

Beverley Athletic Club Annual Awards Evening Saturday 4 February 2012



Members of Beverley Athletic Club gathered at Lazaat last Saturday for a presentation evening which celebrated their achievements in 2011.

Club Chairman Rob Reid welcomed members to the highlight of the club's year, describing 2011 as "a fantastic twelve months of unprecedented success and plenty of amazing performances."

Awards were presented by Martin Hall, Chairman and Managing Director of Hall Construction, sponsor of the Beverley 10k for the past three years.

Trophies were awarded to runners in recognition of success, improvement, dedication and commitment. Competition for all awards was very keen with a number of runners having a very successful year in 2011.

The climax of the evening was the presentation of the coveted Club Runner of the Year trophy. This year it was awarded to Sam Allen who has proved to be a valuable asset to the club since joining in 2008. In her first year with Beverley AC she won the Most Promising Newcomer Award and she fulfilled that early promise with a brilliant 2011, recording new personal bests at all distances on the road: 10k – 44:21 at Haltemprice; 10 miles – 1:14:02 at Thirsk; and half-marathon – 1:44:35 at Lockington. She also took part in numerous cross-country races and was a very reliable member of the relay teams. Sam also picked up the trophy for the most improved female runner and the Andy Tate Cup for the first lady in the club duathlon. She was delighted with all her trophies: "I had a great year," she said. "I love the cross-country league and being part of the Beverley AC team."



Julie Donald also had an excellent year and retained the trophies for the fastest Beverley lady over 10 miles (1:11:51 at Snake Lane, Pocklington), half-marathon (1:38:12 in the Brass Monkey) and full marathon (3:34:14 at Amsterdam). She also took part in cross-country races for the first time in 2011 and had an excellent first season in the East Yorkshire XC League where she was a valuable asset to the ladies' team.

Since joining the club almost four years ago James Pearson has enjoyed considerable success. Last year he ran numerous road and cross-country races and was a reliable member of cross-

country and road relay teams. He posted a string of new personal bests in 2011 and was awarded trophies for the fastest Beverley runner at 10k (33:29 in the Leeds Abbey Dash), 10 miles (55:34 in the Thirsk 10), half-marathon (1:14:51 in the Brass Monkey at York) and full marathon (2:31:49 at Abingdon). It is the first time that Pearson has won all four distance trophies in the same year.



Frank Harrison was presented with first prize for the 10k handicap competition and third prize for the full handicap series but his most treasured award will surely be the Club Member of the Year trophy. This award recognises commitment to the club and personal qualities. Frank has been a runner for many years and is one of the nicest people anyone could hope to meet. He supports all the local races, has marshalled in every Beverley 10k and always encourages other runners. His award was richly deserved.

In a year when there were many notable achievements, singling out individual performances was a difficult task. The Female Performance of the Year trophy was awarded to new member Carla Stansfield. In only her third race for the club she put in a very strong performance to complete the challenging Langdale End cross-country course in 42:37. She was the first lady to finish and was 16th overall. The male performance of the year was by Matt Chadwick. He was the first Beverley runner to finish in the English National XC Championships, crossing the line in 45.07 and two minutes ahead of James Pearson in very difficult muddy conditions.



Awards were also presented for the male and female marathon performances of the year. Mark Dalton took the male prize for the London Marathon which he completed in a new personal best time of 2:51:46 – a great achievement to celebrate his 50th year. Jackie Hardman won the ladies' trophy for her performance at Rotterdam where she finished in



3:55:29, beating her previous best by 8 minutes. There was special recognition for sexagenarians John and Sylvia Boardley who completed the London Marathon together. It was Sylvia's first marathon and an amazing experience for her.

With a burgeoning membership there was a good number of contenders for the Most Promising New Member awards. Justine Anderson was judged to be the most promising new female to join the club last year and Ross Flood won the men's trophy. Both seem to prefer cross-country running and have added strength and depth to the cross-country teams.



The handicap series was won by Andy Grainger who recorded a number of personal bests during 2011. The Handicap Cup is a knock-out competition and this year it was won by Miranda Hunt.

After an amazing year with a host of events to celebrate 10 years of fundraising for Cystic Fibrosis, Lucas Meagor picked up a number of awards. He completed four marathons in a month and went on to set a number of new personal bests. He was presented with the trophy for the most improved male runner and engraved wine glasses for coming third in the 10k handicap competition and second in the full handicap series.



