

# SCOTTISH NORTHERN DISTRICT RELAY CHAMPIONSHIPS

## Keith

SCOTTISH mountain running international Graeme Bartlett anchored Forres Harriers to their first senior men's title for more than a decade while defending champions Keith and District had to settle for second, *Fraser Clyne reports*.

Bartlett, who was in the last Forres squad to win, in 1992, recorded the joint fastest individual lap time of the day when completing the 4km circuit in 12:02.

Scottish U17 champion Willie Duncan equalled Bartlett's time when putting a non-counting guest select team in the lead on the opening circuit while Jeremy Whittet gave defending champions Keith and District a narrow lead over Paul Rogan of Forres.

Brian Law then put Forres into pole position on the second leg with Keith and District slipping 31 seconds behind. Dave Adam held the Forres' lead on the third stage although Keith's Mike Stewart reduced the deficit to six seconds.

Bartlett's final leg performance proved too strong for Keith veteran Ross Arbuckle,, who nevertheless produced the third best time of the day.

The Moray Road Runners trio of Jennifer Newman, Dawn Hardie and Jane Barker led from start to finish to win the women's title for the first time since 1996. Barker recorded the fastest lap time of the day by a wide margin.

Moray also won the male and female young athletes' races. Connor Cowie, Steven Houston and Steven Raeburn took top spot in the boys' competition. Laura Sharp, Rachel Pirie and Jennifer Houston won the girls' event - but they had no opposition.

North athletics officials will be concerned by the poor turnout. Aside from the girls' race, there were just three boys' teams, three women's teams and six men's sides taking part.

## Men

1 Forres H 50:47 (P Rogan 13:02, B Law 12:48, D Adam 12:55, G Bartlett 12:02); 2 Keith & District 51:13 (J Whittet 13:00, F Barron 13:21, M Stewart 12:30, R Arbuckle 12:22); 3 Moray RR 52:22 (R Hardy 13:43, E Paterson 13:30, A Clark 12:38, B Foreman 12:31); 4 Guest Select Team 53:53 (W Duncan 12:02, I Cruickshank 13:45, S Reeve 14:38, A Reid 12:38); 5 Inverness H 54:28; 6 Forres H B 61:26

**Fastest:** Bartlett/Duncan 12:02; Arbuckle 12:22; Stewart 12:30; Foreman 12:31, Reid/Clark 12:38

## Young Athletes (U13/U15/U17)

1 Moray RR 28:22 (C Cowie 10:11, S

Houston (U15) 9:03, S Raeburn (U17) 9:08); 2 Moray RR B 29:40 (J Davidson 10:08, K Wilson 9:17, G Sweeney 10:15); 3 Forres H 30:56 (A Todd (U13) 9:39, S Jones 10:15, J Wareham 11:02

**Fastest: U13:** Todd 9:39. **U15:** S Houston 9:03. **U17:** Raeburn 9:08

## **Women**

1 Moray RRR 49:31 (J Newman 17:18, D Hardie 16:12, J Barker 15:06); 2 Forres H 52:19 (A Rodgers 17:28, J Nicol 17:35, J Duncan 17:16); 3 Moray RR B 52:53 (S Houston 18:13, B Bowie 17:45, L Cowie 17:50)

**Fastest:** Barker 15:06; Hardie 16:12; Duncan 17:16

## **Young Athletes**

Moray RR 32:12 (L Sharp 10:11, R Pirie 11:42, J Houston 10:19)