

Potted History of Cleethorpes New Year's Day Road Race

1976 – 2025

(COLIN WRIGHT – September 2025)



The first appearance of the New Year's Day event was in 1976, soon after Cleethorpes & District Athletic Club was formed. It originally started as a friendly get-together and a report in the Grimsby News of January 1979 states: "Around 30 runners set off from the Birds Nest Café for a friendly social run of around four miles". Only the first three were recorded in the paper: John Barker, Harry Collett and John Wright, with no times shown.

A full list of finishers were reported in the Grimsby News for 1982 and 1983 with host club Jon Ireland finishing in first place in 1982, John Molloy was second with Peter Browning third. John Ireland repeated his victory in 1983 with track specialist, Mark Chapman in second and Colin Wright, who, was to organize the event for the next 12 years in third. Karen Powell and Barbara Brown respectively won the ladies race for these years. The event was over 4.8 miles from the club's headquarters on Kings Road to the Yacht Club and back on the Marine Embankment, this

included $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of dirt track. The course record for this distance is still held by Martin Anderson (25.02) which he set in 1984. Martin Anderson Insurance was race sponsor of New Years Day from 1989 to 2000.

In 1986 the event distance was changed to 10K on what was described as the St Anthony's Bank Circuit. Brother and sister Neil Smith of Coventry Godiva and Kathy Palmer of Grimsby Harriers both winning their respective race in 31.15 and 37.20



Local running legend, John Clark of Grimsby Harriers, clocked 29.53 in the 1989 event.

The 1987 event was the first year that the event was run under AAA & NCWCCA rules and on the present day course, with slight start and finish variations used. This was also the last year that the old club headquarters, next to the Cleethorpes Leisure Centre, was used as the race headquarters. The inaugural winner on this new course was Carl Nightingdale of

Sheffield AC in 31.15, with Neil Smith, Coventry Godiva, 31.24 in second, and Andy Frapewell, Gloucester AC, 31.33 third, with Jane Finch, Grimsby Harriers, 37.29 winning the ladies event.

