



ANNUAL REPORT



www.runbalmoral.com

2026



CHAIR'S REPORT



Run Balmoral 2026 was another great success, with nearly 5000 runners taking part over our Easter Weekend date. That was an excellent turnout, given both that the race dates



fell right in the middle of the Aberdeenshire school holidays, and considering how unkind the weather was to us. Snow on high ground and strong winds predicted to come with 'Storm Dave' on the Sunday resulted in an unfortunate, but necessary, change of route for the 15 Mile Trail Race to two laps of the 10km.

The poor weather did not put our youngest athletes off their stride, though. Our current female 1.5km record holder, Millie Glass Park, set a new mark in the 2.5km race; our current male 2.5km record holder, Nathan Lawson, improved his own record time of last year to set an even faster one in 2026.

Easter is a time for new starts, and it was only fitting that we launched the first in our new five-part series of wooden medals featuring the wildlife of the Balmoral Estate. This year we honoured the capercaillie – but what animal, bird or fish will it be in 2027?

As with every year, without our sponsors Run Balmoral could not take place. We are grateful for the continued support of Stena Drilling (10km), Harbour Energy (5km), McIntosh Plant Hire (primary schools' 1.5km), RAM Tubulars (secondary schools' 2.5km), John Clark Motor Group (Devil of Deeside), Tidy Green Clean (videography by Stuart Ross Media) and Run4it (retail and prizes).

We also would like to welcome and thank James & George Collie LLP, who have taken on our 15 Mile Trail Race, to the Run Balmoral family of sponsors.

This year's charity Gold sponsor was VSA, with Kayleigh's Wee Stars and Marie Curie opting for Bronze packages.

Once all charities and fundraising runners are taken into account, we believe well over £100k will be raised through the efforts of runners taking part in Run Balmoral.

We will be reviewing and revising our charity programme for 2027, with a view to welcoming more good causes to the event and, in particular, more local environmental organisations. Once the financial dust settles on this year's event, we will also be looking to make a donation to a local project focusing on sustainability – much like how we supported the River Dee Trust by donating a tree for every runner in 2025.

I would like to thank the Run Balmoral Management Team – co-Race Directors Jackie Stewart and Peter Jennings, our new Media Manager Christine Appel and David Kilshaw – as well as our colleagues from the Balmoral Estate – Rob Whitson (Resident Estate Factor), April Stephen (Events Manager), Jane Fedo (Accountant) and James Hamilton-Goddard (Business Development Manager) – for again delivering a great event. The Estate's role included provision of the corporate hospitality which was to a very high standard. Dean's of Huntly and Lazy Day Foods also donated items for our young athletes' goodie bags, so thanks must also go to them. There are many others to be acknowledged – as you can see from the facing page in this report – and I express my sincere thanks to each and every one of them.

We are already hard at work planning the next event and look forward to seeing you back at Balmoral on 1&2 May 2027, when we hope the weather will be much better!

James Knowles

James Knowles,
Chair,
Balmoral Road Races Ltd.
May 2026





OUR 2026 EVENT SPONSORS, PARTNERS, VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS

An event of the scale and scope of Run Balmoral simply couldn't take place without our sponsors, community partners, event supporters and suppliers.

In addition, hundreds of individuals from across Aberdeen City and Shire play their own part in making our event a success each year. We are grateful to them all.

MAIN SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Stena Drilling, Harbour Energy, McIntosh Plant Hire Ltd, RAM Tubulars, James & George Collie LLP, John Clark Motor Group, Tidy Green Clean, Run 4 It, Balmoral Castle

EVENT VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS

Aberclean, Aboyne Academy Parent Council, Aboyne & Upper Deeside Rotary Club, Active Schools Aberdeenshire, Ballater and District Pipe Band, 1st Braemar Scouts, 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, Greens of Braemar, 1st Inch Scouts, Inverurie Scouts, Jim Reid Van Hire Aberdeen, Lazy Day Foods, LDM Physiotherapy (Laura Middleton), Micaiah Jakeman Sports & Injury Clinic, Mid Deeside Community Trust, Ronnie Finnie, Royal Lochnagar Distillery, Ruth & Iain Mackenzie, Scott Fraser, Scottish Athletics, Westhill Scouts ... and all our local stewards.





PRIMARY SCHOOLS' 1.5KM RACE



Run Balmoral 2026 started as it always does: with an incredible burst of energy from the hundreds of young runners taking part in the McIntosh Plant Hire Primary Schools' 1.5km Race.

After a warm-up led by the Swedish exercise team Friskis & Svettis, first the boys and then the girls burst out towards the castle, on a short route that took them past the vegetable garden, Queen Mary's Garden and the new maze - not that many of them likely stopped to admire the sights!

At the finish, all runners received a goodie bag provided by RAM Tubulars and stocked with treats from Dean's of Huntly and Lazy Day Foods, as well as a water bottle courtesy of Stena Drilling and a pen from John Clark Motor Group.

