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Balmoral Estate Team: James Hamilton-Goddard | Jane Fedo | April Stephen

I.T. Services: Jamie Ross

Words and Stats: Fraser Clyne. Photography: Kevin McGarry, Kevin Smith, Stuart Ross, Alison Pilichos. Design and Production: Ian Milne.



I must also praise Aberdeen Journals for the excellent coverage they gave the event. Thanks are also extended to our colleagues at Run4It, our retail partner, and to Visit Aberdeenshire for assisting with the promotion of the event.

Our charity programme continues to thrive and I am proud to say we worked closely with VSA, Kayleigh's Wee Stars, Aberdeen University Development Trust, Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance, Poppy Scotland, Miscarriage Support and CLAN. As usual, significant amounts of money will have been raised for each of these worthy causes.

It is, in every respect, a truly fantastic example of all members of the community coming together in partnership to create and enjoy what is a superb family occasion.

MAJOR CHANGES AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Run Balmoral is experiencing a number of significant changes in personnel as we begin planning for 2026. Richard Gledson, who has been Resident Factor at Balmoral Estate since 2009, has stepped down from his position on our Board after leaving the north east to pursue new interests elsewhere, and

we wish him well for the future. Richard has played a key role in guiding the development of the event over the past 16 years.

Fraser Clyne is also leaving his role on the Management Team in which his main responsibility was for marketing and promotion. Fraser has been involved with Run Balmoral since its beginning in 1998. Initially, when working with Brendan Foster's event management company (Nova International), he helped promote the inaugural races when a host of Olympic medallists and world class athletes took part. He

remained in that role until 2004 when Nova decided to withdraw from the event. Fraser then became a member of the locally based team which took over responsibility for organising Run Balmoral and continued as an important member of the team for the next 20 years. He will be replaced by Christine Appel who has considerable experience of marketing and event management, notably through her involvement with Run Garioch.

We are already working on the 2026 event and a date will be confirmed soon.

James Knowles, Chair, Balmoral Road Races Ltd, May 2025.



I must, of course sincerely thank the Run Balmoral Management Team - Jackie Stewart, Peter Jennings, Fraser Clyne, and the Balmoral Estate staff - James Hamilton-Goddard, Jane Fedo and April Stephen - for once again delivering a fantastic event. The Estate's role once again this year included the provision of Corporate Hospitality - and this was delivered to a very high standard.

I must also once again praise our commentator, Graham Anderson, who kept everyone expertly informed and entertained over the two days. Our race timing company, Krono Sports, led by Renato Capone, also did a fine job as did our I.T. guru Jamie Ross who did all the hard work in maintaining and developing our online booking system and website.

There are many other groups, organisations and service suppliers who contribute to the success of Run Balmoral and we have mentioned them elsewhere in this document. To each and every one, I wish to express my sincere thanks.

Run Balmoral 2025 was another great success with 4299 runners taking part out of an overall entry of 5126, representing an 84% turnout, which is excellent. We were also treated to some wonderful individual performances with four course records being broken. Sean Chalmers enjoyed a double success with wins in the Harbour Energy 5k and the Stena Drilling 10k, while it was amazing to watch Millie Glass Park smashing her own record in the MPH Primary School Girls' 1.5k, while Nathan Lawson set a new standard in the RAM Tubulars Secondary School Boys' 2.5k. These are outstanding athletes, but we admire each and every one of the runners who participated in the series of races over the weekend. They are all winners.

Everyone who completed one of the races was rewarded by receiving the fifth in a series of specially designed medals featuring well-known landmarks in and around the estate. Previous medals have shown Lochnagar, Balmoral Castle, Albert's Cairn and Crathie Kirk. This year's medal showcased the Auld Brig O'Dee. Devil of Deeside participants received an additional special 'Devil' medal. Now we are turning our thoughts to a new series of medals, beginning in 2026, and details will be revealed soon.

RUNNERS CONTRIBUTE TO LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

Every year we aim to improve our sustainability objectives and in 2025 we decided to contribute to one of the biggest nature restoration projects undertaken in the Cairngorms. The River Dee Trust conservation charity has committed to planting a million native trees along the riverbank between now and 2035 as part of a massive scheme to help protect Atlantic salmon and other wildlife in and around the River Dee and its tributaries. So, instead of providing t-shirts to competitors, Run Balmoral decided to contribute one new native tree for every runner who signed up to take part in our races. This means we will be planting more than 5000 trees this year.



OUR SPONSORS

Run Balmoral could not happen without our sponsors, some of whom have been with us on a long-term basis and we are extremely grateful for everything they do. Stena Drilling (10k) and Harbour Energy (5k) remain our overall event sponsors and continue to support Run Balmoral on a significant scale. MPH (Primary Schools 1.5k) has also been a loyal friend of Run Balmoral for so many years, while Bristow has supported our 15 mile trail race for the past five years. John Clark Motor Group has completed its second year as title sponsor of the Devil of Deeside Challenge, but the company has supported Run Balmoral in various ways since 2005.

We were delighted to welcome on board two new sponsors this year, with RAM Tubulars backing the secondary schools 2.5k, while Bilfinger supported our new 6 mile trail race. Unfortunately, Bilfinger has indicated that their involvement was for only this one year.

Also, Bristow has informed us they will not be continuing for what would have been a sixth year as backer of the 15 mile trail race, so I'd like to take the opportunity to thank them for their support. I'm sure we'll see their employees continuing to run in our races in future. In the meantime, we are actively looking for a new sponsor for this popular event and for the 6 mile trail race.

Albyn Hospital continues its valued involvement by sponsoring the Event Village, and thanks to backing from Tidy Green Clean, we were again able to engage local videography expert Stuart Ross Media to provide us with enhanced footage of the event, including some stunning drone coverage.

The support of Aberdeenshire Council, which has continued to back Run Balmoral since the event switched from being delivered by a commercial company to becoming a community event, in 2005, remains strong, and is also hugely appreciated.

RunBalmoral - Roll of Honour 2025

(Gun times except for Corporate Challenge and Devil O’Deeside results which are based on chip times)