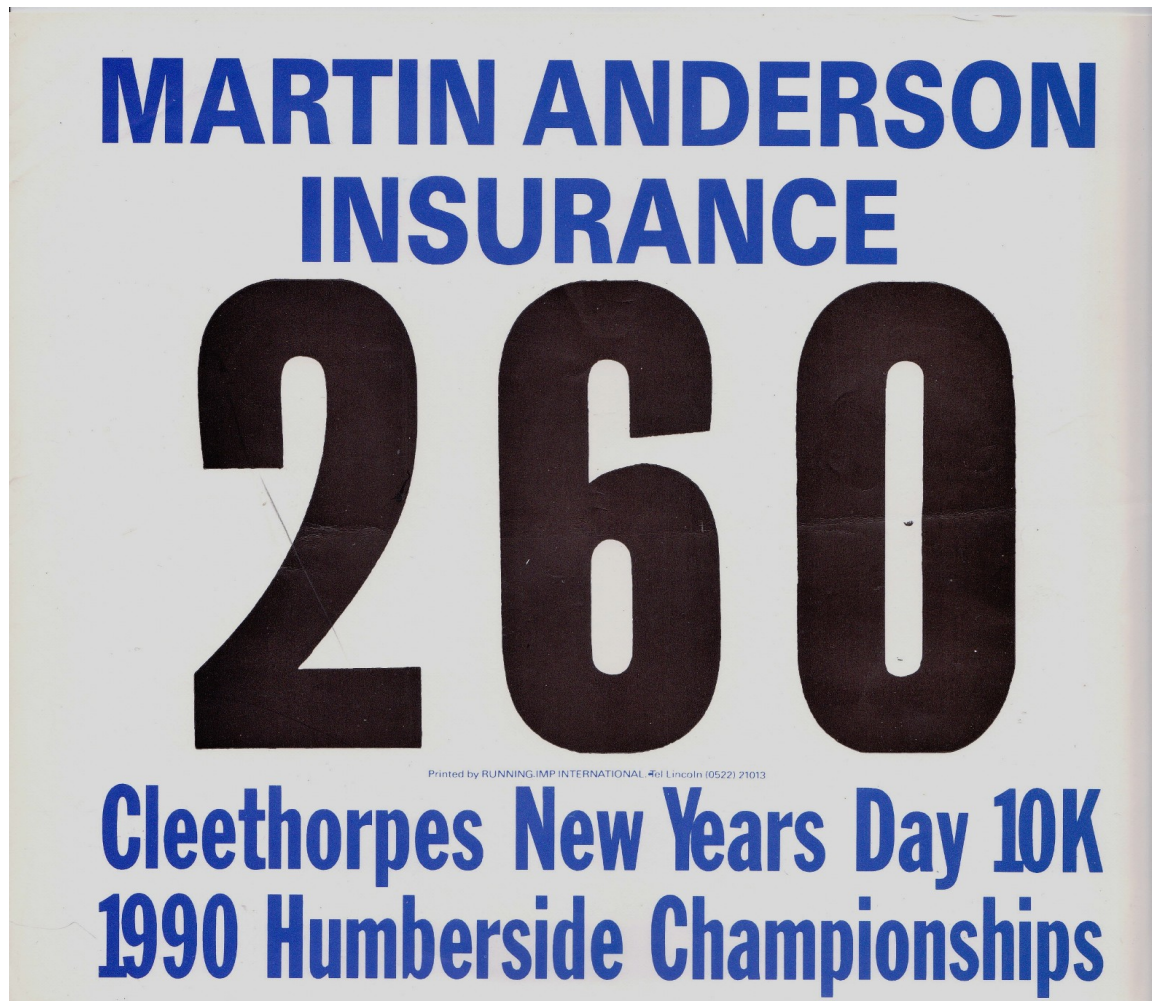
1988 saw the race headquarters moved across the road to the much larger Winter Gardens with Neil Smith repeating his 1986 victory with a 31.23 win. Bridlington's Denise Baker took the ladies title in a New Year's Day record time of 36.24. Also, of note was the infamous 'jogging grandad', Eddie Kirkup, taking the M55 title in 34.59.



1989: Race winner, Vincent Garner (L) (29.36) with first female, Kathy Palmer (35.11) at the Winter Gardens with the representative of Tracks Sportswear.

The year 1989 – black and white photo at top of page - saw the 30 minute barrier broken for the first time in South Humberside, with the first two going sub 30 minutes. Winner Vincent Garner of Copeland AC recorded 29.36 and was clocked going through the half-way point in 14.38 and the five mile mark in 23.47, while runner-up, John Clark, Grimsby Harriers, clocked 29.53 and recorded 23.52 at 5 mile. Malcolm Martin, in third, led home Sheffield AC to the team award. Malcolm went through the mile in 4.38 and moved from 7th at this point to finish in third place and, at the age of 44, first veteran in 30.34. The ladies winner, Kathy Palmer of Grimsby

Harriers, repeated her 1986 victory in a course record time of 35.11.



The dawning of a new decade in 1990 saw a record entry with City of Hull's Andy Lyons recording the first of his four consecutive titles, winning a £100 training grant for his 30.12 clocking. He also took the Humberside Championship gold which was incorporated in the race that year.



1991 start: Andy Lyons 22, Steve Green 97, Mick Jagger 43, Carl Nightingdale 160, John Beedon 158, Roy Ormsby 109.

Andy finally cracked the sub 30 minute barrier the fourth time of asking on New Year's Day 1993. A four-year winning sequence of 30.12 – 30.05 – 30.03, and finally 29.32 saw Andy surpass Vincent Garner's 1989 record by four seconds. The ladies record was also broken in 1993 with Peterborough's Teresa Dyer, re-writing the record books with an amazing 32.43 clocking. Both athletes picked up £160 in training grants for their win.