Only four seconds separated the first three boys across the finish line. Lawson Bowie (Young Meldrum Runners/AAAC) took the win in 5min 31sec, with YMR teammate James Gerrard (5min 33sec) and Archie Aitken (5min 35sec) snapping at his heels for second and third.

The race for podium places in the girls' division of the same event was almost as close. Emily Birnie



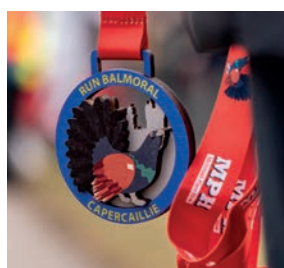


(BSAC, 6min 8sec) put in a strong performance, with her teammate Ella Sharples (BSAC, 6min, 13sec) and Amy Miller (6min 18sec) not far behind.

If previous editions of Run Balmoral are anything to go by, we will be welcoming back the fastest runners in our 2026 McIntosh Plant Hire Primary Schools' 1.5km Race year after year, as they pass through the ages and stages of our event.



Last year's 1.5km girls' champion and record holder Millie Glass Park moved up to the 2.5km race this year, setting a new mark to beat in that event too. Where will the running careers of this year's young athletes take them in the future?





SECONDARY SCHOOLS' 2.5KM RACE

It was only fitting that two records were broken in the second year of RAM Tubulars' sponsorship of Run Balmoral's secondary schools' event.

Last year's champion in the 1.5km girls' race, Millie Glass Park, continued her race-winning and record-setting ways with her move up to the RAM Tubulars Secondary Schools' 2.5km Race this year.

Glass Park finished well clear of the rest of the other girls, coming home in 7min 31sec, and smashing the record of 7min 52sec set by Rebecca Eggeling (AAAC) in 2016 for good measure.

Glass Park said: "I haven't managed to run much recently, because of a knee injury. I wasn't sure if I was going to do it today."

With two Run Balmoral records to her name now, which "feels pretty good", Glass Park remains one to watch: she now has her sights set firmly on our 5km.

Glass Park's clubmate Coco Czekalowska (Young Meldrum Runners, 8min 9secs) and Eilidh Murdoch (BSAC, 8min 41sec) finished second and third respectively.





In the boys' division, Nathan Lawson (AAAC) showed clear intent to defend his own record set just last year. In the end he not only defended his title, but set the bar even higher, beating his 2025 mark by 9sec to finish in 6min 46sec.

Asked if he knew he was on record-breaking form, Lawson said, "I was feeling strong going into it with good race prep. Coming down the straight I checked behind me. I had a good gap and across the line just sort of relaxed a bit. I didn't really know I had a new course record until it got announced, to be honest."



"First year I came, second year I saw, third year I conquered!"

It was an all AAAC boys' podium in the end, with Lawson's teammates taking the rest of the top places. Blair Blackwood finished second (7min 7sec) and Cullen Bowie third (7min 11sec).

As with the McIntosh Plant Hire Primary Schools' 1.5km Race, all finishers received a goodie bag provided by RAM Tubulars and stocked with treats from Dean's of Huntly and Lazy Day Foods, as well as a water bottle courtesy of Stena Drilling and a pen from John Clark Motor Group.



ACTIVE SCHOOLS ABERDEENSHIRE AWARDS 2026

To encourage young people to take part in Run Balmoral, Active Schools Aberdeenshire have presented trophies to the schools with the most runners in the McIntosh Plant Hire Primary Schools' 1.5km Race and the RAM Tubulars Secondary Schools' 2.5km Race since 2014.

Aboyne Academy retained the Secondary Schools' trophy for a second year in a row, giving them their third win of the competition. Eilidh Murdoch, who placed third in the 2.5km race, received the trophy on the Academy's behalf.

Torphins School snatched the Large Primary Schools' (>100 pupils) trophy back from Banchory School, the only other winner of the award since 2014.

Tarland School continued its seven-year run as the only winner of the Small Primary Schools' Trophy (<100 pupils) since 2018.

The trophies were presented by Rebecca Ripley, Active Schools Coordinator for the Portlethen Network.



YEAR	SECONDARY SCHOOLS	LARGE PRIMARY SCHOOLS (> 100 Pupils)	SMALL PRIMARY SCHOOLS (< 100 Pupils)
2014	Banchory Academy	Banchory Primary School	Crathes School
2015	Banchory Academy	Banchory Primary School	Finzean School
2016	Banchory Academy	Banchory Primary School	Finzean School
2017	Banchory Academy	Banchory Primary School	Finzean School
2018	Banchory Academy	Banchory Primary School	Tarland School
2019	Banchory Academy	Banchory Primary School	Tarland School
2022	Banchory Academy	Banchory Primary School	Tarland School
2023	Aboyne Academy	Banchory Primary School	Tarland School
2024	Banchory Academy	Torphins School	Tarland School
2025	Aboyne Academy	Banchory Primary School	Tarland School
2026	Aboyne Academy	Torphins School	Tarland School

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

YOUNG ATHLETE BURSARIES



Run Balmoral has a long tradition of supporting and encouraging local athletes and youth groups to engage in sport.

