

Another tough race...

It was another hot one on Saturday when 134 runners took on the challenge of the Machrihanish to Campbeltown Kintyre Way Ultra. For environmental reasons, the Kintyre Way had been extended by two miles above Ballygroggan across tussocky terrain with no path on the ground, meaning runners were dependent on new posts put in by the landowner and additional signs put in by the race organisers. Staying near the back to follow the leaders might have been a good option.



Because our Kintyre Way Ultras are fairly short (by Ultra standards!) they are generally a good introduction to Ultra running – provided you can run on varied terrain. Yet again the challenge of tussocky hills, beach sections and roads came as a shock to the system for first timers, but even experienced trail runners found this first section gruelling in Saturday's heat.

As a race of two halves, runners were given the opportunity to change from trail to road shoes at Southend, which would be an easy choice but for the obligatory beach section from Kilmashenachan to Polliwilline. The jury is still out on the best option.



The water stations with water, grapes and satsumas were also kept busy and Man of the Match award went to Alan Moffat at the Feochaig water station who had a garden hose out to spray those going past.

At the pointy end, however, there has been fierce but friendly competition for several years between the top men in particular. Tactician Daniel Bond has won the other two sections (Tayinloan to Tarbert and Tayinloan to Campbeltown) and started out as favourite. We're used to seeing Allan Young, Kenny Craig and Stuart Millar battling it out and Daniel pacing himself to float past everyone in the last few miles. This time, Daniel allowed Andrew Anderson a lead of only a few seconds at the Southend checkpoint before overtaking him and pulling away along the shockingly undulating minor road into and through Campbeltown to the finish at Glengyle Distillery.



The women's race was won by an ever smiling Michelle Hetherington in 16th, who could also have claimed the 1st female 60 prize had there been one. She was closely followed





by Johana Mackova, from the Czech Republic in 20th and Maryhill Harriers' Maria Mott in 25th, all within half an hour of each other. Good luck to Maria in the West Highland Way race in June.

The new route means that these are new record times and a special prize was awarded to Daniel Bond for being the fastest person to have completed all three sections totalling 102 miles in a time of 15 hours 26 minutes. The first and only woman to have completed all three sections is Kali Heaney in 23 hours and 5 minutes.

Apologies to Kali, we had missed this, as her Tayinloan to Tarbert run was in 2021. (Jean MacDonald has also done all 3 but '22 was a shorter course.)

Meanwhile Howard Worton took the opportunity of the race starting at one end and continued overnight to arrive in Tarbert supported by his wife Hilary, in a time of 25 hours 17 minutes.

We would like to thank our fabulous sponsors:

Glengyle Distillery for the use of their lovely courtyard for the finish as well as Kilkerran Single Malt for providing every competitor with a miniature.

SSE renewables for once again providing transport of the drop bags and finish bags and giving us a substantial contribution towards the meals. The team were also kept busy helping at a water station.

Machrihanish Holiday Park for accommodation for far flung volunteers and timing team.

Campbeltown Common Good Fund enabled us to provide a few extras – Lori from Funky Chicken with kids' entertainment and Laura and her team providing the welcome massage.

We were grateful for support from Arrochar Mountain Rescue Team and particularly Jamie who went on foot over the first section and was therefore on hand when the first casualty occurred.

Race Results

Men sponsored by Kilkerran Single Malt and prizes presented by Nicole Lindsay

- 1 Daniel Bond 5:20:10
- 2 Andrew Anderson 5:34:46
- 3 David Stark 5:49:18

Women, sponsored by Kintyre Gin and prizes presented by Niall Macalister Hall.

- 1 Michelle Hetherington 6:21:01
- 2 Johana Mackova 6:30:44
- 3 Maria Mott 6:45:20

Relay, sponsored by Fyne Ales

- 1 GSUOTC (Aidan Wright and Jamie Horsley) 6:09:10
- 2 Where's My Bike? (Kirsty McMillan and Duncan McMillan) 6:10:29
- 3 Oscar's Running Crew (Maxwell Hansen, Robin and Esther Weil) 6:11:49

Male V50+ Gary Blackwood 6.02.14

Female V50+ Kali Heaney 8:14:32

Thanks to Kenny Craig for photographs.



Save The Date
9th of May 2026
Tayinloan to Campbeltown.