Teresa Dyer, having broken the Cleethorpes Guy Fawkes 10K record in late October of 1992, with a 33.34 clocking, was expected to record another fast time in 1993 in only her second visit to the resort, and the expectations were certainly fulfilled as she knocked nearly two minutes off the previous record and 51 seconds off her personal best. Added interest was her five mile split of 26.30, a time that would have put her second in

the previous year's UK rankings for the five mile distance. Teresa's 32.43 clocking turned out to be the fastest time in the UK in 1993 and put her 12th on the British All-Time list.



Andy Lyons & Teresa Dyer. Teresa with 32.43 is still the course record holder.

Amazingly Andy Lyons course record of 29.32 was only to last the year as Skyrac AC's Peter Whitehead recorded 29.24 in the 1994 event, with both Rotherham's David Tune (29.56) and Leeds City's Julian Moorhouse (29.58) also going sub 30 minutes. Peter went on to finish in 12th place in the following year's London Marathon in 2.12.23. Host club's Lisa Melkevik Mawer recorded a fast 34.49 to win the ladies with Annette Bell, Lincoln Wellington, in second (35.09) and former Grimsby Harrier Kim Bennett third in 35.53.

With an icy blast of cold air blowing in from the Humber the 1995 race was won in dramatic fashion by Scunthorpe based, Julian Moorhouse, running for Leeds City who, despite losing the lead at the 6K mark with stomach cramp, was able to overhaul England International Mick Thompson with 400 metres to go to cross the finish line in 30.42, five seconds in front of runner-up Mick.

Olympian Jane Shields, who ran the 10,000m for Great Britain in the Los

Angeles Olympics, was the first woman to complete the course, recording 36.10 - a reflection of the harsh conditions out on the route. In the M65 category, Eddie Kirkup, three times winner of the Morpeth to Newcastle New Year's Day road race in the mid 1950s, clocked a national ranking 40.59.

CLEETHORPES & DISTRICT ATHLETIC CLUB
Cleethorpes New Years Day 10K

Sunday, 1st January 1995 at 11.15 a.m.

under BAF Laws Permit 1075

MARTIN ANDERSON INSURANCE

INSURANCE & INVESTMENT CONSULTANT
429 Grimsby Road, Cleethorpes, South Humberside. DN35 7LB
Tel: 0472 691265

10 KILOMETRE ROAD RACE ON THE ROADS OF CLEETHORPES AND HUMBERSTON
BAF MEASURED FLAT COURSE
TIME AT MILE & 5K WELL MARSHALLED ROUTE ST. JOHNS AMBULANCE

PREVIOUS WINNERS INCLUDE - A. LYONS (4 TIMES) CITY OF HULL;
V. GARNER COPELAND A.C.; C. NIGHTINGALE SHEFFIELD A.C.; N. SMITH COVENTRY;
P. WHITEHEAD SKYRAC; M. ANDERSON GRIMSBY HARRIERS

COURSE RECORDS - PETER WHITEHEAD 29:24 TERESA DYER 32:43

ENTRY FEE £4.00 CLUB £4.50 UNATTACHED

'T' SHIRTS TO ALL FINISHERS

Entries close Thursday 15th December 1994
NO LATE ENTRIES - NO ENTRY ON DAY

Prizes 1st 15 male + 1st 8 female + 1st 3 male & 1st female teams (3 to count)

Runnerecare Vouchers to the value of
First male £130 £170 if sub 30 minute
First female £130 £170 if sub 34 minute

Trophies 1st M40 M45 M50 M55 M60 M65 F35 F40 F50

Cleethorpes New Years Day 10k Entry Form
(photocopies accepted)

Name _____

Address _____

Age on race day _____ Min. age for race is 15 years

Athletic Club (if any) _____ Best 10k time _____

Fee enclosed _____ Male or Female _____

I am medically and physically fit to run and understand I enter at my own risk.. The organisers will not be held liable for any injury, loss or illness however occasioned from the event.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please post entry form, fee and SAE (at least 9 x 6 with 1st Class stamp) to:
Colin Wright, 17 Victory Way, Laceby Acres, Grimsby, South Humberside, DN34 5UY
Cheques/Postal Orders should be made payable to Cleethorpes A.C.