MPH Primary Schools 1.5k		MPH Primary Schools 1.5k	
Boys		Girls	
	min:sec		min:sec
1 Aidan Gordon (Banchory Stonehaven AC)	5:42	1 Millie Glass Park (Young Meldrum Runners)	5:31
2 Lawson Bowie (Young Meldrum Runners)	5:50	2 Karley Paterson (Aberdeen AAC)	5:53
3 Archie Aitken	5:53	3 Emily Birnie	6:16
RAM Tubulars Secondary Schools 2.5k		RAM Tubulars Secondary Schools 2.5k	
Boys		Girls	
	min:sec		min:sec
1 Nathan Lawson (Albyn)	6:55	1 Emily Christie (Falkirk)	8:12
2 Blair Blackwood (Albyn)	7:28	2 Rachel Fitzpatrick (Hazlehead Academy)	8:14
3 Struan Mackay (Hazlehead Academy)	7:31	3 Eilidh Murdoch (Banchory Stonehaven AC)	8:30
Harbour Energy 5k		Harbour Energy 5k	
Men		Women	
	min:sec		min:sec
1 Sean Chalmers (Aberdeen AAC)	14:18	1 Fiona Brian (Metro Aberdeen)	17:25
2 Fraser MacKenzie (Metro Aberdeen)	15:24	2 Jenny Bannerman (Inverness Harriers)	17:48
3 Aaron Odentz (Aberdeen AAC)	15:29	3 Debbie Greig (Alford Bull RC)	18:17
Stena Drilling 10k		Stena Drilling 10k	
Men		Women	
	min:sec		min:sec
1 Sean Chalmers (Aberdeen AAC)	30:54	1 Louise McKenzie	38:39
2 Aaron Odentz (Aberdeen AAC)	33:36	2 Nicola Macdonald (Metro Aberdeen)	38:43
3 Will Mackay (Metro Aberdeen)	35:19	3 Robyn Pinder (Metro Aberdeen)	39:04
Bilfinger 6 Mile Trail Race		Bilfinger 6 Mile Trail Race	
Men		Women	
	min:sec		min:sec
1 Aaron Odentz (Aberdeen AAC)	35:20	1 Debbie Greig (Alford Bull RC)	40:27
2 Finlay Murray (East Sutherland)	37:27	2 Moira Davie (Forres Harriers)	41:34
3 Stuart Macdougall (Fulham RC)	37:34	3 Emily Christie (Falkirk)	44:25
Bristow 15 Mile Trail Race		Bristow 15 Mile Trail Race	
Men		Women	
	hr:min:sec		hr:min:sec
1 Ruairadh Gollan (East Sutherland)	1:25:44	1 Debbie Greig (Alford Bull RC)	1:45:04
2 Kyle Greig (Alford Bull RC)	1:27:47	2 Rachel Smith	1:54:37
3 Aaron Odentz (Aberdeen AAC)	1:30:21	3 Julie Scott (Insch TRC)	2:00:19
John Clark Motor Group Devil of Deeside Challenge		John Clark Motor Group Devil of Deeside Challenge	
Men		Women	
	hr:min:sec		hr:min:sec
1 Aaron Odentz (Aberdeen AAC)	2:54:44	1 Debbie Greig (Alford Bull RC)	3:24:14
2 Stuart Macdougall (Fulham RC)	3:08:03	2 Chelsea Cook (Orkney AC)	3:48:06
3 Finlay Murray (East Sutherland)	3:17:26	3 Ailsa Webster (Rebel PT)	4:11:26
Stena Drilling - Harbour Energy Corporate Challenge			
	hr:min:sec		
1 TAQA	3:53:38		
2 Harbour Energy	4:05:07		
3 Voluntary Service Aberdeen	4:26:16		

Course Records

Based on gun times (other than Devil of Deeside which is based on chip times)

Scotland international Sean Chalmers led the way with a couple of sparkling new records in the Harbour Energy 5k and the Stena Drilling 10k while youngsters Nathan Lawson, in the RAM Tubulars 2.5k, and Millie Glass Park, in the MPH 1.5k, also set new standards.

As the Bilfinger 6 Mile Trail Race was being held for the first time, the respective men’s and women’s winners have established inaugural course records. There are also new records in the John Clark Motor Group Devil of Deeside Challenge as this competition took on a new format this year, with the Bilfinger 6 Mile Trail Race replacing the duathlon.

Event	Name	Year	Time
1.5k boys	Stewart Millar (Cluny)	2011	5min 21sec
1.5k girls	Millie Glass Park (Young Meldrum Runners)	2025	5min 31sec
2.5k boys	Liam Barnsby (East Sutherland)	2013	6min 58sec
2.5k girls	Rebecca Eggeling (Aberdeen AAC)	2016	7min 52sec
5k men	Sean Chalmers (Aberdeen AAC)	2025	14min 18sec
5k women	Rhona Auckland (Banchory Stonehaven AC)	2014	15min 55sec
10k men	Sean Chalmers (Aberdeen AAC)	2025	30min 54sec
10k women	Ginie Barrand (Metro Aberdeen)	2022	36min 07sec
6 mile trail race men (new event)	Aaron Odentz (Aberdeen AAC)	2025	35min 20sec
6 mile trail race women (new event)	Debbie Greig (Alford Bull RC)	2025	40min 27sec
15 mile trail race men	Andrew Douglas (Inverclyde)	2015	1hr 18min30sec
15 mile trail race women	Angela Mudge (Carnethy)	2013	1hr 37min 31sec
Devil of Deeside men (new format)	Aaron Odentz (Aberdeen AAC)	2025	2hr 54min 44sec
Devil of Deeside women (new format)	Debbie Greig (Alford Bull RC)	2025	3hr 24min 14sec

Note: Throughout this report, all times used are ‘gun’ times other than for the Devil of Deeside and Corporate Team Challenge results. ‘Chip’ times, which are also shown in official results, will be faster. Gun time is the time taken from the moment the race starts until each runner crosses the finish line. Chip time is the actual time it takes a runner to complete the course, from the point when they cross the start line (which may in many cases, be well after the race is underway).



Millie Glass Park



Sean Chalmers



Nathan Lawson

Aberdeenshire Active Schools Awards 2025

To encourage participation in the Balmoral races, Aberdeenshire Active Schools present trophies to the schools achieving the largest number of entrants. There are three categories of prizes and this year Aboyne Academy regained the secondary schools trophy after losing out in 2024 to eight-time previous winners Banchory Academy.

Banchory regained the ‘large’ (i.e. roll of 100 or more) primary schools award for the ninth time in 10 years, while Tarland’s domination of the ‘small’ schools competition was extended to a sixth year. The trophies were presented by Stuart Grant, Active Schools and Community Sports Manager with Aberdeenshire Council, and Malcolm MacIntyre, who is deputy head at Aboyne Academy and a volunteer with Active Schools.

Design Competition

Although we chose not to have t-shirts this year, we continued to hold a design competition and youngsters were invited to create a front cover for the Event Programme and Information Leaflet. The winner was Karley Paterson, a pupil at Cove Bay’s Charleston primary in Aberdeen. Karley was also successful in 2024 when she designed the t-shirt for the MPH Primary Schools 1.5k. This year, her imaginative design portrayed a stag with race medals hanging from its antlers, set against the backdrop of Balmoral Castle. Karley is also an excellent young athlete and finished second in the MPH primary schools 1.5k race.

In addition to her individual £50 prize, Karley earned another £100 which she chose to donate to a local charity, BB14. BB14 was set up in memory of Cove teenager Ben Bradford, who, sadly, passed away in his sleep last year. Ben was a keen footballer, and the charity aims to support families and their children by offering free sports and recreation services that they may not be able to afford on their own. It is also supporting fundraising towards a community sports campus in Cove.

The standard of entry was so high that we decided to recognise a number of other submissions at both secondary and primary school levels. The secondary school runners-up were Zac Smith and Kasey Carter, both from Hazlehead Academy. The primary school runners-up were Poppy Chalmers (Balmedie) and Zoe Budd (Tarland).

	Secondary Schools	Large Primary Schools	Small Primary Schools
2014	Banchory Academy	Banchory	Crathes
2015	Banchory Academy	Banchory	Finzean
2016	Banchory Academy	Banchory	Finzean
2017	Banchory Academy	Banchory	Finzean
2018	Banchory Academy	Banchory	Tarland
2019	Banchory Academy	Banchory	Tarland
2022	Banchory Academy	Banchory	Tarland
2023	Aboyne Academy	Banchory	Tarland
2024	Banchory Academy	Torphins	Tarland
2025	Aboyne Academy	Banchory	Tarland



Above: Karley Paterson's winning programme front cover design.



Above: Banchory Primary pupils admire their trophy.



Above: Tarland pupils celebrate their win.