In September 2026, Run Balmoral had the privilege of helping a young athlete from Banchory, Joe Wright, attend the World Mountain and Trail Running Championships in Canfranc, Spain.

The 25-year-old from Banchory was selected to represent Great Britain in the 'Short Trail' event: 45 km of distance with over 3500 m of elevation gain and loss.

Joe tells us the race was a real learning experience, from judging how to pace himself in a massive field to coping with a course featuring four climbs, seemingly endless switchbacks and, apparently, a knocked-over hive full of very, very angry wasps.

After focusing on some XC, 'flat' running and preparation for summer events over the winter, Joe joined us at Run Balmoral to take part in the James & George Collie 15 Mile Trail Race, where he came third overall.



T-SHIRT DESIGN COMPETITION

This year, we asked young artists to submit designs for our 2026 schools' races t-shirt. Harry Chalmers of Ellon Academy, now 15, won our competition with his fantastic re-imagining of a very active Balmoral Castle.

Harry's design appeared on the front of every one of the environmentally friendly, optional t-shirt ordered by runners in the MPH Primary Schools' 1.5km Race and the RAM Tubulars Secondary Schools' 2.5km Race.

A keen runner with Aberdeen AAC, Harry also won £50 for himself, £100 for his nominated charity - The Brain Tumour Charity - and free entry to Run Balmoral. On the day, Harry took part in the Harbour Energy 5km, where he wore his own t-shirt - and placed just within the top 40 to boot.





HARBOUR ENERGY 5KM

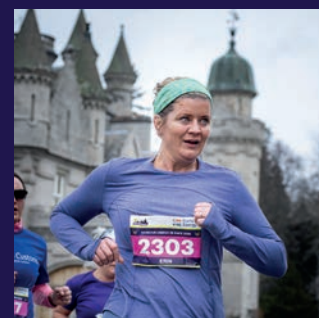
Ginie Barrand, holder of the women's 10km record since 2022, proved her strength and class with an emphatic win in the women's division of the 2026 Harbour Energy 5k (16min 59 sec), a victory made more impressive by being her first race after giving birth just under a year ago.

Barrand acknowledged how being a mother has changed how she trains. "I tend to go out early morning now. I think before I would have procrastinated about going running, but now I get a window of opportunity and I get it done then."

"And I think as a mother you don't have a lot of time to do things you don't enjoy, so when you dedicate time for running, it has to mean something."

Fiona Brian, last year's women's winner, had to settle for second in the 5km this year (17min 21sec). Nicola MacDonald (Metro Aberdeen, 17min, 42 sec) took third in a new personal best time.

Nicola Gauld (Metro Aberdeen, 18min, 20sec) came home first female over-40, Hilary Carswell (Giffnock North, 21min, 21 sec) over-50 and Melanie Angus (26min, 28sec) over-60.





Despite some excellent performances, Sean Chalmers' records in the men's 5km and 10km set in 2025 are set to stand another year.

Stephen MacKay (Inverness Harriers) enjoyed a clear victory in 14min 49sec, followed by Scott Melville (Metro Aberdeen, 15min, 3sec) and Nathan Lawson (15min 21 sec), just a few hours after setting a new record in the boys' division of the secondary schools' race.

MacKay said, "It was a nice competitive race. With just about maybe 1km to go it started to move on. Conditions were also much better than forecast. The course is maybe not that fast, but it's a good course and brings out competitive racing."

Kyle Greig (Alford Bull Runners, 16min, 6sec) came home first male over-40, Gordon Smith (18min, 36sec) over-50 and Richard Holland (19min 33 second) over-60.



Harbour Energy



STENA DRILLING 10KM

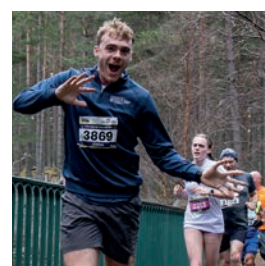
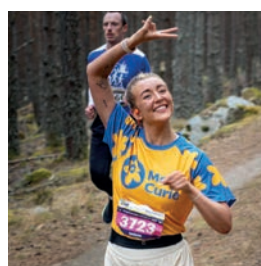


The poor weather predicted for Saturday held off until the last event of the day, the Stena Drilling 10km. But the drop in temperature didn't deter the Ballater and District Pipe Band from doing their duties at the top of 'The Hill' - or take any of the heat out of the race to be men's champion.

The title was only settled in the last few metres, when Scott Melville took the win with just a fraction of a second from Aaron Odentz (33min 22secs).