Race instructions and number will be forwarded to you

Where did you obtain this form? _____

1995 New Year's Day Entry Form.

The 1996 race saw Rotherham Harriers take the team prize, led home by David Tune who recorded a fast 30.15. Runner-up Robert Holladay, 31.18

was the second counter for the team, and Michael Thompson anchored the team in seventh position. Grimsby's John Clark was first veteran in third with a 31.42 clocking. The ladies race saw East Hull Harrier Melanie Hayward recording her first New Year's Day win in 37.10, with Carol Wild recording a world class 37.40 and W50 course record in fourth.

The weather finally took its toll on the New Year's Day race with the 1997 event nearly being cancelled. The course was inspected by officials on the day and because of the snow underfoot the race was reduced in distance and only run on the main roads. Simon and Annette Bell, Lincoln Wellington's husband and wife team, ran out the winners on a course just under four miles in distance.

Business as normal was the order of the day in the 1998 race with Skrac's Peter Whitehead the 1994 course record holder returning to the resort and recording a strong 30.58 in first place. Rotherham Harriers repeated their team victory of 1996 with three different counters to their previous team victory. Paul Bennett, runner-up to Whitehead, recorded 31.34, with fellow team mate Darren Hale in third with 31.51, and Mark Ruddleston anchoring the team in fourth place to record 31.57. Lisa Mawer with 37.00 repeated her 1994 victory in the ladies event running for her new club, Harrogate Imperial.

Lincoln Wellington's Simon Bell repeated his 1997 win in the 1999 event, this time in better weather conditions over the full 10k distance. Wolds Veteran, Daphne Barclay ran out the winner in the ladies event recording a W45 category record of 38.38.

For the millennium 10K the race headquarters moved again, this time to the Wellow Hotel at the corner of Chichester road and Kings road. The race took place in ideal conditions with Blackheath and Bromley International runner Andrew Arrand running an impressive 30.49, over a minute ahead of runner-up Cleethorpes AC's Philip Hinch, who led home the host club to first team place. Lisa Mawer, Bingley Harriers, recorded her hat-trick of victories in this event recording 35.05.

Simon Bell, Lincoln Wellington, notched up his hat-trick of New Year's Day wins on the opening day of 2001 with Bingley's Lisa Mawer keeping her title of the previous year, notching up her fourth New Years Day win.

Daphne Ellmore ran one of the fastest times in the UK in the W50 category that year with a category course record of 37.22, surpassing Carol Wild's 1996 record by 18 seconds.

The highlight in the 2002 event was the performance of Daphne Ellmore in the ladies event, not only the fact that she won the event, but that she ran 36.24 in the W50 to record one of the fastest W50 times ever recorded in the UK. Kingston Upon Hull won the team event, led home in first place by Andy Swearman who recorded a fast 30.58 with team mate Gary Slater in the runner-up position and Andy Hughes, fifth overall, as the last counter for the north bank team.



With snow on the ground, Andy Swearman wins in 2002.

In 2003, David Ricketts, running for Bolton United Harriers, crossed the line in first place with a 31.15 clocking; somewhat down on his track personal best of 30.33.02, recorded in May of the previous year. Host club runner, Beverley Wilson, was first in the ladies race (37.06) holding off

Daphne Ellmore (37.08) in a dramatic sprint finish.

Andy Swearman returned to the resort in 2004 this time wearing the colours of Birchfield Harriers and the outcome was yet another win (31.37). Melanie Hayward, this time running for Beverley AC, took the ladies title in 35.18 repeating her win of 1996.

