

## Run Barra – May 31, 2025

Back again for another year of punishment and glory – the Run Barra 10K continues to be my ultimate love-hate relationship. Once more, I took on the infamous course, which never fails to test both legs and lungs in equal measure.

The race starts deceptively easy with a pleasant downhill in the first kilometre. But that's where the "love" part ends – the next three kilometres are a relentless climb, gaining around 200m in elevation, with more than half of that packed into one brutal kilometre.



Throw in the wet and slightly more technical terrain this year, thanks to pre-race rain, and the challenge only increased. That said, the skies cleared just in time for the race itself, and by the prize giving, we were treated to sunshine and smiles. 53:56

A new addition to the event this year was the 5K race, which opened the door for more runners to get involved. Graeme Clark 27:42 and David Abernethy 27:45 gave it a solid test run, and it proved to be a welcome option for those not keen on tackling the full 10K mountain.

A solid turnout overall – 204 runners took on the 10K, while 114 opting for the 5K. Earlier in the day, a series of kids' races kicked off the festivities, giving the whole event a fantastic community and family feel.

Hats off to the organisers – the event was superbly run, the marshals were encouraging and on point throughout, and the logistics went off without a hitch. Post-race, we were rewarded with delicious hot dogs (a real highlight), followed by an ice cream trip to Barra Berries – a well-earned treat! The only letdown? Coke Zero. We'll call that a minor blip on an otherwise excellent day.

Meanwhile, in Peterhead...

Whilst some of us were basking in the post-race sunshine and sugar rush, a hardy squad of black and whites made their way to the Blue Toon for this month's edition of the Peterhead 3K. The sun shone on the Brochers, and the club was well represented with strong performances across the board:

- Jamie Mathers – 12:05
- Karen Robertson – 12:35
- Brian Urquhart – 12:38
- James Short – 14:01
- Charlie Noble – 16:23
- Pat Willox – 21:17 (after a warm-up at the Ellon parkrun!)

For Peterhead, conditions were fairly typical – a bit wet with a slight headwind on the return leg. Karen appreciated the breeze for cooling her down mid-run, though not nearly as much as she enjoyed her post-race chai latte and cinnamon scone. Priorities! Another weekend of racing done, from the hills of Barra to the seafront sprints of Peterhead. Well done to everyone who laced up and gave it their all.