Melville said, "I wasn't sure what to expect as it was the first time I've done the 10km. So after doing the 5km race this morning my legs were already a bit jaded. But I really enjoyed it. Aaron, to be fair to him, took it on. He led the way the whole way, so fair play to him."

For his part in the race for first Odentz said, "It was a really good race. Me and Scott were pretty much side by side the whole way. I tried to get ahead of him again with a kilometre to go, and I did. I got about a two or three second lead and then he closed on it. And then we were side by side again on the finishing straight, and he just got me at the end."





Alford Bull Runners' Kyle Greig, also competing with Odentz for this year's Devil of Deeside title, took third (35min 36sec).

Despite having just set a 5km PB, Nicola Macdonald (38min 35sec) stormed to victory in the women's division, edging out Alyth Gollan (Deeside Runners) by 15 seconds. Moira Davie (Forres Harriers, 38min 56 sec) took third.

Macdonald said, "It was a hard one after the 5km because I PBed in the 5km, so I felt like when I started I had just run a 5km. And with it being cold, it's your lungs straight away. It was tough after the 5km, but I'm very pleased."

As is tradition at Run Balmoral a bottle of Royal Lochnagar 'Balmoral' whisky was presented to the first male (David Scott, Fit Like Joggers) and first female (Moira Davie, Forres Harriers) kilted runners across the line.



In the 10km men's age group contest, Tom Brian (37min, 44sec) crossed the line as first over-40, Keith Hood (Corstorphine AAC, 39min 25sec) first over-50 and Richard Roulson (Metro Aberdeen, 42min 33 sec) first over-60.

In the women's 10km age group contest, Susan Naysmith (Newburgh Dunes RC, 42min 36sec) was first over-40, Helen Drewery (51min 37sec) first over-50 and Anne Ovens (53min 47min) first over-60.





CORPORATE TEAM CHALLENGE

Run Balmoral has encouraged friendly competition between local businesses, charities and running clubs since 2013.

The rules are simple: to be eligible each organisation must field four runners in the 5k and four runners in the 10km. They can be the same runners or different runners in each event – but there must be eight times clocked in total. The team with the fastest cumulative time takes the honours, and the gorgeous, handmade sycamore and red deer antler trophy.

Only six organisations completed the 2026 challenge, with the ultimate victor being Harbour Energy, whose 5km team of Ross Aird, Arin Petrie, Quintin Chalmers and Neil Emslie and 10km team of Matthew Hodgkinson, Arin Petrie, Johnny O'Flaherty and Fraser Agnew finished less than two minutes ahead of runners-up TAQA.

Although they had to hand over the trophy to Harbour Energy, special thanks must go to TAQA, who, as last year's winners, refurbished the iconic award and updated the engraving at their own initiative and expense. There's no doubt they'll be looking to take it back home next year!

POSITION	TEAM NAME	TIME (HR:MIN:SEC)
1	Harbour Energy	03:53:53
2	TAQA	03:55:45
3	Stena Drilling	04:34:41
4	Peterson Freight Mgmt	04:35:01
5	LS Customs	05:35:56
6	Fit Like Joggers	05:40:17



CORPORATE TEAM CHALLENGE ROLL OF HONOUR

2013	Aberdeen Sports Village
2014	Cops & Joggers
2015	Cops & Joggers
2016	Aberdeen Sports Village
2017	Cops & Joggers
2018	Cops & Joggers
2019	Cops & Joggers
2022	Harbour Harriers
2023	Harbour Harriers
2024	Stena Drilling
2025	TAQA
2026	Harbour Harriers



THE VIEW FROM ABOVE ...

Thanks to the continued generous sponsorship of Tidy Green Clean, Run Balmoral was able to engage the videography services of Stuart Ross Media for a fifth year. Despite the challenges presented by the weekend's weather, Stuart, himself an accomplished ultra distance runner with excellent knowledge of the estate and all our race routes, produced short videos of day's highlights. As always, Stuart's videos were well received by our runners on social media after the event, and will be used to launch the 2027 races.



WHERE ARE OUR RUNNERS FROM?

REGION / GROUP	PERCENTAGE (%)
Aberdeen City & Shire	78
Moray	3.2
Angus / Tayside	5
Edinburgh / Lothians	3
Highland	2.8
Rest of Scotland	4
Rest of UK	3
Rest of World	1

- Aberdeen City & Shire
- Moray
- Angus / Tayside
- Edinburgh / Lothians
- Highland
- Rest of Scotland
- Rest of UK
- Rest of World



6 MILE TRAIL RACE

The expected wintry conditions materialised on the second day of Run Balmoral 2026, making for a cold and snowy start to Sunday's 6 Mile Trail Race.

This was the second edition of the short off-road event, previously sponsored by Bilfinger. The increasingly popular two-lap trail race sold out in its inaugural year, and came within five places of doing so again in 2026, even with increased capacity.