Regular supporter of this event, Mick Jagger of Lincoln Wellington, ran out the winner in 2005 and 2006. Mick's best recorded time on New Year's Day was way back in 1989 when he recorded 31.01 for seventh place. Ladies winner in 2005 was Peterborough's Tanya Taylor who recorded 38.31 whilst in 2006 Bingley's Lisa Mawer clocked up her fifth New Year day win clocking 34.51, thus recording a new W35 record, knocking one minute 43 seconds off Jane Colebrook's 1993 record. This was the third time Lisa has run sub 35 minutes on New Year's Day; the first being way back in 1992 when she stopped the watch in 34.45.

Also of interest in 2006 was Scunthorpe's Bob Newell recording a M65 time of 38.49 which put him third in his age group on the British All-Time list for that year and proving that it was a good year for veterans, Daphne Ellmore ran a W55 record of 39.07 which would have been the fastest W55 time in the UK in that year but, for the fact that one month later Daphne ran 38.46 at Dewsbury !! The venue for the race moved yet again, this time to the host club's new headquarters, the Cleethorpes Cricket Club in Chichester Road.

In 2007 host club's Beverley Wilson, repeated her 2003 victory whilst 2004 runner-up, Pumlanani Bangani, running for Salford Harriers, finally hit the number one position with his 32.31 win.

Lincoln Wellington's Mick Jagger secured his New Year's Day hat trick in 2008 with Hermitage Harrier Gemma Steel taking the ladies title with a 36.14 clocking. In 2009 she repeated this victory with a personal best time of 34.50. In 2011 and 2013 Gemma was a member of the Great Britain Gold medal team in the European Cross-Country Championships, and in August 2014 she ran her fastest 10k, recording 31.17 in Memphis, USA.



Gemma Steel, 2009 winner (34.50) with host club Natalie Farrow and seven-times race-winner, Lisa Mawer.

Kingston Upon Hull repeated their 2002 team victory in 2009, led home by race winner Robert Hodges (32.38) in only his second ever run over the 10K distance; with track runner Jarratt Perkins, making his debut over the 10k distance, third overall and team mate Gegan Clarkson anchoring the team in seventh position.

On the opening day of 2010 in the 35th running of the event, Redhill Road Runner, Leigh Stubbs, recorded his lifetime personal best of 32.02 for the distance with host club, Martin Formestone in second place (32.17) also recording his personal best. Not to be outdone, track specialist, Sam Atkin, in third place (32.22) clocked his best time for the distance. In the ladies event, Lisa Mawer, now running for Wetherby RR, recorded her sixth New Year's Day win, stopping the clock in 37.00 beating pre-race favourite, Natalie Farrow by 25 seconds.

In 2011 two times runner-up, Gegan Clarkson, in his sixth New Year's Day race finally hit the top spot recording 33.45 - the fourth Kingston Upon Hull athlete to win the event. Mick Jagger, now running for Wolds Vets, was second (33.58) with Mick's former Lincoln Wellington club mate, Richard Bateson, in third running a PB of 34.03. Beverley Wilson, from the host club, Cleethorpes AC, clocked her third New Year's Day win

with Jacqui Khoueiry running for Holmfirth Harriers in second and Mablethorpe's Janine Stones in third.

Reflecting the continued popularity of the event, the 2012 race saw a record entry of 485 runners, 120 up on the previous record set in 2009. The race itself was not without drama as pre-race favourite, Tony Whiteman, the double Olympian and Commonwealth medallist, running for Shaftesbury Barnet, led the field through the mile in 4 minutes 45 seconds and Two mile in 9 minutes 53 seconds, unfortunately it was at this point, whilst lapping tail enders, that Tony departed from the prescribed route and headed off down the Kingsway instead of turning left down Cromwell Road. This let Lincoln Wellington's, Richard Brown, and Hallamshire Harrier, Carl Thackery, to battle it out for the main prize, with the former Louth AC man, Richard Brown, taking the title in 32.25 with Carl Thackery clocking 33.37. Last year's winner, Gregan Clarkson, running for Kingston Upon Hull AC was in third.

