

10 out of 10 for effort!

Hundreds of runners turn out for annual race around Thatcham

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HUNDREDS of runners turned out for Thatcham's third annual 10k run which saw families, pets and professionals involved in the day of fun.

Nearly 200 runners took part in the loop around Thatcham on Sunday, organised by running company Run Forest Run.

At 10am the runners were off on their route, starting at the Lower Way recreation ground, before heading towards Thatcham reed beds on their first lap around the Nature Discovery Centre lakes.

The second lap sent runners further along Lower Way on to Hambridge Road and back along the further half of the lakes, finishing and collecting their medals at the recreation ground.

Organiser Mark Hayes said the day was full of "family atmosphere" with two children's races and a CaniCross race, which saw owners run alongside their furry friends.

Matthew Moore (118) came in first place in the men's at 35:21.1, Lawrence Gillard was second with 36:34.5 and James Gaunt came third with a time of 37:15.1.



Runners set off in the Thatcham 10k

In the women's race, Edyta Wilk came first with 43:45.9, Corinne Callaway was second with 44:26.0, and Jennifer Holloway came in third at 45:38.4.

Winner Mr Moore was running in support of a local initiative, Kick Start FC, that supports mental health through sport therapy.

The top three winners of the CaniCross race were Sarah Thompson in first, Chris Masters in second and Matchy Tak Yiu Yu in third.

A portion of the money made

from the race went to a special cause, one that Run Forest Run raises money for at all of its races – Newlife Special Care Babies, a charity supporting vulnerable infants and their families.

Before the run, CEO and founder of the charity Trevor Goodall gave a talk to runners about the work the charity does.

Mr Hayes thanked those who supported on the day, including the mayor of Thatcham, Petra Pemberton, who presen-

ted the medals.

"We had lots of support and people helping."

"Thank you to Thatcham Town Council, who are looking to help make the event even bigger next year, JWS Fitness & Wellbeing for the warm up, and the Hidden Gem Cafe for keeping the runners and everyone else fed and watered!"

The next event in the running calendar is the Beale Wildlife Park run this Sunday at 9am.



Trevor Goodall, Justin Pemberton, mayor Petra Pemberton and Mark Hayes before the start of the Thatcham 10k Ref: 18-0426E



Winners of the dog run, Sarah Thompson and Ace

Ref: 18-0726C

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Winner Matthew Moore ran in aid of Kick Start FC Ref: 18-0726B



Women's winner Edyta Wilk from Newbury ran in the London Marathon last weekend Ref: 18-0726K



Two-legged and four-legged runners Ref: 18-0626B



Runners received support on the way Ref: 18-0626U