Last year's men's champion Aaron Odentz continued to dominate the event with another exceptional finish (35min 32sec), just 12 seconds outside the record he set in 2025.

Overnight snow and cold temperatures made the first race of the day even more difficult than usual. Odentz said, "It was quite challenging underfoot, especially the downhill. But I managed to have enough to win it, so I'm happy with that."

The conditions clearly suited him: Odentz went on to win the second race of the day, the James & George Collie 15 Mile Trail Race, as well as the men's Devil of Deeside Challenge.

Kyle Greig (Alford Bull Runners, 36min 24sec) and Stephen Molloy (Green Run Club 39min 27sec) followed Odentz over the line of the 6 Mile event.

Steven Watters, who also took part in this year's Devil of Deeside competition, was crowned first over-40 male (39min 55sec). Andrew Jessiman was first over-50 (46min, 15sec) and Andrew Thoires first over-60 (1h 2min 20sec).

In the women's division, Lucy McLeod (Metro Aberdeen, 44min 40secs), who previously only participated in the 10km at our event, took home her first Run Balmoral trail title.





Our women's champion in the 2026 Devil of Deeside Challenge, McLeod said, "I was feeling a bit stiff after yesterday. But I did have a short warm up and few strides and then set off. After the first hill I felt I could like I push on a little bit, as then you get the downhill and the flat. I enjoyed it."

Susan Naysmith (Newburgh Dunes RC, 46min, 20sec) and Claire Wilkinson (47min 22sec) were second and third respectively.

Jenieve Brennan was first over-40 woman home (48min 58sec), Christine Cuthill first over-50 (52min, 55sec) and Lilian Taylor first over-60 (1h, 6min, 10sec).

At press time, the Run Balmoral 6 Mile Trail Race remains available for sponsorship.



15 MILE TRAIL RACE



Run Balmoral 2026 marked the first year of James & George Collie LLP's sponsorship of our 15 Mile Trail race, and we were delighted to welcome them to the Run Balmoral family of sponsors.

It was an even greater shame, therefore, that the race directors had to take the difficult decision to change the route of the event to two laps of the 10km course due to the predicted high winds and low temperatures related to Storm Dave.

But the change of route didn't change the race champions, with both Aaron Odentz (1hr 10min 1 sec) and Debbie Greig (1hr 26min 51 sec) retaining their titles from 2025.

Being his fourth race of the weekend, Odentz had expected to feel more fatigue.

Odentz said, "It was surprising, actually. I thought my legs would be a lot more tired than they were, especially after the 10km yesterday. I really pushed it in the 10km to try to get the win which came out just short, but that's fine."

As for the modified course, Odentz said, "I felt this course was equally as challenging, but I liked it a lot more, as I'm not a trail runner."





Eogham MacNamara (AAAC, 1hr 13min 3sec) and Joe Wright (1hr 15min 29 sec) rounded off the men's podium.

Kyle Greig (Alford Bull Running Club, 1hr 17min 5 sec) took home the prize for first over-40 male, Brian Bonnyman (Westerlands CCC, 1h 21min 55 sec) first over-50 and Alex Gallego (1hr 52min 41sec) first over-60.

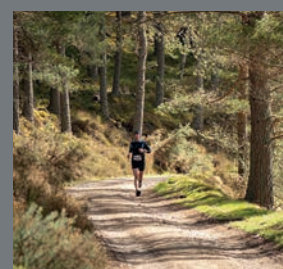
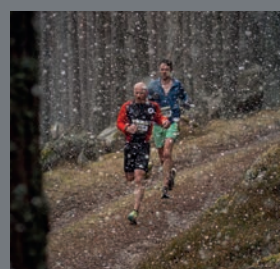
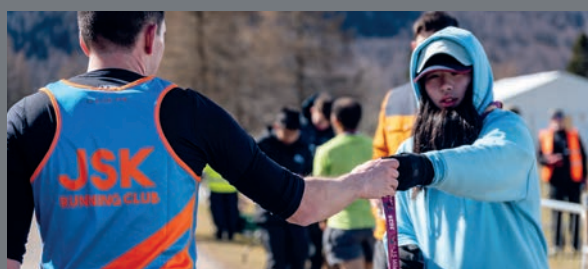
Debbie Greig, who won the women's Devil title last year but focused solely on the 15 Mile Trail Race this year said, "I feel like an imposter since last year it was the Devil and this was meant to be the easy one. But last year's conditions were so much nicer than today. It was hard."



When asked if she'll return next year to defend her 15 Mile Trail title for a third time said, "It's an amazing event so I don't see why not. It's right on our doorstep and it's the most beautiful arguably in the world, so why not?"

Sophia Bird (1hr 30min 43sec) and Anna Calder (University of Stirling AC, 1hr 32mins 39 secs) rounded off the women's podium.