The ladies event saw a very close tussle on the streets of Cleethorpes and Humberston between last year's winner, Beverley Wilson and six time winner, Lisa Mawer, with Lisa crossing the line with two seconds to spare over host club, Beverley Wilson, to record her seventh New Year's Day win.

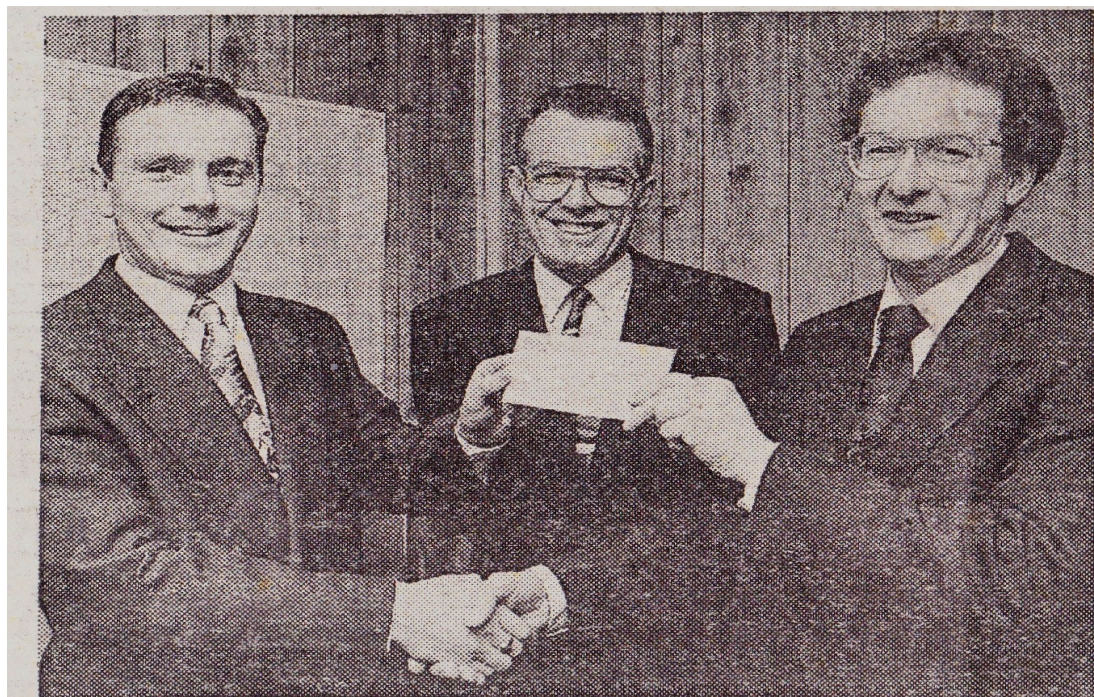
A bright sunny day greeted the runners in the 2013 event, and for the third year in succession a record entry was received for the event, with an entry of 526 and a record 451 finishers. Last year's winner, Richard Brown, the Lincolnshire County XC bronze medallist, repeated his 2012 win doing just enough to finish 100 meters in front of the 2007 winner, Pumlani Bangani, with Chris Cotton of Kimberworth Striders in third.

Natalie Farrow, the National Police XC Champion and Lincolnshire County Champion, in her first race for three months, recorded her first win in this event. Beverley Wilson from the host club was second with Kimberworth Striders Lindsey James in the bronze position. The only veteran record to go was in the W70 category with Doncaster's Rosemary Armstrong recording 57.29 in her first year in this age group. The 2013 event must be noted for the large number of spectators who lined the route.



CASH BOOST: Partner at Grimsby's Bridge McFarland Solicitors, Lisa Moore, presents a cheque for £750 to James Woodhouse (left) and Nick Gregory, of Cleethorpes Athletic Club, to help with the running costs of the New Year's Day 10km.