James Knowles, Chair of Run Balmoral, was impressed by the high quality of entries. He said: "Once again, the standard was exceptional, which made our decision difficult, but Karley's submission was superb. We are grateful to all the schools and pupils who took part in the competition and would like to thank teachers and parents for encouraging so many youngsters to get involved."

Aberdeenshire Active Schools Awards 2025

Eilidh Murdoch receives the secondary schools trophy from Malcolm MacIntyre with Stuart Grant watching on.



Karley Paterson (412) keeps pace with Millie Glass Park (198) at start of 1.5k.





MPH Primary Schools 1.5k

The MPH primary schools 1.5k races are among the most popular of the weekend. This year was no different, with more than 800 youngsters unleashing a torrent of energy and enthusiasm as they sprinted off after enjoying a great warm-up routine led by the Friskis & Svettis Swedish exercise team. Their journey took them past Balmoral Castle, before sweeping round the edge of the vegetable garden, Queen Mary's Garden and the new maze, before heading back to the finish line where they were given a boisterous welcome from the large gathering of spectators.

Scottish under-13 cross country champion Millie Glass Park produced an outstanding performance when smashing her own course record in the girls' race. The Dunecht School pupil, who represents Young Meldrum Runners, knocked 14secs off the previous mark she set 12 months earlier to take top spot in 5min 31sec. Her time was so impressive, being 11secs quicker than the winning time in the boys' race. She finished 22secs ahead of Charleston School pupil Karley Paterson (Aberdeen AAC), while Banchory's Emily Birnie took third spot in 6:16. Karley was also the winner of our programme front cover design competition.

Aidan Gordon, a member of Banchory Stonehaven AC, showed fine form to win the boys' race over the same course. The Drumoak pupil clocked 5min 42sec to finish eight secs ahead of Old Rayne's Lawson Bowie (Young Meldrum Runners) with Banchory's Archie Aitken taking third position in 5:53.

It will be interesting to follow the progress of these youngsters in the future. Run Balmoral provides them with a wonderful opportunity to run in front of a big and enthusiastic crowd of family and friends in a spectacular setting, an experience which is often the springboard to a lifelong love for running and sport in general. When looking back through the results of previous years, we can see many names which now appear in our adult races. Some budding stars of the future potentially take their first competitive steps at Run Balmoral. The 2025 Stena Drilling 10k women's champion, Louise McKenzie, revealed she ran in the primary schools race many years ago and admitted that she didn't finish anywhere near the front. That's an important point to bear in mind. While it's fantastic to see the fast runners doing well, the most important thing is that everyone taking part enjoys the occasion and is inspired to run in other events in the future.



Boys getting stuck into the warm-up



MPH Primary Schools 1.5k

First 3 boys - LtoR

Lawson Bowie,
Aidan Gordon,
Archie Aitken, with
Bert McIntosh



Top 3 girls LtoR

Karley Paterson, Millie Glass
Park, Emily Birnie,
Bert McIntosh



Aberdeen's Manor Park
school out in force



Determination



Running past the Castle



Start of boys race

Nathan Lawson, from Netherley near Stonehaven, retained his title in the RAM Tubulars secondary schools 2.5k, but went a step further by breaking the 12-year-old course record. The Albyn student clocked 6 min 55sec to slice three secs off the previous best set by East Sutherland athlete Liam Barnsby in 2013. Shortly afterwards he dusted himself down, lined up with senior athletes in a field of 1077 in the Harbour Energy 5k, and finished a very creditable sixth in 16:10. Lawson's Albyn team-mate Blair Blackwood, from Aberdeen, was second in the 2.5k, with a time of 7:28, while another Aberdeen athlete, Struan Mackay (Hazlehead Academy), who was runner-up in 2023, took third position in 7:31.

Falkirk's Emily Christie, who had been runner-up for each of the previous two years, secured top spot on the rostrum in the girls' race, finishing two secs ahead of Aberdeen AAC's Rachel Fitzpatrick (Hazlehead Academy) in 8:12, while Braemar's Eilidh Murdoch (Aboyne Academy), the primary schools champion in 2023, was third in 8:30. Christie, who went on to finish third in the Bilfinger 6 Mile Trail Race, is one of the many runners who regularly return to Run Balmoral. In addition to her three podium positions in the 2.5k, the Scottish Schools cross country international's honours list includes a win in the 2022 primary schools 1.5k, while last year she won the Bristow 3 Mile Trail Race.

Lawson and Christie join an illustrious list of past winners of the secondary schools races who have gone on to represent their country, the best known being Great Britain internationals Robbie Simpson and Naomi Lang.

The runners in the 1.5k and the 2.5k were delighted to be taken through their warm-up routines by Aberdeen FC mascot, Robbie the Ram, who proved to be very popular.

It was encouraging to note that the number of entries for the 2.5k was the highest since 2018, but we are keen to see this event continue to develop.