Dee Watters (1hr 34min 15sec) took home the prize as first over-40 female, Rebecca Fulton (1hr 45min 18sec) first over-50 and Carolyn Milne (1hr 48min 32 sec) first over-60.





DEVIL OF DEESIDE CHALLENGE



Now in its third year enjoying the support of the John Clark Motor Group, Run Balmoral's Devil of Deeside Challenge has gone from strength to strength, with an increased field fully sold out – and a waiting list – in 2026.

The Challenge? To complete all four main events over the weekend: the 5km and 10km on Saturday and the 6 Mile Trail Race and 15 Mile Trail Race on Sunday.

This year 150 runners signed up for the challenge. All finishers received a bespoke wooden 'Devil' medal and a commemorative t-shirt for their efforts. Given the weather-forced change to the route of the James &

George Collie 15 Mile Trail Race to two laps of the 10km route, this year's entrants also received three trips up 'the Hill' over the weekend rather than just the one on Saturday!

In the men's event, last year's winner Aaron Odentz (AAAC) retained the title and hand-made wooden trophy (2hr 35min 13sec). Kyle Greig (Alford Bull Runners, 2hr, 45min, 39sec) and Stephen Molloy (The Green Run Club, 2h 52min 48sec) completed the podium.

Steven Watters, from sponsors JCMG, was crowned first over-40 (3hr 3min 30sec), Andrew Jessiman first over-50





(3hr 26min 32sec) and Simon Puttock first over-60 (4hr 31min 47 sec).

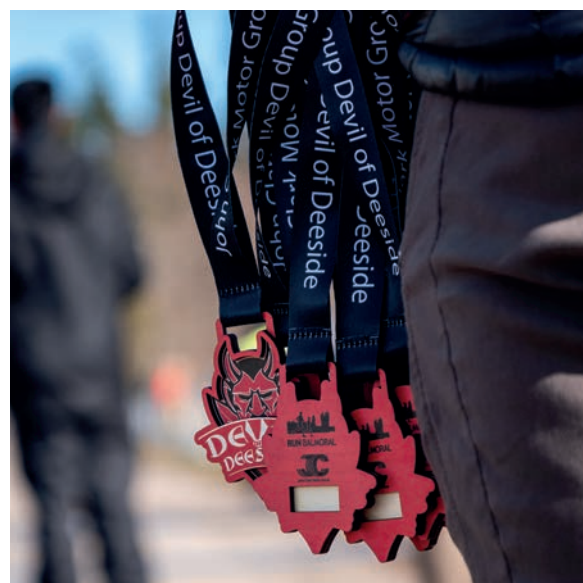
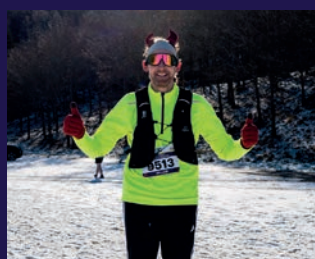
In the women's event, Lucy McLeod (Metro Aberdeen) took top honours with her combined time of 3hr 24min 9sec. Susan Naysmith (Newburgh Dunes RC, 3hr, 28min, 53sec) took second and Yvonne Kerr (Chapelton Running Group, 3hr, 59min, 50sec) third.

Jenni Rees-Jenkins (Insch Trail Running Club, 3hr, 59min, 54 sec) was fastest over-40 female and Fiona Stewart (4hr, 6min, 13 sec) the fastest over-50. No females over the age of 60 completed the event.



John Clark Motor Group Devil of Deeside Roll of Honour

YEAR	ENTRIES	COMPETITORS	MEN'S CHAMPION	WOMEN'S CHAMPION
2017	108	84	Alan Semple	Kerry Pirse
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
2026	148	117	Aaron Odentz	Lucy McLeod



EVENT VILLAGE & CORPORATE HOSPITALITY



As always, the Event Village was the hub of race weekend.

Gecko Ventures provided a climbing wall, a giant slide and an inflatable assault course for our Saturday children's area, which we complimented with a fully supervised Family Activity Zone provided by Aberdeenshire Council. All admission fees for the children's area were donated to our Gold charity partner, VSA.

Runners were kept well fed with food from Haydn's Woodfired Pizza, Ashers Ice Cream, Baynault Farm Hog Roast, Seafood Bothy, G&M Whyte and Popsey's Donuts.

Our charity partners VSA, Marie Curie UK and Kayleigh's Wee Stars all had a presence in the Event Village, with their gazebos serving both as information points for the public and as bases for their own fundraising runners.

Our retail partner Run4it was also on hand with a wide selection of running clothing, accessories and footwear.

John Clark Motor Group had a fantastic selection of electric vehicles on display, including a VW that could drive from Balmoral Castle to Holyrood House on one charge!

With the changeable early April weather, our warm and dry corporate hospitality marquee, located right on the start/finish line, was very busy this year. As always, the catering staff of Balmoral Castle provided a high-quality spread of soup, sandwiches, hot/cold drinks and sweet treats all weekend.

