</sup>	51.53	Stephney	Gourley	(Belfast)
8 <sup>th</sup>	52.56	Daphne	Storeng	(Craigavad)
9 <sup>th</sup>	53.34	Patricia	James	(Belfast)

BOYS (16 and Under)

Record Time 29.20 minutes set by Matthew Milliken in 2001

1 <sup>st</sup>	29.29	Brian	Barron	(Bangor)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	31.05	Ryan	Holt	(Belfast)

3 <sup>rd</sup>	31.00	Stuart	Jeffers	(Belfast)
4 <sup>th</sup>	32.22	Ryan	Henry	(Belfast)
5 <sup>th</sup>	32.31	Joseph	Doyle	(Drumbeg)
6 <sup>th</sup>	34.32	Christopher	Denny	(Ballyhalbert)
7 <sup>th</sup>	35.02	Connor	Henry	(Belfast)
8 <sup>th</sup>	35.42	Jamie	Kirkwood	(Ballygowan)
9 <sup>th</sup>	40.04	Steve	Murray	(Newtownards)

**GIRLS (16 and Under)**

*Record Time 34.09 minutes set by Jessica Craig in 2005*

1<sup>st</sup> Iona Macey Lillie (Belfast) 35.46 minutes.

1<sup>st</sup> 35.46 Iona Macey -Lillie (Belfast)

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Joy Russell (Newtownards)  
George Morris (Comber)  
Eleanor Acheson (Belfast)  
Andrew Acheson (Belfast)  
Tim Hughes (Belfast)  
Carly Robinson (Newtownards)