

Iford AC Centenary Celebration Walks 14th Oct 23

Iford Athletic Club, which usually had a strong racewalking sector, is celebrating its centenary and to mark the occasion a special 10km race was organized. In addition to what was a reasonable sized field of nearly two dozen, a good number of prominent previous Iford athletes and visitors including 96 year-old Alex Allen were present. The event consisted of the main distance and optional shorter events all offered both on the strictly judge AQ basis and also on the more social B level. There was also a 2km race for the Under 13s. Surrey Walking Club had two walking representatives – the ever-present David Hoben and, returning from serious illness, Portuguese international Francisco Reis.

The main field saw rather more women than men and of a higher standard to fill all of the first three places. First home was Loughton's UK age group recorder Melanie Peddle, clearly breaking the hour. An 8km race saw David Hoben in first place under the hour. Francisco, still not in top form cautiously stopped at 4.7km but at a pace almost equivalent to the hour for 10km and not too far from his pace a couple of years ago. Altogether a great event to remember a great Club history.

Results: (21 starters overall)

10 km Women:

M.Peddle (A Loughton W50) 58 min 12 sec; 2. J.Benson (A Ashf U23W) 1 hr 1 min 11 sec; 3. P.Cummings (A AFD W45) 1 hr 1 min 31 sec; 4. F.Bishop (A AFD W60) 1 hr 11 min 3 sec; 5. L.Morris (A Ilf W55) 1 hr 12 min 30 sec.

10km Men:

C.Harle (A Belg M60) 1 hr 1 min 52 sec; 2. S.Bennett (A Ilf M60) 1 hr 5 min 42 sec; 3. S.Morgan (Col H M50) 1 hr 7 min 15 sec; 4. J.Borgars (A Loughton M75) 1 hr 7 min 21 sec; 5. D.Kates (Ilf M70) 1 hr 7 min 42 sec.

8km Women

S.Baum (A Hern H W55) 57 min 55 sec.

8km Men

1. D.Hoben (Sy WC M65) 1 hr 1 min 28 sec; 2. J.May (E&H M70) 1 hr 4 min 30 sec; 3. P.Firmage (Ryst M65) 1 hr 6 min 47 sec.

6km Women

1. S.Arthur (A Ilf W60) 56 min 38 sec;

6km Men:

1. T.Wilkinson (A Unatt M60) 42 min 1 sec; 2. S.Cartwright (A Col H M60) 46 min 4 sec;.

4.7km Men

1. F.Reis (A Sy WC M60) 27 min 1 sec.

2km U13

1. S.Blundell (A New Mrkt Junr U13G) 14 min 6 sec; 2. L.Cooper (A New Mrkt Junr U13G) 14 min 13 sec