



PHOTOS OF THE MONTH!

Too many to choose from this month.



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Wrapped up ready to run. Photo: Iliffe Media



Melton Mowbray's masked man Thomas Wilkinson. Photo: Iliffe Media

Strider Literally on the Run!!



Errr, bit awkward Vicki but you seem to have a little something on your face.....



Nice dance moves Luke, gliding along the mud!



Lewis showing his love for the Stilton Striders.. I hope!!

Stilton Striders Race Results Report February 2026

Sunday 25th January

Bedford 10

Mark Tyler 1:10:40; Wayne Hackett 1:20:40; Chrissy Heerey 1:36:33

Sunday 1st February

Warwick Half Marathon

Kurt Wilson 1:59:16; Mike Williams 1:59:17; Vanessa Walker 2:22:31

Charnwood Hills Race

Mark Tyler 2:09:55; Andy Mackay 2:04:20; Rhiannon Baxter 2:11:42; Lewis Hyde 2:17:09; Jef Todd 2:17:10

Saturday 7th February

Parkrun Achievements

Doddington Hall: Tom Hansen 16:50 (2nd place)

Sunday 8th February

Running Grand Prix Goodward Half Marathon

Jake Burdett 1:54:01

Irchester Canicross

Gemma Knott & Kiko 22:21

Saturday 14th February

Parkrun Achievements

Belvoir Castle: Ian Bickle 20:21 (1st place)

Melton Mowbray: Paul Ravenscroft 21:27 (3rd place)

Sunday 15th February

DRXCL Holly Hayes Wood

Ian Bickle 42:15; Luke Knowles 42:40; John Houghton 48:04; Robert Craig 52:16; Tony Oakes 54:21; Alan Barnacle 56:11; Adam Hopton 57:44

Vicki Lowe 51:07; Gemma Knott 53:42; Nikola Dolphin-Rowland 54:00; Leigh Pick 70:15; Katie Hill 70:16; Suzie Skelton 70:20

Saint Valentino Terni Half Marathon

Vanessa Walker 2:18:42

Zurich Maraton de Sevilla

Gavin Shilham 2:59:40

Naseby 1645

Jef Todd 2:28:39

St. Valentine's 30k

Lewis Hyde 2:06:44; Rhiannon Baxter 2:18:41; Tom Wilkinson 2:32:06; Chris Page 2:38:11; Mark Tyler 2:38:11; Courtney Lightfoot 2:57:45

Stilton Striders Race Results Report February 2026 CONT-

Saturday 21st February

Parkrun Achievements

Yarborough Leisure Centre: Tom Hansen 16:41 (1st place)

Sunday 22nd February

Leicestershire Half Marathon

Kurt Wilson 1:42:15; Courtney Lightfoot 1:56:43; Emma Watson 2:42:23

Canicross Challenger: Salcey Forest 2

Short Course 5k: Gemma Knott & Kiko 24:26 (*Unofficial time*)

Long Course 8k: Jef Todd & River 36:02 (*Unofficial time*)

Saturday 28th February

Parkrun Achievements

Melton Mowbray: Paul Ravenscroft 22:02 (2nd place)

Mansfield: Kurt Wilson 21:41 (3rd place)

The Belvoir Challenge

15 Miles: Andy MacKay 2:21:28; Richard Gray 2:52:53; Andy Nicholls 2:59:56,

15 miles walkers- Vanessa Walker 7:18:26; Alison Wilson 7:18:38, Sarah Lawrence 8:09

26 Miles: Jef Todd 5:14:37;

Stilton Striders Race Reports

Andy Nicholls - Orienteering Events

It's a busy time for orienteering now with lots of varied events that Striders have been competing at.

On 31st January, 4 Striders competed at Loughborough University, running a twisting course around the many buildings with a surprising amount of hills while trying not to lose touch with the map. On the Long course (about 5 miles) were Andy Nicholls 5th place, Steve Martin 12th, Rich Gray 14th and Kristy Nicholls was 2nd on the Short course.

The next day Matt & Karen White were running on moorland in the fog at Burbage, Yorkshire, Matt coming 4th on the Green course and Karen 31st (out of 43).

A few days later, it was night orienteering near Coalville in a small but varied area of parkland, woodland, streams, steep banks and mud. Andy was the sole Strider, finishing 3rd on the Long course.

Then a few days later, the beautiful buildings and snowdrop-filled woodland of Harlaxton, near Grantham, were the backdrop for another event. On the Brown course, Andy was 6th and Rich 11th, Steve was an impressive 2nd on the Green course whilst Matt, Karen and Carol Stynes-Martin all succumbed to missing a control and Kristy was 1st on the Yellow course.

Plenty more events coming up so if anyone is interested in trying this fantastic sport, contact one of us.



Mark Tyler - Charnwood Hills Fell Race - 1st February 2026

This year was the 38th Charnwood Hills Race, organised by the Bowline Climbing Club, which took place on Sunday, 1st February 2026. This event is classified as a FELL RACE run under Fell Runners Association (FRA) rules. The course is approximately 14.5 miles long and follows public footpaths and open countryside, involving over 1,500 feet of ascent, running through Bradgate, Broombrigg's, and Beacon Hill Country Parks. The terrain underfoot is uneven and testing.

It's worth noting that the race may not be suitable for everyone, as there are cut-off times in place. It's best to check these before you consider entering.

This time we had 5 intrepid Striders who took to the start line, and all

finished the race as follows:

92nd Andy Mackay (MSEN) 2:04:20

111th Turbo Tyler (M60) 2:09:55

122nd Rhiannon Baxter (WSEN)
2:11:42

141st Lewis Hyde (MSEN)
2:17:09

142nd Jef Todd (M50) 2:17:10



Luke Knowles – DRXCL Holly Hayes – 15th February 2026

On a cold and wet Sunday morning only the bravest Striders dared to venture out to uphold the honour of the club in the XC league (other club members were happy to run much further at the 30K race!).

