

Fernandez and Webb Victorious

Event: 34th White Horse Half Marathon

Time: 09:30am

Date: Sunday, 3 April, 2016

Venue: Old Mill Hall, Grove

Paul Fernandez timed his race to perfection on a sunny first Sunday of April to collect a fourth victory at the White Horse Half Marathon and become the most successful runner in the event's history. The Abingdon Ambler, who is making his final preparations for this month's London Marathon, took the win from London Hearthsides AC's Andy Barnes in 1:13:18 to reclaim the title he won three years earlier. Last year's victor James Bolton of Woodstock Harriers AC completed the podium.

The V40 runner now stands at the top of the competition's all-time list with five medals from his six appearances in the race, just ahead of fellow four-time winner Derek Green.

Though he would end the contest comfortably in front, taking the win by 23 seconds, it wasn't until the 11th mile that he finally dropped Barnes; making the decisive burst as the runners came into Denchworth for the second time. Previously the pair had been battling it out for four miles having left Bolton by mile 7 in what had been a breakaway trio as early as mile 3.

It was not to be a complete disappointment for Barnes though, as he claimed the senior men's title in 1:13:41.

Speaking after the race, an out of breath Fernandez seemed a little disappointed with his time yet happy with his title having stuck to his plan of running an even-paced-race, that even saw him fall behind in the initial stages.

Elsewhere, in the ladies competition, Jessica Webb of Woodstock Harriers smashed a huge six and a half minutes off of her personal best to move from fifth in 2015 to first in 2016, taking victory in 81:20 ahead of last year's runner-up and L35 champion Diane Moore of Headington Road Runners. There were also notable category wins for V50 Bodan Lazloe of Wootton Road Runners and L45 Kate Wright of Stratford-upon-Avon.

Wright was also a winner in the women's team race as the trio of Wright, Sarah Wheeler and Rachel Pearce beat 2015 champions Headington RR by 14 points. Led by Bolton, Woodstock Harriers won the men's alternative with 77 points, as he was followed home by David Cantwell, Rob Webster and Jake Harrison.

The full results can be found here: www.whitehorseharriers.org/halfmarathon.html

Finally, don't forget to check the website of the official race photographer, Barry Cornelius, at www.oxonraces.com for the official race day photographs. The photos are free to download. If you put a photo somewhere public, please add the credit "Photo by Barry Cornelius".