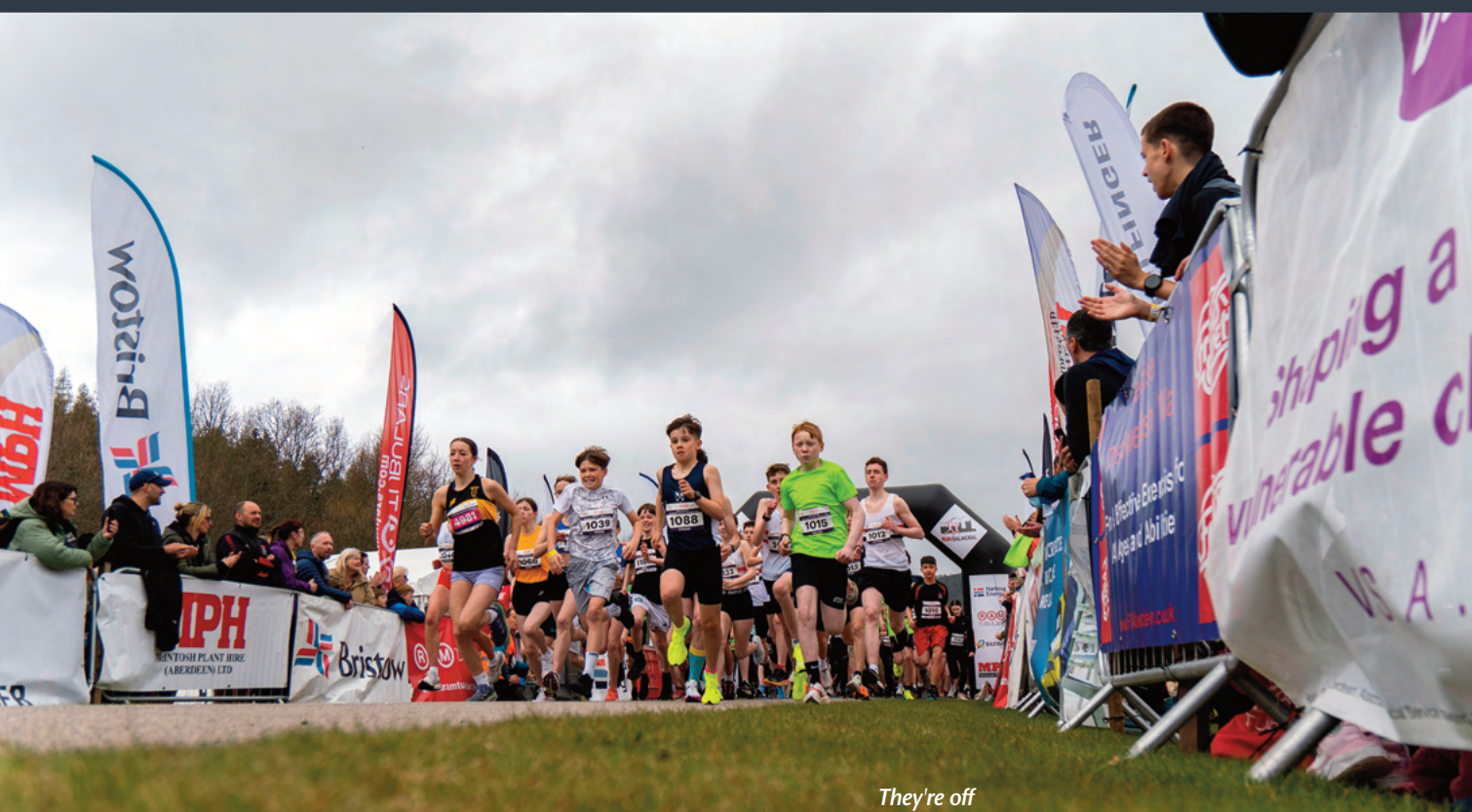
Robbie the Ram



Fast finishers



Nathan Lawson on his way to victory in the boys race



They're off



RAM Tubulars
Secondary Schools
2.5k

First 3 girls (LtoR)

Robbie the Ram,
Rachel Fitzpatrick,
Emily Christie,
Eilidh Murdoch and
Mark Kerr (RAM
Tubulars)



First 3 boys (LtoR)

Nathan Lawson,
Blair Blackwood,
Struan Mackay and
Mark Kerr (RAM Tubulars)



On your marks



Above: Audrey Stewart (Harbour Energy) presents Fiona Brian with her trophy.

Middle: 5k runners come in all shapes and sizes.

Bottom: Fiona Brian wins the women's title.



Harbour Energy 5k

Scotland international Sean Chalmers turned up for the Harbour Energy 5k determined to add to his two previous wins, in 2022 and 2024, but also had his eye on the course record of 14min 20sec set by Central AC's Jamie Crowe in 2023.

Conditions were ideal for fast running as a field of 1077 participants lined up under partially cloudy skies. The Aberdeen AAC man seized the opportunity and within the opening 400m he had opened a significant gap on his challengers. From that point on the only question on everyone's lips was, how fast could he go?

They didn't have to wait long for an answer as Chalmers powered his way round the circuit in impressive style before sprinting for the finishing line as the clock ticked away. It was touch and go, and there were a few moments of uncertainty before the official time of 14min 18secs popped up to confirm he had snatched the record by two seconds.

He said: "I wasn't sure if I'd got it when I finished, but I was relieved when it was announced. My plan was to go out hard then see how I felt going up the small hill after the turn, at about 1.5k. Then, I just kept the pace going. I was a bit nervous that I'd maybe just missed it, so it was good to get it confirmed. It was tough being out on my own, but I think some of the other guys were holding back, conserving their energy because they were doing the Devil of Deeside and had another three races to think about."

Chalmers was followed home by Metro Aberdeen's Fraser MacKenzie, who clocked 15:24, while Aaron Odentz (Aberdeen AAC), who would go on to win the Devil competition, was third in 15:29.

Aberdeen AAC's Nathan Lawson, who a little more than 90mins earlier had set a record time in the RAM Tubulars 2.5k, finished sixth overall in 16:10. Fulham's Stuart Macdougall won the over-40's title in 17:05 while Michael Hoults (Ross County AC) was first over-50 in 18:14. Richard Holland (Metro Aberdeen) won the over-60's title in 19:08 and his clubmate John Geddes was top over-70 in 28:01.

Fiona Brian won the women's 5k title exactly 10 years after winning the 10k. The Metro Aberdeen runner, who was third in the 5k 12 months earlier, clocked 17:25 to finish 23secs ahead of title-holder and three-time previous champion Jenny Bannerman (Inverness Harriers). Brian said: "My main aim was to be faster than last year, and I did it by about one minute, so I'm happy with that. I was in a group of four for the first 1.5k then gradually pulled away and basically kept going, never looking back." Debbie Greig (Alford Bull Running Club), the eventual women's Devil champion, took third position in 18:17.

Metro Aberdeen's Nicola Gauld, 10k champion in 2013 and 2017, was first in the over-40 age division when finishing fourth overall in 18:51. Aberdeen AAC's Hania Czebreszuk led the way in the under-20's with a time of 19:46, while Hilary Cameron (Forres Harriers) was first over-50 (20:20). Westhill's Ailsa Webster was top over-60 in 22:21 and Metro Aberdeen's Lana Hadden was best of the over-70's in 28:39.



Harbour Energy 5k

They're off! The massive field heads off on the 5k

Middle: Sean Chalmers takes an early lead on his way to a record breaking run

Harbour Energy team on the run



Having fun in the 5k



Fit Like Joggers brought over 100 runners - many of them in the 5k

Sean Chalmers completed a stunning record-breaking double with a remarkable performance in the Stena Drilling 10k. He barely had time to cool down and recharge after winning the Harbour Energy 5k before getting ready for the 10k and its notoriously long, and agonisingly steep hill leading up to the halfway point. But there were no obvious signs of fatigue as Chalmers once again stormed clear of his rivals before powering home in 30min 54secs to scythe a whopping 23secs off the previous record set 12 years earlier by Great Britain mountain running international Robbie Simpson (Deeside Runners).

Chalmers said: "I am absolutely delighted, over the moon in fact. I came here hoping to get one course record but didn't believe I could get two. It was touch and go in the 5k and I wasn't sure if I'd got it when I finished. As for the 10k, well, Robbie is a very established runner and I knew it would be a tricky record to get, especially as it had survived for so long. It was a bit tough going up the hill and I felt it, but I just let myself go on the downhill. I got to 8k and thought if I could just maintain 3min per kilometre pace I could get it. So that's what I did and was able to bring it home."

"Run Balmoral is an amazing event, the atmosphere is unbelievable, with so many folk out and about. There's a real family feel about it and I'll definitely be back again."

Chalmers' 2025 double success brings his tally of Run Balmoral race victories up to six over the past three years. In 2024 he won the 5k, 10k and 15 mile races, while he also won the 5k in 2022.

Aaron Odentz, who would go on to win the John Clark Motor Group Devil of Deeside Challenge in which competitors tackled all four adult races over the weekend, finished second in 33:36, while 2016 and 2022 race winner Will Mackay (Metro Aberdeen) took third spot in 35:19.

Christopher Charles (Metro Aberdeen) was first under-20 when finishing 11th overall in 36:55 while Stuart Macdougall (Fulham) lifted the over-40's crown in 36:16, Aberdeen's Adrian Miles led the way in the over-50's in 38:16, Richard Roulson (Metro Aberdeen) was top over-60 in 41:21, and Frank Ovens headed the over-70's ratings in 55:07.

Louise McKenzie, from Cornill in Aberdeenshire, admits she surprised herself by sprinting to victory in a thrilling ending to the women's division of the race. The 25-year-old, who was fifth in 2024, produced a strong finish to overhaul Metro Aberdeen's Nicola Macdonald yards from the end to win by four secs in 38:39, while Robyn Pinder (Metro Aberdeen) was third in 39:04.