Sponsorship in 2014, above and 1993 below.



RICHARD WALES, from Martin Anderson Insurance, Cleethorpes, presents a £650 sponsorship cheque to race organiser **COLIN WRIGHT** for the Cleethorpes New Year's Day 10k race organised by Cleethorpes Athletics Club. Looking on is **MARTIN ANDERSON** (centre).

The 2014 event saw entries limited to 500 runners with 433 finishers on the day. Richard Brown recorded his third successive New Year's Day title

clocking 32.05. Grogan Clarkson, the 2011 winner, was second in 33.48 with Carl Ashwood of Sutton in Ashfield third in 34.11. Jenny Blizzard took the ladies title with a 38.46 clocking with host club runner, Beverley Wilson, in the runner-up position, clocking 39.30 with fellow veteran Jayne Baldwin, of Doncaster also posting a sub 40 minute performance.

Strong winds with a cold tinge welcomed athletes to the 2015 event with Matt Bowser, the Lincolnshire XC Champion of Lincoln Wellington, completing a solo run in 31.53. Matt has a 10K personal best of 29.52 recorded in Telford in 2012. The women's race was won by Natalie Burns in a repeat of her 2014 victory. Natalie, also, like the men's winner, running for Lincoln Wellington, clocked 37.43 for the distance. In second position was Caroline Smith 38.30 with three-times New Year's Day winner, Beverley Wilson in third 39.56. There were 418 finishers.



Host club runners in 2015 before the start in Daggett Road.

The 2016 event saw the entry limit raised from 500 to 550; consequently this event had a record number of finishers: 461.

With the lack of wind, compared to last year's event, fast times were

expected in 2016 and the two leading runners, Matt Bowser, last year's winner from Lincoln Wellington and John Beattie (Newham & Essex Beagles) were soon to the fore and by the mile (4.53) they had 21 seconds on the next group. They remained together throughout, going through 5K in 15.03; and with Beattie, no more than a few meters in front and with the finish in sight, Bowser kicked for home, stopping the clock in 30.09, one second in front of Beattie.

This was the fastest New Year Day time since Peter Whitehead set the current course record of 29.24 in 1994 and was also the seventh fastest time ever recorded on the course.

First women, also like the men's winner, from Lincoln Wellington, was Natalie Burns who recorded her hat-trick of 10K wins; recording her fastest New Year's Day time (35.37) Host club runner, Beverley Wilson, also a three times winner, was in the runner-up position with a solid 39.36. Michael McNerney, of Scunthorpe & District AC, set a new M75 course record of 51.42, surpassing the 2006 time of 55.14 set by William Bunting.



THEY'RE OFF: The start of the 2016 New Year's Day 10km road race. Matt Bowser (white vest) and John Beattie (blue vest) are in the centre, while first female Natalie Burns is far left (blue vest).

Pictures: Duncan Young

2016 event as reported in the Grimsby Telegraph.

The race venue, after being at the Cleethorpes Cricket Club since 2006,

moved in 2017 half a mile down the road, to the Beachcomber Holiday Park. A cold and wet day greeted the runners in 2017 with the 418 finishers taking a soaking during the race. Matt Bowser, this year running for Lincoln & District Runners, took his third successive win in the event with a 31.07 clocking. Louth runner, Natalie Burns, running for Lincoln Wellington, took her fourth New Year's Day 10K title, with 36.39.

For the first time road closures were introduced to the race and though this led to an increase in entry fee this did not deter the runners and the 2018 event had a record number of finishers – 567.

The 2019 event saw the usual start in Daggett Road relocated to Kings Road, opposite the Leisure Centre, thus avoiding the side streets and reverting to the original loop: thus making for a faster race. Well, that is what the 417 finishers were hoping for and that proved the case for race winner, Lewis Jagger, Sheffield & Dearne AC, who crossed the finish line in a personal best time of 30.19. Though with a relatively pedestrian 5k (15.32) Jagger, running alongside, Lincoln's Will Strangeway, perhaps should have made his move earlier as his next 5K of 14.47 won the race, but the earlier 5k probably cost him the sub 30 he is quite capable of running. Strangeway, secured second (31.28) with Notts Ac's, Jarratt Perkins in third with 32.30.