The Wooden Spoon is awarded to a runner who has had a very successful year but whose series of great performances was eclipsed by the even greater performances of others. This year's recipient was Steve Peacock who continued to improve during 2011 and returned to his very best form.

8 February 2012
Kay Farrow

The trophy for the fastest lady in a 10k race went to Melanie Hayward. She had raced very little during the previous two years due to various injuries but made a comeback in the Beverley 10k last year. She finished in 37:52 in 24th place overall.



A bottle of wine was presented to each runner who had won a handicap race:

Ferriby 10: Jacqui Dickinson

Snake Lane 10: Stuart Little

Thirsk 10: Lucas Meagor

Hornsea 1/3 Marathon: Mark Dalton

Askern 10k: Elaine Julian

Humber Bridge 10k: Andy Grainger

Walkington 10k reverse: Jörg Hardege

Withernsea 5 mile: Frank Harrison

South Dalton Reverse: Steve Hadley

Major Stone Half: Tony Beck

Scarborough 10k: Kelvin Arnott

Derwentwater/Guy Fawkes 10: Steve Peacock



Lucas Meagor, Helen Storr and Steve Hadley all completed nine or more handicap races and were also rewarded with a bottle of wine.

A new award was presented for the first time to recognise the member who is considered to have contributed the most to the club during the last year. The prize was one of the four club places in the London Marathon and it was awarded to Sam Allen.

2011 saw the first running (...and cycling...and running again) of the Andy Tate Cup – the first club duathlon. 35 members with various bikes tackled the course around Skidby. Sam Allen was the first lady to finish and Nick Riggs was the first man and they will share the trophy.



A special award was presented to Steve Hadley to acknowledge his commitment to the club by taking part in a relay race at short notice to make up the team. The category was dubbed the Ran Like His Arse Was on Fire Award in recognition of Steve's performance in the race and he was presented with a jar of curry and a bottle of wine.

After a year of brilliant individual performances it was considered appropriate to recognise the team that won silver medals in the Northern 10 Mile Road Running Championships held in conjunction with the Thirsk 10. James Pearson, Matt Chadwick and Andy Johnson all received a bottle of wine as a reward for their achievement.



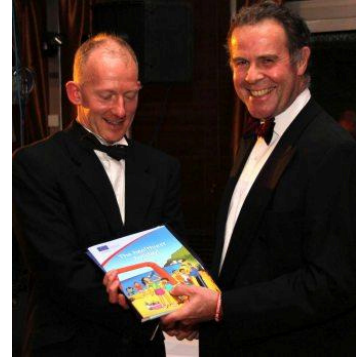
There were a number of other fun awards to celebrate the unique, absurd and amusing.



The craziest achievement by a club member was considered to be Martin Hall's completion of the Gobi Desert March – a 250 kilometre self-supported event in one of the most inhospitable areas on the planet. Martin ran the equivalent of six marathons during the course of a week in a remote area of western China where temperatures varied between 10° C and 45°C. He completed the challenge in just under 46 hours, in 51st place out of 116 finishers and raised a significant sum for the Help for Heroes charity. In recognition of this amazing achievement he was presented with a pair of flip flops.



Chris Woolner won the Best Excuse Award for complaining “I can’t run, I’ve got a pain in the arse!” He received a rather fetching bright pink thong as an appropriate prize.



There were several contenders for the International Award but there was only one outstanding

candidate. It was a surprise that it was not the club Press Officer, Kay Farrow, who continues to carry out her duties diligently despite residing temporarily in Mauritius. According to the club chairman: “Anyone who can find their way into running the Skopje Marathon in Macedonia has to be a true Beverley ambassador.” So the International Award, a multi-lingual dictionary, was presented to Lucas Meagor.

The Beverley, Yorkshire and English Tourist Board Award was won by Andy Johnson who travelled all over the country to be able to race most weekends.



A number of photographers had recorded for posterity the efforts of club members in races and there were some memorable images. A selection of photos by Dianne Coleman was singled out for particular comment. “...the straining of every sinew, the busting of lungs, the agony of screaming muscles as our runners push themselves to the limit.” – these were not featured in Dianne’s portfolio but she had managed to capture runners’ feet without their body, her own fingers and the lens cap! She was presented with a toy camera.

Jayne Dale was presented with a bunch of flowers for organising the awards evening and Alan Glover received a bottle of wine for his meticulous compilation of photos and captions for the PowerPoint presentation that accompanied the Chairman’s awards speech.



In his closing comments Rob Reid looked forward to another successful year for the club and wished everyone good luck in achieving their goals in 2012.