McKenzie said: "I'm amazed by my time because when I ran here last year I did well over 43minutes. I thought I'd be faster this year, but only by about two minutes. I didn't expect to be this quick. I've been doing quite a few 10ks and a half marathon, and I think that has helped me improve. I was focussing on getting a place on the podium and I think that kept me going as I had other girls with me for much of the way. I pulled away from one of them with about 1.5k to go, then I caught the other one just before the finish. I thought there was no way I was going to catch her, but just decided I'd try to go as fast as I could. Then I realised I was closing on her, so I started sprinting. I didn't think I could keep it going, but surprised myself and just managed to do it. It was a great feeling."

Huntly's Annabelle Meddler (British Nordic Development Squad) was first under-20 in 52:49 while Aberdeen's Gieve Brennan won the over-40's category in 43:13, Louise Kelly (Stonehaven Running Club) was first over-60 in 50:44 and Aboyne's Day Campbell was the over-70's winner in 1:15:18.

Paul Burnett, from Newmachar in Aberdeenshire, won the prize for the first kilted runner to complete the route, recording 40:54. For the second year in a row, Stonehaven's Helen Drewery was first kilted woman in 51:54 and she won the over-50's prize as well. Drewery had earlier completed the Harbour Energy 5k in 23:08 and would go on to complete the John Clark Devil of Deeside Challenge, winning the women's over-50 age group prize with a combined time of 4:37:46.



Above: Happy it's all over and we have our medals



Above: 10k medals.
Below: Helen Drewery, women's kilt champion, with Stuart Wyness (Stena Drilling)





Team Stena



Stena Drilling
Tartan 10k

Paul Burnett, men's kilt
champion, with Stuart
Wyness (Stena Drilling)



Pipers greet runners at the top of the hill



Sean Chalmers on his
way to another record



Running past one of the smaller
Balmoral cairns



Louise McKenzie outsprints
Nicola MacDonald to win women's title



Top 3 women (LtoR)
Nicola MacDonald,
Louise McKenzie,
Robyn Pinder

Stena Drilling-Harbour Energy Corporate Team Challenge

TAQA upset the favourites to win the Corporate Team Challenge title, and will take possession of the magnificent red deer antler and sycamore wood trophy for the next 12 months.

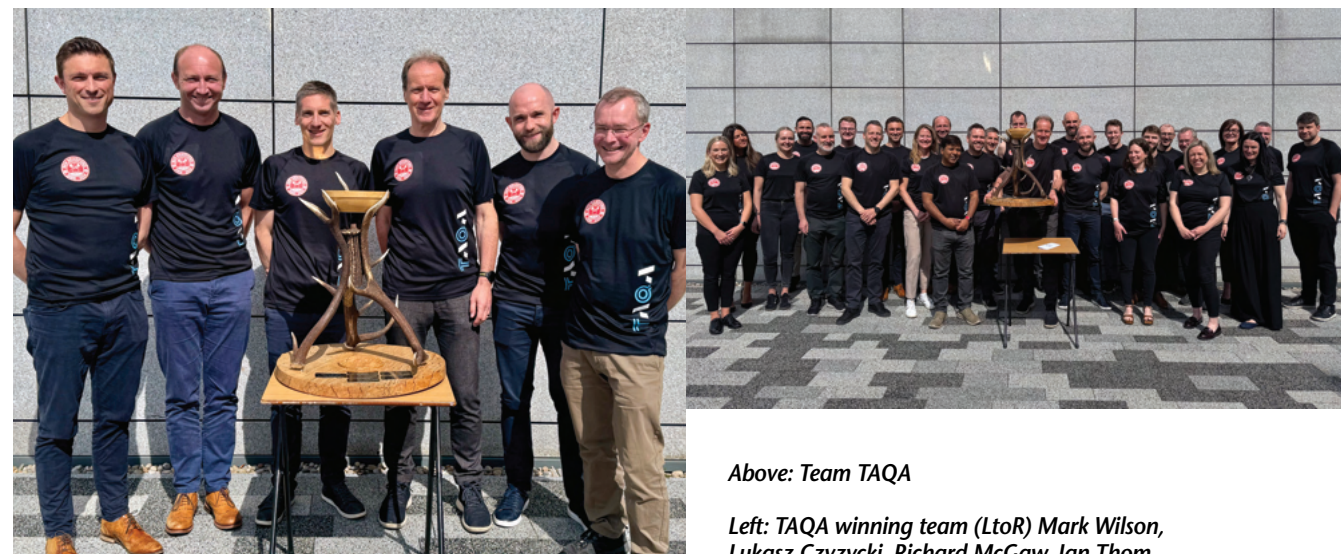
Mark Wilson, Lukasz Czyzvcki, Richard McGaw, Ian Thom, Peter Frampton, Peter Lunny, Jeremy Kibble and Andy King were the members of the successful team, but TAQA fielded a huge squad of runners who raised £4,000 for the Ben Bradford B14 charity. Ben was a talented young footballer who passed away in his sleep the night before a youth football cup final for Cove Youth FC. His squad number was 14 so all the TAQA team ran with Number 14 on the back of the tops in his memory. It was extremely poignant as Ben's uncle works for TAQA and the family came to Run Balmoral. Our design competition winner Karley Paterson also generously donated her prize to the same charity.

CORPORATE TEAM CHALLENGE - WINNERS - FIRST HELD 2013

2013	Aberdeen Sports Village
2014	Cops and Joggers
2015	Cops and Joggers
2016	Aberdeen Sports Village
2017	Cops and Joggers
2018	Cops and Joggers
2019	Cops and Joggers
2022	Harbour Harriers
2023	Harbour Harriers
2024	Stena Drilling
2025	TAQA

Each team had to field four runners in the Harbour Energy 5k and four runners in the Stena Drilling 10k. The same runners were able to compete in both the 5km and the 10k if they so wished. Or it was open to field a fresh line-up in each race.

FULL RESULTS:-	HR:MIN:SEC
1. TAQA	3:53:38
2. Harbour Energy	4:05:07
3. Voluntary Service Aberdeen	4:26:16
4. Stena Drilling	4:28:17
5. Aize	4:47:39
6. Kayleigh's Wee Stars	4:52:57
7. Bristow	4:55:11
8. Altrad Sparrows	4:59:56
9. NEO	5:06:32
10. John Clark Holdings Ltd	5:29:50
11. Albyn Hospital	5:31:47
12. Swiftly, Nifty and Some Pushing 50	5:46:55
13. The Financial Planning Group	5:55:18
14. Hexagon	5:56:44
15. Itworx	6:41:30



Above: Team TAQA

Left: TAQA winning team (LtoR) Mark Wilson, Lukasz Czyzvcki, Richard McGaw, Ian Thom, Peter Frampton and Peter Lunny.

Bilfinger 6 Mile Trail Race

Aaron Odentz took top spot in the inaugural Bilfinger 6 Mile Trail Race on his way to securing the John Clark Motor Group Devil of Deeside title - but the Aberdeen AAC runner revealed he came very close to missing the run altogether. He said: "I misread the instructions and thought it started an hour later than it actually did. That would have been a disaster. I arrived late and never got a proper warm-up, but it turned out to be fine. It could have been worse. So, I started off steadily and after getting an early lead I was able to relax a little and conserve some energy for the 15 mile race. I enjoyed the course, especially with the two laps."

The race was being held for the first time and attracted a capacity field of 225 runners, but there's definitely scope to increase that in 2026. The route took competitors on an awesome run along the banks of the River Dee before climbing up through woodland paths, passing close to many of the famous Cairns on the Balmoral Estate. The two-lap course offered spectators an opportunity to cheer on the runners as they pass the halfway point.

