

PETER RITCHIE MORMOND HILL CHALLENGE – 11 AUGUST 2021

On a warm but damp and breezy night 14 runners took on the hill, including guest runner Matt Cooman and a few Run Buchan ladies opting for a shorter route.

There were the usual moans to the starters, racers complaining about handicaps etc, but no one seemed put off by the conditions or the impending rain.

Kevin Brooks led the way and was still leading at the halfway turning point with Richard Mutch not far behind as the remainder of runners still making their way up the hill.

The return journey was made a little more interesting when the heavens decided to open, that and the headwind made for a harder last few miles and assured everyone was suitably soaked to the skin by the finish.

Richard took the lead heading back up to the bothy and never looked back (well maybe once), crossing the line in 1st place for the second year in a row in 1:06:43, almost 2 minutes clear of Stuart Craib in 2nd, with Kevin Brooks just holding onto 3rd place from a fast-finishing Andrew West. Kevin however doesn't yet have a Qualifying Handicap time following reset of his handicap, so official third spot goes to Andrew.

Carol Massie was the only female to take on the full route finishing in 6th place overall, taking the Ladies Shield for the second year in a row.

It was good to see head to head racing again after last years Virtual run. Fastest run was by Keith Buchan in 53'28" a little back from his PB of 50'58" in 2016; and a little more away from Keith McIntyre's Virtual effort of 49'18" last year. The ladies record still stands to Elaine Whyte who recorded 57'32" in 2008. So still a bit to do work on for next year ladies.

Keith Buchan also came top in Age graded performance with 83.98%; with Carol Massie in second with 77.32% and Robbie Cooman in third with 75.31%.

Thanks to our starters Karen & Brenda, and the marshals up the hill: Gaynor, Rhona, Duncan, Jayne, Jennifer, Maureen, Lisa & Charlie who all got a soaking as well!

Graeme Clark for sorting the handicaps.

Stuart Craib for marking out the route the day before and Callum Mutch for doing a bit of grass cutting on the track.

Peter Ritchie's family for coming and providing lovely goody bags for the runners at the finish.

Tracey Weston for providing the lovely home bakes at the end.

All money donated will be given to Peter Ritchie's Family to donate to a local charity of their choice.

