

## **2025 Club Notable Achievements**

### **Club Champs**

A fantastic 17 athletes completed the Club Champs:

Fiona Paterson  
Monica Warren  
Gill Dowse  
Josie Goodfellow  
Mags Gough  
Clare Martin  
Ali Cunningham (Age Graded Champion)  
Monica Thomson (F Champion)

Calum McBean  
Iain Thomson  
Dave Torgersen  
John Myles  
Nick Gough  
Ronan McDermott  
Ross McNaughton  
Doug Lawson (Age Graded Champion)  
Graeme Warren (M Champion)

Special mention to Iain Thomson for completing all 10 club champs races!

It was great to see so many of our clubmates on the start line for these races, with lots of podiums and strong performances along the way. In particular, it's always great to see the hill runners mixing it up with their road running friends and vice versa, and thanks to Peter Banks for his help collating the tables and Tony Wayte for his efforts in keeping the website up to date.

### **Other Notable Achievements and Races throughout 2025 include:**

- We started the year with strong placings at the Masters Cross Country (including Iain Thomson and Marcus Scotney coming top 10 in their respective categories)
- Marcus Scotney became V50 Scottish Champion at the Inverness Half Marathon, which was just a gentle warmup compared with his 1st place (again) in the 8 day Cape Wrath Ultra.
- Jon T completed the Celtman Triathlon for a second year running, taking a huge chunk off of his previous time and finishing 12th overall. He had so much fun that he then completed the unsupported "point 5" triathlon the following weekend too.
- Mags Gough sought sunnier climes for her own epic Ironman effort in Portugal, although she did brave Scottish waters for a half in Nairn too. Not to be outdone, Nick Gough became the latest Strathearn Harriers runner to complete the 53mi Highland Fling, even managing something akin to a sprint finish for the end.

- A nod to our other cyclists, duathletes and triathletes too, including Rachel Gallagher for '1st geriatric female' (her words) and overall National Champ in an incredibly cold edition of the Strathpuffer cycling event. We also had various runners and riders in the Applecross Duathlon including Ralph McNally who came home in 3rd place overall, despite recovering from injury and an early season helicopter rescue. Tony Wayte of course put in some great efforts on bike and on foot whilst fundraising, with Clare Martin in the Glen Clova duathlon. Well done too to Nicola, Jim, Fi, Colin and others who have discovered the murky world of duathlon this year. And not to mention Anna Hammond's paired win for the enormous Great Kindrochit Quadrathlon Challenge.

- Of course we can't mention other sports without mentioning various orienteering successes, including Ali Cunningham, who now seems to have more gold medals and category wins than we can count.

- Jon T then went on to complete all 3 main hill running series: the SHR Hill Champs (2nd V40), Bog & Burn Series (1st V40) and Long Classics (2nd V40), placing exceptionally highly in all three. He also defended his title in winning the Canna 10km again.

More podium places included Ralph McNally winning the Bennachie Hill Race. Nick Gough narrowly claimed the local Newtyle Hill Race title and Graeme claimed 2nd place overall for the 2025 Kinnoull Hill Race. He also took a super fast 2nd place in our very own Strathearn Marathon becoming the first ever harrier to finish within a top 3 position, and has later become famous by becoming poster boy for publicising the event for this year.

At another of our club races saw Dave Torgersen bring home the gold to win Scottish Athletics Mid Trail Champs as 1st MV70 at the Crieff 10km, whilst there were podium places for Morris Roberts and Fiona McDonald at the "Half Dram" in Speyside.

In the summer, there was an impressive blue and white total domination of the Crieff Highland Games podium proving that the harriers are good at running downhill too whilst tartan clad for the fun fast street dash.

James Grant won overall at the Dunblane 12km road race with a blistering time of 41:13. Another very fast road race saw Graeme achieve a 6 minute pb at Manchester half marathon with a time of 2:46:40, only 4 seconds behind the reigning club record holder. A further club record was challenged and broken by Harris Pagett who raced at the Big Half down south finishing in just 1:08hrs (with an average pace of 5:11/ mile for all 13 of them).

- Hanna McNally (despite coming back from injury) has claimed 1st female finisher at Dollar Hill Race, a win at the recent & extremely muddy Bishops Hill Race plus more in extremely tough conditions involving whiteout visibility - a fabulous win at the Glenshee Snow Running event. She's also completed all six of the SHR Champs races and placed a brilliant 5th overall.