The purchase of corporate hospitality packages is open to any business or organisation attending either or both days of the event.





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CHARITY PARTNERS

Community is at the heart of everything we do at Run Balmoral.

Our runners' bag drop was organised, as is traditional, by the Crathie School PTA to raise funds for their activities. We also gave donations to four local Scouting organisations who provided marshals for the event and put together the goodie bags for the children's races. COTAG 4x4 Response provided our communications, Braemar Mountain Rescue our offroad support. Aboyne & Upper Deeside Rotary Club hosted activities in the Event Village, including their timeless 'Splat the Rat' game.

It goes without saying that 'the Hill' in the Stena Drilling 10km would not be 'the Hill' without the Ballater & District Pipe Band waiting for our runners at the top.

This year we also had three official race charities - VSA (Gold), Kayleigh's Wee Stars (Bronze) and Marie Curie (Bronze) - whose runners raised thousands of pounds for their good causes.

We also worked with Kayleigh's Wee Stars to design and deliver an Easter Egg trail for our youngest Saturday visitors. Greens of Braemar very kindly provided the Cadbury's Crème Eggs we awarded as prizes.

We will be looking to build upon our strong community engagement in 2027, with an active focus on local environmental causes.



ROLL OF HONOUR

McIntosh Plant Hire Primary Schools 1.5km Race (Boys)

PLACE	NAME	GUN TIME
1	Lawson Bowie (Young Meldrum Runners & AAAC)	5:31
2	James Gerrard (Young Meldrum Runners)	5:33
3	Archie Aitken	5:35

McIntosh Plant Hire Primary Schools 1.5km Race (Girls)

PLACE	NAME	GUN TIME
1	Emily Birnie (Banchory Stonehaven AC)	6:08
2	Ella Sharples (Banchory Stonehaven AC)	6:13
3	Amy Miller	6:18

RAM Tubulars Secondary Schools 2.5km Race (Boys)

PLACE	NAME	GUN TIME
1	Nathan Lawson (Albyn School & AAAC)	6:46
2	Blair Blackwood (Albyn School & AAAC)	7:07
3	Cullen Bowie (AAAC)	7:11

RAM Tubulars Secondary Schools 2.5km Race (Girls)

PLACE	NAME	GUN TIME
1	Millie Glass Park (Albyn School & Young Meldrum Runners)	7:31
2	Coco Czekalowska (Young Meldrum Runners)	8:10
3	Eilidh Murdoch (Aboyne Academy & Banchory Stonehaven AC)	8:30

Harbour Energy 5km (Men)

PLACE	NAME	GUN TIME
1	Stephen Mackay (Inverness Harriers)	14:50
2	Scott Melville (Metro Aberdeen)	15:04
3	Nathan Lawson (Albyn School & AAAC)	15:22

Harbour Energy 5km (Women)

PLACE	NAME	GUN TIME
1	Virginie Barrand	17:01
2	Fiona Brian (Metro Aberdeen)	17:24
3	Nicola Macdonald (Metro Aberdeen)	17:45

Stena Drilling 10k (Men)

PLACE	NAME	GUN TIME
1	Scott Melville (Metro Aberdeen)	33:23
2	Aaron Odentz (Aberdeen AAC)	33:23:08
3	Kyle Greig (Alford Bull Runners)	35:37

Stena Drilling 10k (Women)

PLACE	NAME	GUN TIME
1	Nicola Macdonald (Metro Aberdeen)	38:37
2	Alyth Collan (Deeside Runners)	38:55
3	Moiria Davie (Forres Harriers)	38:59

Run Balmoral 6 Mile Trail Race (Men)

PLACE	NAME	GUN TIME
1	Aaron Odentz (Aberdeen AAC)	35:32
2	Kyle Greig (Alford Bull Runners)	36:25
3	Stephen Molloy (The Green Run Club)	39:28

Run Balmoral 6 Mile Trail Race (Women)

PLACE	NAME	GUN TIME
1	Lucy McLeod (Metro Aberdeen)	44:42
2	Susan Naysmith (Newburgh Dunes RC)	46:21
3	Claire Wilkinson	47:24

James & George Collie 15 Mile Trail Race (Men) (Alternative Course)

PLACE	NAME	GUN TIME
1	Aaron Odentz (Aberdeen AAC)	1:10:49
2	Eoghan Macnamara	1:13:03
3	Joseph Wright	1:15:29

James & George Collie 15 Mile Trail Race (Women) (Alternative Course)

PLACE	NAME	GUN TIME
1	Debbie Greig (Alford Bull RC)	1:26:51
2	Sophia Bird	1:30:51
3	Anna Calder (University of Stirling AC)	1:32:55

John Clark Motor Group Devil of Deeside Challenge (Men)