First back in the ladies event was Scottish International, Jo Williams, of Lothian RC, stopping the clock in 36.48 with Jenny Blizard, Rotherham Harriers, repeating her runner up position of the previous year (37.01) and Jenny's teammate, Kerry Pearson in third with 38.01.

Lucian Allison, Lincoln Wellington, the pre-race favourite for the 2020 event certainly lived up to his billing, which included a 13.57.81, 5.000m, clocking from the previous year at Loughborough, when he tore around the Cleethorpes course in 29.39: the fastest time in 26 years! Rotherham Harrier, Georgina Weston, going through 5k in the lead in 18.00 ran out the easy winner in the female event, with a 36.41 clocking. There were 502 finishers with local runner, Elizabeth Woods, setting new figures in the W70 category with her 54.05 clocking.



Lucian in full flight down Chichester Road



2020 Chichester Road, first time round.



A warm welcome at the race venue.

Unfortunately, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic the 2021 event was cancelled and replaced with a virtual event; but still with an exclusive 2021 New Year's Day T-Shirt for all virtual finishers. The “winners” of this virtual event were Andy Norman of Altrincham & District in 30.59 and Katie Over running for Grimsby Tri who submitted a winning time of 41.34.

The year 2022 saw the return of an actual race with a new venue: the Cleethorpes Leisure Centre. Lewis Jagger, the 2019 winner (son of three times NYD 10K winner, Mick) was first to cross the finish line in a time of 30.47, with three-time winner, Matthew Bowser, the runner-up, clocking 31.14. City of Hull's GB international Becky Briggs was the first women to cross the line recording 35.34. In April of the same year she ran her current marathon PB of 2.29.04 in the Manchester Marathon. In the veteran category, Jenny Blizzard (W45) and Yvonne Twelvetree (W70) set new category records in their respective age-groups.



2022 Winners, Lewis Jagger & Becky Briggs.

In 2023 Matt Bowser, Lincoln Wellington, clocked up his fourth NYD10K win with 5k splits of 15.24 and 15.34 to cross the line in Kings Road with a time of 30.59. Matt's partner, Sophie Wallis, made it a Lincoln Wellington double when she stopped the watch in 34.40.

Unfortunately high winds affected runners times in 2024, yet despite this Sophie Wallis, the Lincolnshire XC Champion, battled the winds and ran the second fastest time on the course (33.35) This time only beaten by Teresa Dyer, Peterborough AC, who ran 32.43 in 1993. One can imagine that Sophie with a 32.35 PB (Trafford 2023) would, on a better day, have challenged the record. Matt Bowser, like Sophie, repeated his 2023 victory; Matt is now five times NYD10K winner, surpassing Andy Lyons four wins in the early 1990s. The only veteran record to be beaten was the M75 with Wolds Veteran, Mick Casey, clocking 45.38, a new record by six minutes four seconds!



Matt & Sophie 2024 Winners.

2025 saw a record entry for the event of 750 runners with a corresponding record number of finishers. Matt Bowser once more ran out the winner, this time clocking-up his sixth win - a NYD record! We also had our first husband and wife double when Sophie Bowser crossed the line in first place (34.45) with a fast finishing Emily Soames recording 34.56 in second.

Three veteran course records were beaten this year with Michael McInerney in the M80 knocking 5 minutes five seconds off the previous record which dated back to 2009. Michael gained one record but lost his 2016, M75 record to Mick Casey who took the record with a outstanding 45.38. Lindsay Skinner recorded 35.41 to surpass Jenny Blizzard's 2018 W40 record.

COLIN WRIGHT
September 2025
V20