- In fact, the club had:
  - 2 Scottish Hill Champs finishers
  - 4 Scottish Long Classic finishers including Jim Reid and Dave Dowse; and

- Jon as a finisher in the Bog & Burn Series

- 6 Harriers finished the 42km Lairig Ghru hill race, including a strong top 10 finish from Jonathan Marks and a 1st V60F for Ali Cunningham. Worth also noting Jonathon's brilliant 1st place in a very wet Long Course OMM Lite in the Lakes.
- Well done also to Jon Williams and son who finished a similarly wet Saunders race in the Lakes alongside Tony and Clare McLelland, who took on this and some great races around Scotland as a pair in 2025. Clare also had some unfinished business on the John Muir Way Ultra in 2025, so returned in 2026 for a fantastic finish to this 50k race.
- Staying with the Lakes, Kay Grenfell took on the half Lakes in Day for a great 2nd place in category, whilst Josie continued to amaze us all with her many, many marathon and ultra runs, including London and Edinburgh Marathons, her 7th Glen Ogle Ultra.
- Nicola Watson and Anna Hammond completed the hilly and tough Jedburgh 3 Peaks Ultra, while a sleep deprived new Dad Stephen Ainslie completed a number of impressive hill races, culminating in the Ochils Ultra in September.
- Thomas Silkstone completed an impressive number of ultras too, including 6th overall in the Glen Lyon before going on to run the 100k UTMB Mont Blanc, joined by Harris Pagett who finished 28th in a strong field in a 15k UTMB race.
- Ed Blows arguably gets extra points for insanity though, for doing his 100k ultra at the Cheviot Goat in the middle of December.

### **Teams**

As teams, we had great performances throughout the year, including a 3rd place male team in the East District Hill Race champs at Eildon. Runners contributing to this success were Phil, Dave and Graeme.

The men's team also retained the Hartley Relay's cup for the third year in a row and we had strong performance in our own Simons Wake Comrie Hills Relay, including a 3rd place overall and the first mixed team.

The Strathearn Blue Squirrel female team claimed 3rd place at the inaugural Ochils Hill Relay, with Men's Red and Grey Teams claiming a well earned 5th and 7th place overall.

In cross country season, we've had record turnouts and fantastic results including in the national relays and for Harris Pagett in particular, who finished in the Top 10 in Scottish Athletics' XC Grand Prix (which tallies points from the biggest national XC races of the season), and also 1st U23 and 7th overall in the Senior Men's race at the London round of the UK Cross Challenge.

### **Parkrun**

The club had a great turnout at various Parkruns throughout the year, including a new club fastest time at Perth by Jonathan Marks in 16:38, which was put in the shade only by Harris Pagett with a mind blowing 15:01 in Edinburgh. Hat tip also to Doug Lawson for knocking a

massive 46 second off of his Parkrun PB, only then to beat it again a month later! Regardless of the times, it is always great to hear of Strathearn runners in Perth, Stirling and in far more glamorous locations around the world enjoying a bit of Parkrun Tourism. We're all very aware of our junior event every Sunday at Macrosty park, now into its 8th year. We eagerly look forward to the Crieff senior parkrun that is launching officially very soon - well done to all involved in the Core Team in making it happen.

Couch to 5km facilitators have enjoyed success in seeing a small dedicated group achieve their goals in getting started with running or returning to it, hearing they're nearing graduation. Again, well done to Tony M for making this happen.

### **Marcothon**

And finally, we rounded off the calendar year with a hardy bunch of Marcothoners running every day in December. Well done to Ali Cunningham, Gerard Chouet, Isla Gallagher, Janine Grant, Josie Goodfellow, Lauren Roberts, and Monica Warren.

There are lots and lots of people who support the club in different ways, but we want to take this opportunity to thank those who lead our club runs and training sessions every week, regardless of the weather, so thanks to:

Tim Lloyd  
Nicola Watson  
Ruth Clark  
Ali Cunningham  
Tony McClelland  
Kay Grenfell  
Jim Reid  
Jim McConnell  
Peter Banks  
Ronan McDermott  
Grant Kennedy  
Anna Hammond  
Rachel Gallagher

Thanks also to Phil as club coach who contributes to planning of the sessions with weekly liaison with Jason for the bulletin and relevant communication to all members and run leaders.

There are dozens of other great race performances throughout the year from lots and lots of people in the club and we will definitely have missed some off, so apologies for that. It is fair to say that for a small town in central Scotland, we definitely have a running club that punches above its weight.