PLACE	NAME	GUN TIME
1	Aaron Odentz (Aberdeen AAC)	2:35:13
2	Kyle Greig (Alford Bull Runners)	2:45:39
3	Stephen Molloy (The Green Run Club)	2:52:48

John Clark Motor Group Devil of Deeside Challenge (Women)

PLACE	NAME	GUN TIME
1	Lucy McLeod (Metro Aberdeen)	3:24:09
2	Susan Naysmith (Newburgh Dunes RC)	3:28:53
3	Yvonne Kerr (Chapelton Running Group)	3:59:50

Harbour Energy 5km / Stena Drilling 10km Corporate Challenge

PLACE	NAME	GUN TIME
1	Harbour Energy	03:53:54
2	TAQA	03:58:28
3	Stena Drilling	04:34:42

COURSE RECORDS

It was a record-breaking year in the RAM Tubulars Secondary Schools' 2.5km Race.

Millie Glass Park (Young Meldrum Runners) broke the long-standing record (7min 52sec) for the girls' 2.5km event, set by Rebecca Eggeling (AAAC) in 2016.

In successfully defending his boys' title, Nathan Lawson (AAAC) also broke the record he set only last year.



EVENT	NAME	YEAR	TIME
1.5km Boys	Stewart Millar (Cluny)	2011	5min 21sec
1.5km Girls	Millie Glass Park (Young Meldrum Runners)	2025	5min 31sec
2.5km Boys	Nathan Lawson (Aberdeen AAC)	2026	6min 46sec
2.5km Girls	Millie Glass Park (Young Meldrum Runners)	2026	7min 31sec
5km Men	Sean Chalmers (Aberdeen AAC)	2025	14min 18sec
5km Women	Rhona Auckland (Banchory Stonehaven AC)	2014	15min 55sec
10km Men	Sean Chalmers (Aberdeen AAC)	2025	30min 54sec
10km Women	Ginie Barrand (Metro Aberdeen)	2022	36min 07sec
6 Mile Trail Race Men	Aaron Odentz (Aberdeen AAC)	2025	35min 20sec
6 Mile Trail Race Women	Debbie Greig (Alford Bull Runners)	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	Aaron Odentz (Aberdeen AAC)	2025	2hr 54min 44sec
Devil of Deeside Women	Debbie Greig (Alford Bull Runners)	2025	3hr 24min 14secs

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 a runner crosses the finish line. Chip time is the actual time it takes that runner to complete the course, from the point when they cross the start line (which may be well after the race is underway).



FINISHERS 2005-26

(Including the Devil of Deeside runners in each event)

	10km	5km	15M Trail	6M Trail	Duathlon	3M Trail	2.5km	1.5km B	1.5km C	Mile	Other	Total
2026	1453	995	367	254	x	x	98	326	334	x	x	3827
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	1767	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

ENTRY & PARTICIPATION

(Including the Devil of Deeside runners in each event)

	2023			2024		
	Number Entered	Number Participated	%	Number Entered	Number Participated	%
MPH Primary Schools' 1.5km Boys	362	318	88	416	369	89
MPH Primary Schools' 1.5km Girls	336	278	83	387	346	89
RAM Tubulars Secondary Schools' 2.5km	178	125	70	149	107	72
Harbour Energy 5km	959	778	81	1234	1040	84
Stena Drilling 10km	1721	1413	82	2026	1705	84
Apollo Duathlon - Discontinued	189	146	77	194	165	85
James & George Collie 15 Mile Trail Race	631	485	77	640	521	82
Run Balmoral 6 Mile Trail Race	x	x	x	x	x	x
Bristow 3 Mile Trail Race - Discontinued	63	50	79	56	49	87
Total	4439	3593	81	5102	4302	84
John Clark Motor Group Devil of Deeside	94	67	81	92	71	77

	2025			2026		
	Number Entered	Number Participated	%	Number Entered	Number Participated	%
MPH Primary Schools' 1.5km Boys	431	385	89	373	326	79
MPH Primary Schools' 1.5km Girls	396	347	88	374	334	79
RAM Tubulars Secondary Schools' 2.5km	184	146	79	124	98	82
Harbour Energy 5km	1250	1077	86	1211	995	82
Stena Drilling 10km	2038	1705	84	1809	1453	80
Apollo Duathlon - Discontinued	x	x	x	x	x	x
James & George Collie 15 Mile Trail Race	570	444	78	498	367	74
Run Balmoral 6 Mile Trail Race	257	195	76	317	254	80
Bristow 3 Mile Trail Race - Discontinued	x	x	x	x	x	x
Total	5126	4299	84	4706	3827	81
John Clark Motor Group Devil of Deeside	123	101	82	148	117	79



Balmoral Road Races Ltd

Board of Directors: James Knowles (Chair)

Management Team: Jackie Stewart, Peter Jennings, Christine Appel, David Kilshaw

Balmoral Estate Team: Rob Whitson, James Hamilton-Goddard, April Stephen, Jane Fedo

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