

Press Release 23 September 2007

Ten Kilometre Run to Save Lake

Sixty four people entered the Save Radley Lakes ten kilometre multi-terrain run on Sunday, to help raise money for the campaign to save Thrupp Lake. The race took place in perfect weather conditions, and runners had to negotiate a course which took them along roads and cross-country footpaths around Radley and Sunningwell. Sixty runners completed the course, with the winner finishing in just over 36 minutes.



Photograph by Basil Crowley

The line-up before the start of the race

The run started at the athletic track at Tilsley Park, went over Lodge Hill, through the grounds of Radley College, and returned along Sugworth Lane and through Sunningwell, finishing back at Tilsley Park. Added interest for the runners was provided by a clay pigeon shoot taking place adjacent to the public footpath through Radley College!

The winner was Mark Shepherd, who finished in a time of 36:22. His girlfriend, Rachael Elliott, the first woman to finish, came in just over 3 minutes later at 39:37. Both run with Team Kennett. Mark, a project manager from Vodaphone, who more usually runs 100 kilometre ultra-marathons, said,

”I enjoy running in the countryside, but find that more and more of our countryside is being built on and destroyed. The Radley Lakes are a local issue, but they matter, so we’ve come along to show support for the campaign to save them”.

Rachael, a research manager from Trinsum, added that

“The Radley lakes are an important wildlife site that must be preserved”.

The second oldest competitor, Des King, 75, of Abingdon Amblers said

“I used to swim in Thrupp Lake back in the seventies and it would be a great shame to see this lake being destroyed, so I’ve come out to register my protest. I still cycle and run around the lake and I find it a great spot to sit and watch the world go by”.

The oldest competitor Geoffrey Jackson, 76, finished in a time of 61:28.

The youngest competitors were Nick Lang, aged 16, and Alice Brewer from Oxford, also aged 16.

Nick said,

“Running means a lot to me. What they’re doing to the Radley lakes is ridiculous, so I’ve come out today to support the campaign”.

Alice said,

“It is my first 10k run. I’ve run because we mustn’t allow npower to destroy such a beautiful wildlife site”.

Mike Collins, a lecturer from Brookes University, and his wife Jenny Collins both of Abingdon Amblers, ran the course together. Mike expressed his support for Save Radley Lakes, and urged them to “Keep up the good work”.

The first veteran man was Chris Bedford whose time was 38:24. The first woman veteran was Naomi Allen who timed 45:46.



Photograph by Basil Crowley

The race is on, with Chris Bedford (No.131) a veteran runner, in the lead



Photograph by Basil Crowley

Winners, Mark Shepherd and Rachael Elliott, receive their prize cheques from race organiser, David Guyoncourt (right)

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