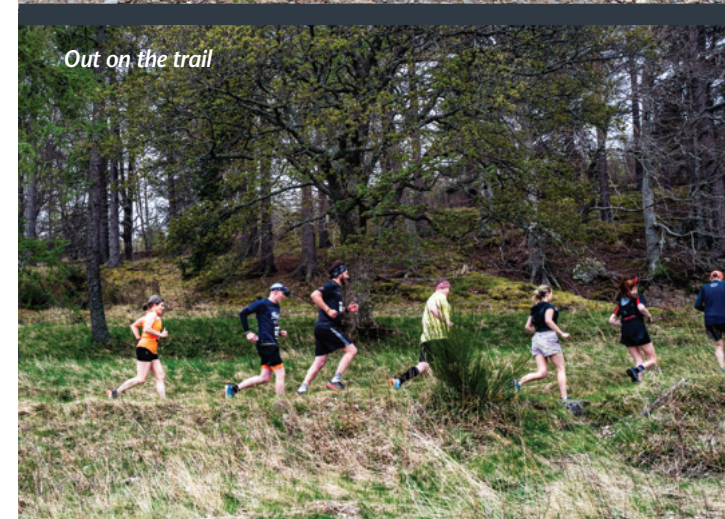
Odentz won in 35min 20sec but behind him there was an almighty scrap for second position, with East Sutherland's Finlay Murray just getting the better of veteran Stuart Macdougall, finishing seven secs ahead in 37:27. As Macdougall was awarded the third-place prize, the over-40 award went to the fourth finisher, Steven Watters who recorded 40:05. Ross County's Michael Hoult collected his second over-50's title of the weekend with a time of 41:28, while Paul Mills of Deveron Harriers was the leading over-60 in 45:10.

Debbie Greig was an equally clear winner of the women's race in 40:27, which gave her fifth position overall from the 195 finishers. Moira Davie (Forres Harriers), a past winner of the 15- mile race, was runner-up in 41:34, while secondary schools 2.5k champion Emily Christie (Falkirk) finished third in 44:25. Brechin's Jessica Shepherd was first under-20 in 1:04:12, Banchory's Suzanne Matonti took the over-40's award in 50:35, Helen Drewery was over-50 champion in 56:16 and Ailsa Webster led the way in the over-60's in 51:05. Cherry Owens made the long journey from her home on the Isle of Wight worthwhile by winning the over-70's division in 1:24:14.

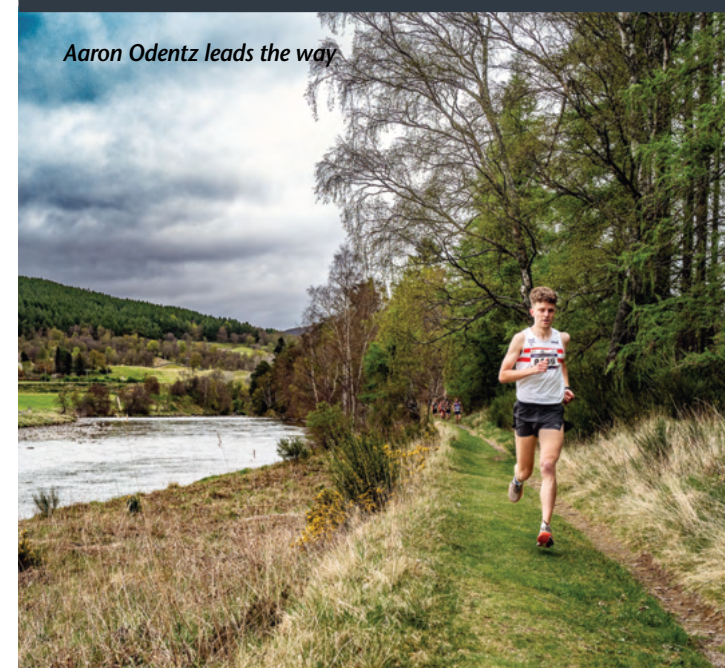
The prizes were presented by Bilfinger's Rod Agnew who completed the six-mile course in 53:51 having recorded 51:33 in the previous day's Stena Drilling 10k.



Above: Feeling strong



Out on the trail



Aaron Odentz leads the way



Team Bilfinger



Looking happy in the early stages



Bilfinger 6 Mile Trail Race

Top 3 men (LtoR)

Finlay Murray,
Aaron Odentz,
Stuart Macdougall and
Rod Agnew (Bilfinger)



Top 3 women (LtoR)

Moir Davie, Debbie Greig,
Emma Christie and
Rod Agnew (Bilfinger)

Bristow Bristow 15 Mile Trail Race

Ruairidh Gollan (East Sutherland) showed his class by winning the Bristow 15 Mile Trail Race in emphatic fashion. The 26-year-old professional musician hit all the right notes when blasting round the testing course in 1hr 25min 44sec, with Kyle Greig (Alford Bull RC) second in 1:27:47 and Aaron Odentz (Aberdeen AAC) third in 1:30:21.

Gollan said: "It's the first time I've been here and I really enjoyed the race. Kyle broke away after about five or six miles, but I had a bit more hill legs so I managed to get away from him on the climb to the highest point on the course. I was able to pull away after that but there was a sting in the tail with another tough hill near the end, however, I was able to keep my lead."



Ruairidh Gollan leads from Aaron Odentz and Kyle Greig



Having fun out on the trail

Runner-up Greig, who is the husband of women's race champion Debbie, had to settle for second position for the fourth time in the history of the race, having previously filled this position in 2018, 2019 and 2023. In the age groups, Elgin's Joseph Snitch was first under-20 in 2:15:58 while Stuart Macdougall (Fulham) led the way in the over-40's in 1:37:13 and Brian Bonnyman (Westerlands CCC), who was second overall in 2016, was first over-50 in 1:43:06. Tarland's Roger Dunridge won the over-60's prize in 1:58:45 and Fraserburgh's Graeme Clark was top over-70 in 2:51:02.

Debbie Greig (Alford Bull RC) was in a class of her own when winning the women's title in 1:45:04, which gave her seventh position overall from the field of 444 finishers. Aberdeen's Rachel Smith was second in 1:54:37 and Julie Scott (Insch Trail Running Club) took third position in 2:00:19. Edinburgh's Lucy Beeston was first under-20 in 2:32:06 while Aberdeenshire's Verity Smith 2:00:43 topped the rostrum in the over-40's. Metro Aberdeen's Tara Fairley won the over-50's division in 2:06:24 and Westhill's Ailsa Webster topped the over-60's field in 2:08:37.



Bristow 15 Mile Trail Race

First 3 women (LtoR)

Rachel Smith,
Debbie Greig,
Julie Scott with
John Fyall (Bristow)



First 3 men (LtoR)

Kyle Greig,
Ruairidh Gollan,
Aaron Odentz with
John Fyall (Bristow)



Team Bristow



Exploring the Balmoral estate



Spectacular route



Debbie Greig on her way to victory

Debbie Greig scored an emotional victory in the women's division of the John Clark Devil of Deeside competition. The Alford Bull Running Club member finished third in the 5k and fourth in the 10k on the opening day of the contest before winning the Bilfinger 6 Mile Trail Race and the Bristow 15 Mile Trail Race 24 hours later. That gave her a combined time of 3hr 24min 14secs which was bettered by just three men in a field of 101 finishers.

