

October 2018

Another increase in numbers for Barns Green Half Marathon and 10k races

On 30th September, Barns Green hosted its 36th annual Half Marathon and staged the third running of the 10km race. Once again, over 2000 runners registered for the two races. The Barns Green Half Marathon started at 10am and twenty minutes later the Barns Green 10k race started with over 600 runners.

After a 20 minute warm up from two of the instructors from Bluecoat Sports Club, the Headmaster of Christ's Hospital School, Simon Reid acted as official starter and got the runners underway for the Barns Green Half Marathon. For the 5th time, the male winner of the half marathon race was Neil Boniface from Horsham Joggers in a time of 1 hour 10 mins 21 secs with James Baker second and James Turner third. The women's race was won by Rachel Hillman from Eastbourne in a time of 1 hour 25 mins 58secs with Dani Tarleton second and Soulla Wright third. After the race, Neil Boniface said, "I am thrilled to have come home first. As always the course was testing but I'm just delighted that I was able to defend my title. The organisation and course management was outstanding and it was great to have all the different bands playing on the way round to help keep us motivated".

The 10k race was started by Pauline Muncer and Lorraine Awcock whose husbands, Brian and Mike both died last year. Between them, Brian and Mike completed 56 years of marshalling at the Barns Green Half Marathon and they were both looked after very well in their last days by St Catherine's Hospice. The winner of the women's 10k race was Maisie Trafford who completed the course in 38 mins 03 seconds. The men's race was won by London 2012 Olympian, Scott Overall in a time of 31 mins 07 seconds. Both winners of the 10k races broke the course records. All the runners who finished the two races received gold, silver or bronze medals and there were plenty of other cash prizes and trophies for all the winners in the various race categories.

As always, the Village Green was alive with music, food outlets, fairground activities and fund raising stalls and once again the event was blessed with excellent autumn weather making the running conditions ideal for the athletes. On the day, 140 volunteers gave their time to help with car parking and marshalling and the many other jobs necessary to make sure everything ran smoothly and that the runners enjoyed the experience. There were 8 different bands playing music at different points along the race routes and the 100 strong Christ's Hospital Marching Band were playing as the runners went through the grounds of the school.

Commenting on the event, Race Director, Vernon Jennings said, "I am delighted with the way that the whole day went. We had great support from our sponsors, Dark Star Brewery, Lines & James, Networks Centre, Great British Bell Tents, More Than and Bluecoat Sports. This will enable us to give donations to all the local groups, societies and sports clubs that help us to stage the event and also boost the money that we can donate to our wonderful charity, St Catherine's Hospice. As always, I would like to thank our local residents for their great support and cooperation and understanding with regard to the short time that we have road closures during the races".

Entries for next year's Barns Green Half Marathon and 10k are already open. The date is Sunday 29th September 2019. For further details visit the website; barnsgreen-half.org.uk

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