She said: "It's emotional because of the reason I'm here. Ten years ago I was training for an ironman triathlon and planned cycling out to race in the 5k and 10k at Balmoral, then cycle home as part of my training. But before leaving Aberdeen I was knocked off my bike and very seriously injured. I wanted to mark the 10th anniversary of that incident by coming out to Balmoral again and finding out how far I've come since that day.

"So, I couldn't be more proud of winning the Devil of Deeside. Running four races over a total of 30 miles in a little more than 24 hours sounds tough, but it was easy compared with what I went through a decade ago. I think I got the best out of myself this weekend and I'm very happy."

While most people would take plenty time off to recover from such an achievement, Greig was back out on the trails a week later when she won a 50k race in the Highlands.

Banchory-based Orkney' athlete Chelsea Cook took second position in 3:48:06, while over-60 age group competitor Ailsa Webster, from Westhill in Aberdeenshire, was third overall in 4:11:26. As Webster took the third place prize, the over-60 award went to Aviemore's Nicola Diggins with a time of 5:15:34. Banchory's Alesha Wood was first under-20 in 5:59:00 while Tarland's Claire Hannaford was first over-40 in 4:38:43. Helen Drewery completed a very successful weekend by winning the over-50 age title in 4:37:46, adding that to the age group awards she collected in the 10k and 6 mile races. She was also the 10k kilt champion.



Devils ready for action

John Clark Motor Group Devil of Deeside Challenge



Aberdeen AAC's Aaron Odentz collected the Devil of Deeside men's title with an equally impressive set of performances in the four races. After placing third in the 5k and second in the 10k, he went on to win the inaugural Bilfinger 6 Mile Trail Race before securing the Devil victory with a third-place finish in the 15 Mile Tail Race, giving him a combined time of 2:54:44.

Afterwards he said: "I'm really happy, but right now it feels very sore. I'm delighted because I've come back after a frustrating period of nine months of injury, so It's great to prove to myself that I can handle this volume of running. Of the four races, the 15 miler was by far the toughest. I'd never done it before and someone told me it wasn't too hilly, but I can tell you now, it is very hilly. But, I will definitely do it again and for sure I'll be back next year so long as I stay clear of injury and illness."

Stuart Macdougall (Fulham) who was competing at Run Balmoral for the first time since finishing eighth in the 10k in 2015, was runner-up in 3:08:03, while Finlay Murray (East Sutherland) finished third in 3:17:26. Ross County's Michael Hoult secured the over-50 title in 3:37:19 with Paul Mills (Deveron Harriers) taking the over-60's award in 3:51:04.

Banchory-based Steven Watters is the Marketing & Communications Manager for the Devil of Deeside sponsors, John Clark Motor Group, so it was appropriate that he should take part in the competition which his company supports. And, what a performance: Steven finished in fifth position for the second year in a row, posting a combined time of 3:28:20. He also collected the over-40 age group prize.

The new format for the gruelling competition, in which the duathlon was replaced by the Bilfinger 6 Mile Trail Race, appeared to go down well with 101 finishers, the highest number since 2018 and the second best since the event was first held in 2017.

It's interesting to note that there have now been different winners of the women's title on each of the seven occasions the competition has been held, but Aaron Odentz is just the third athlete to have won the men's award.

JOHN CLARK DEVIL OF DEESIDE ROLL OF HONOUR

	ENTRIES	COMPETITORS	MEN'S CHAMPION	WOMEN'S CHAMPION
2017	108	84	Alan Semple	Kerry Prise
2018	142	110	Alan Semple	Molly Ralphson
2019	124	91	Alan Semple	Katherine Thomson
2022	128	77	Sam Milton	Laura Sarkis
2023	94	67	Sam Milton	Estera Zak
2024	92	71	Sam Milton	Sally Wallis
2025	124	101	Aaron Odentz	Debbie Greig



Debbie Greig



John Clark Motor Group Devil of Deeside Challenge



First 3 women (LtoR)

Chelsea Cook, Debbie Greig and Ailsa Webster do their Devil impressions.



First 3 men (LtoR)

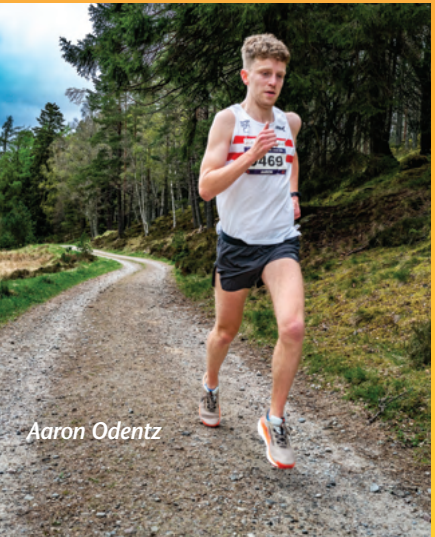
Stuart Macdougall, Aaron Odentz, Finlay Murray with Steven Watters (John Clark Motor Group).



Happy Devils



Devils on the run



Aaron Odentz



Videography by
Stuart Ross Media,
sponsored by
Tidy Green Clean

We are pleased to have been able to enhance coverage of Run Balmoral for the fourth year in a row by providing top class videography footage of the event, including the use of a drone, courtesy of our sponsor TGC (Tidy Green Clean). Stuart Ross of Stuart Ross Media was again contracted and, being an accomplished ultra distance runner with a good knowledge of the estate, he was able to do a fantastic job. TGC's support has allowed us to obtain some magnificent images of the Balmoral Estate over the weekend and these have been edited into high quality videos which will be of great interest to this year's competitors and will also be used to promote the 2026 event.



Albyn Hospital Event Village

The Event Village plays an important and popular role in offering a wide range of facilities and activities for visitors to the estate over the race weekend, primarily on the Saturday. Affiliated charities were, as usual, given space alongside caterers and other exhibitors including the Event Village sponsors, Albyn Hospital. Our retail partner, Run4It, was also present.

This year we also had many new fun activities for kids to burn off more energy after their races. These included a safely managed climbing wall, a 100ft long inflatable assault course, and a soft play marquee, all supplied by Gecko Venture. Aberdeenshire Council's 'Live Life Cycling' scheme and the miniature railway were also popular. On top of that, we offered a wide selection of quality food and drink vendors, including G & M Whyte caterers, Ashers Ice Cream, Hayden Woodfired Pizza, Balnault Farm, Seafood Bothy and Popseys.

Corporate Hospitality

Corporate hospitality was provided this year by Balmoral Estate and is available in 2026 for any company or organisation which requests this service. A high quality and varied selection of snacks and drinks are made available throughout the weekend. This year we catered for more than 500 guests..



Charities

Our charity programme continues to thrive and this year we have been working closely with five organisations.

- GOLD** Nominated Charity

 - **VSA:**
www.vsa.org.uk
- SILVER** Nominated Charities

 - **Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance:**
www.scaa.org.uk
 - **University of Aberdeen Development Trust:**
www.abdn.ac.uk
- BRONZE** Nominated Charities

 - **Poppy Scotland**
www.poppyscotland.org.uk
 - **Kayleigh's Wee Stars**
www.kayleighsweestars.co.uk
 - **MISS: Miscarriage Support**
www.miss-support.org.uk
 - **CLAN:**
www.clancancersupport.org



Sponsors, Partners,Event Supporters and Suppliers

RunBalmoral could not take place without our sponsors, partner organisations, service providers and volunteers. Hundreds of people contribute in a variety of ways to making the event a success and we are indebted to them all.

Main Sponsors and Partners

Stena Drilling, Harbour Energy, RAM Tubulars, Bilfinger, Bristow, MPH Ltd, John Clark Motor Group, Aberdeenshire Council, Balmoral Estate, Tidy Green Clean, Albyn Hospital, Run4It, VisitAberdeenshire.

Event Volunteers and Supporters

Aberclean, Aboyne Academy Parent Council, Aboyne & Upper Deeside Rotary Club, Active Aberdeenshire, Aberdeenshire Leaders, Air Training Corps (NE Scotland Wing), Ballater and District Pipe Band, 1st Braemar Scouts, 1st Insch Scouts, Braemar Miniature Railway, Braemar Mountain Rescue, COTAG 4x4 Response, Crathie School, Deans of Huntly Ltd, Deeside Activity Park, Dr Ewen Mcleod, Friskis & Svettis, Grampian Fire and Rescue Service, Iain Mackenzie, Inverurie Scout Group, Herd Hire Aberdeen, Inverurie Scout Group, Laura Middleton, Local Stewards, Micaiah Jakeman Sports & Injury Clinic, Mid Deeside Community Trust, River Dee Trust, Ronnie Finnie, Royal Lochnagar Distillery, Ruth Mackenzie, Scottishathletics, Scott Fraser.

Main Suppliers

Appin Sports, Astute, AV One Solutions (PA System), Blackford Group Limited (Insurance), Craig Scott, Craigievar Marquee and Toilet Hire, Event First Aid Services, Esslemont Marquees, Front Runner, Gecko Venture, Guy Phillips (Highland Heritage Woodworks), Genny Hire, Graham Anderson, Chris Reid Grampian Event Services, Grant Considine, Greens of Haddington (Andrew Green),Kevin McGarry, Kevin Smith, Krono:Sports, Laura Middleton LDM Physiotherapy, LLA Aberdeenshire Council, Invercauld Estate, Itab, J Ross IT Ltd, Ian Milne Freelance Design, Scottish Communications, Stuart Ross Media, Sun Belt Rentals, Marathon-photos.com, Run ABC, Scottish Ambulance Service, Tracklay.



Participation Stats

NUMBER OF FINISHERS PER RACE 2005-2025												
	10K	5K	15 Mile Trail	6 Mile Trail	Duathlon	3 Mile Trail	2.5k	1.5k Boys	1.5k Girls	Mile	Other	Total
2025	1705	1077	444	195	X	X	146	385	347	X	X	4299
2024	1705	1040	521	X	165	49	107	369	346	X	X	4302
2023	1413	778	485	X	146	50	125	318	278	X	X	3593
2022	1438	622	449	X	170	35	131	303	249	X	X	3397
2019	1757	778	482	X	197	37	143	408	342	X	X	4154
2018	1906	790	497	X	230	44	202	422	376	X	X	4467
2017	1721	738	439	X	191	60	169	434	371	X	X	4123
2016	1735	633	437	X	158	35	219	426	381	X	X	4022
2015	1823	714	429	X	143	37	237	449	401	X	X	4233
2014	1825	692	327	X	X	55	212	414	392	X	X	3917
2013	1855	766	297	X	X	X	228	452	374	X	X	3972
2012	1915	641	218	X	X	X	215	375	324	184	X	3872
2011	1940	732	148	X	X	X	184	375	308	X	X	3687
2010	1889	819	X	X	X	X	214	354	278	X	X	3554
2009	1999	614	X	X	X	X	191	524 *	X	X	X	3328
2008	1884	514	X	X	X	X	185	477 *	X	X	X	3060
2007	1533	227	X	X	X	X	165	384 *	X	X	X	2309
2006	1347	76	X	X	X	X	172	347 *	X	X	X	1942
2005	1384	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	568 +	1952

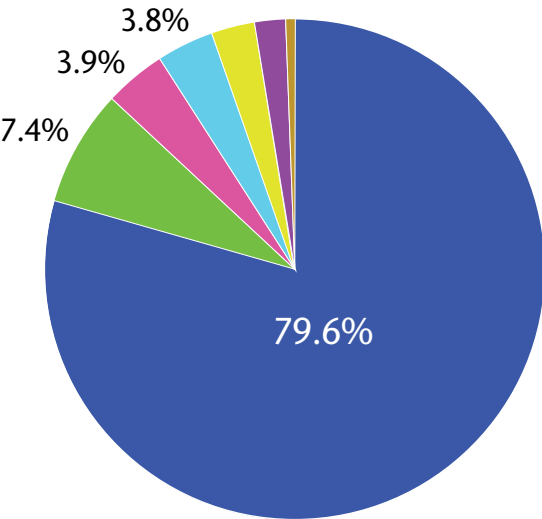
Notes: * Combined boys and girls races + Junior race mixed ages

Where do they come from?

Run Balmoral attracted over 5000 entrants and this year we have analysed where each of these runners came from. This will help us understand how best to promote the event in future years by giving us an interesting insight into which geographical areas to target. A summary graph is shown here, but we have much more detailed data available on a race-by-race basis.

Aberdeen: includes Aberdeenshire postcodes
Dundee: includes Tayside postcodes
Inverness: includes Highland postcodes

- Aberdeen
- Dundee
- Inverness
- Overseas
- Perthshire
- Rest of Scotland
- Rest of UK



RUN BALMORAL 2025 ENTRY AND PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

	2023			2024			2025		
	No. Entered	No. Participated	%Age	No. Entered	No Participated	%Age	No. Entered	No. Participated	%Age
MPH Pr. Schools 1.5k Boys	362	318	88	416	369	89	431	385	89
MPH Pr. Schools 1.5k Girls	336	278	83	387	346	89	396	347	88
RAM Tubulars Sec. Schools 2.5k	178	125	70	149	107	72	184	146	79
Harbour Energy 5k	959	778	81	1234	1040	84	1250	1077	86
Stena Drilling 10k	1721	1413	82	2026	1705	84	2038	1705	84
<i>Apollo Duathlon - Discontinued</i>	189	146	77	194	165	85	X	X	X
Bristow 15 Mile Trail Race	631	485	77	640	521	82	570	444	78
Bilfinger 6 Mile Trail Race	x	x	x	x	x	x	257	195	76
<i>Bristow 3 Mile Race - Discontinued</i>	63	50	79	56	49	87	X	X	X
Total	4439	3593	81	5102	4302	84	5126	4299	84
John Clark Motor Grp. Devil of Deeside	94	67	81	92	71	77	123	101	82

Note: Individual race numbers include Devil entrants

RUN BALMORAL 2025 PERCENTAGE OF ENTRANTS WHO PARTICIPATED

	2017	2018	2019	2022	2023	2024	2025
MPH Primary Schools 1.5k Boys	85	91	91	84	88	89	89
MPH Primary Schools 1.5k Girls	85	92	87	88	83	89	88
RAM Tubulars Secondary Schools 2.5k	68	77	82	64	70	72	79
Harbour Energy 5k	77	81	78	67	81	84	86
Stena Drilling 10k	77	78	79	68	82	84	84
<i>Apollo Duathlon - Discontinued</i>	75	80	78	60	77	85	X
Bristow 15 Mile Trail Race	72	76	76	63	77	82	78
Bilfinger 6 Mile Trail Race	X	X	X	X	X	X	76
<i>Bristow 3 Mile Trail Race - Discontinued</i>	74	73	82	53	79	87	X
Total	77	80	80	68	81	84	84
John Clark Motor Grp. Devil of Deeside	69	77	73	60	81	77	82

Note: Individual race numbers include Devil entrants