Holly Hayes is a great course going through forest tracks and crossing streams. However, the conditions this year were pretty special - mud everywhere, slippery conditions, streams up to your knees and a horrific hill at the end on which it was hard to keep your footing.

Our team took on this course and then huddled in the tent afterwards for some tea and cake and communal body warmth. Everyone did exceptionally well to get round with no injuries and Vicki Lowe got the prize for most muddiest this time round.

Leigh and Kate did a great job of navigating the course and staying cheerful up until the end. Well done Team Striders.

The next races in the league are Bosworth Battlefield on the 8th March and Gracedieu on the 15th March (there is a bottle of whiskey promised at the end of this race!).

Please come and give cross country a go. You never know, you might like it!



Cross Country provides a whole different level to your running skills and is super laid back. It is £7 cash to enter on the day. Our amazing club tent provides a place to change and also to keep the abundance of cake, sausage rolls and tea/coffee safe until post race. Come along and give it a try, you really don't know what your missing out on!

TRACK SESSION NEWS!!

The second track session at Ratcliffe College was once again well attended on Friday with fantastic feedback by all who attended.

See below a write up from Chris Vaughan about the first session.

On Friday 30th Jan, the Stilton striders did a track session at Ratcliffe College Track .

Taking part were 25-30 people and we were coached by Carol who gave very clear instructions on how the session would work.

The session was broken down into the following 400meters running at your 10km pace or abase pace, in lanes 1 and 2 then a 100 meters of walking in lanes 3 and 4

Then 400m at your 10km pace but 5 seconds faster if possible and then repeat as long as you could in the 30mins or until the whistle went.

This was a great session and everyone who took part got something different from the session and can't wait for the next one on the track

For myself a big thank you to Micheal for guiding me



The next sessions are-

27th March, 17th April, 15th May.

A big thank you to our coaching team for their time spent with organising these sessions and tailoring them towards your training goals.

Wednesday Club Run – Meet at the Rugby Club at Melton Sports Village ready to start at 6.30pm. Please do wear a high viz, reflective top on a club run night and a warm layer for a post run refreshment in the bar. The food provided by Andy is top notch and very reasonable ££



Friday Social Run 12pm– Look out for posts on the club Facebook and WhatsApp group for details each week. It's a wonderful way to spend your lunch hour and the cake is delicious! Happy travels to Rob & Sharon.



CLUB WEBSITE UPDATE with NEW RACE CALENDAR

This updated site is designed to be a central resource for all members:

New members can easily access the latest membership forms – junior and senior

Existing members will find recent newsletters, club standards, and our newly introduced club calendar.

The calendar already features scheduled DRXC and LLRL races, along with local events you might enjoy. We'll also be adding coaching sessions and social activities. If you know of any events that should be included, please contact a committee member.

We're thrilled that so many new members have joined in the last 12 months. Many of those have been friends and family of existing members, inspired by your amazing accomplishments.

Given the influx, we're actively encouraging prospective members to visit our new website - for the updated version of our membership form. This version includes the latest payment information - and can now be completed digitally. Please take this message forward if you receive any enquiries about membership, referring to our website in the first instance. www.stiltonstriders.co.uk

In need of a club top– New or Old– then Melton Sports and the Club Kit Exchange can help!

Micheal Cooke at Melton Sports offers a wide range of club kit and other sporting items. I recently purchased a new club zip up jumper from the sustainable range available in various colours. Look out for future orders from this range. Other racing club tops and hi viz/reflective kit also available as well as much more.

Or pop into Melton Sport to see the kit exchange range or perhaps you have something you would like to donate or swap.

Don't forget our Kit Exchange Facebook group too-

[\(10\) Stilton Striders Kit Exchange | Facebook](#)



Leicestershire Road Running League 2026 Race Calendar

PLEASE remember to use your name as it appears on your England Athletic membership when entering the races.

Race 2 - Kibworth 6 - Sunday 1 March– Smashed it AGAIN!

Race 3 - Bosworth Half Marathon - Sunday 10 May **Entries still available**

[Bosworth Half Marathon 2026 - Online entry via EventEntry](#)

Race 4- West End 8 - Sunday 31 May

Race 5 - Swithland 6 - Sunday 7 June

Race 6 - Steve Morris 5 - Sunday 28 June

Race 7 - Desford 6 - Wednesday 5 August

Race 8 - Watermead 10k - Wednesday 20 August (DEPENDANT ON BRIDGE REPLACEMENT)

Race 9 - Hermitage 5 - Thursday 27 August

Race 10 - Hose 10 - Sunday 13 September **HOSTED BY US!!!**

Race 11 - Markfield 10k - Sunday 27 September

Race 12 - Rotherby 8 - Sunday 4 October

County and Club standards

These Standards offer a great opportunity to compete at your own level by achieving various standards ranging from Tungsten through to Rhodium level in various distances road races which are on measured verified courses and also for varying age categories.

To read more about the County Standards follow this link- [County Standards – Leicestershire Running and Athletics Network](#)

To learn more about the Club Standards follow this link- [Club standards – Stilton Striders](#)

Scoring 2026

The Teams competition will be a best 9 of 12 events, with the Individuals competition being a best 8 of 12.

In the event the Watermead 10k race cannot take place, scoring will be equal to the 2025 competition, being a best 8 of 11 for Teams, and a best 7 of 11 for Individuals.

Here is the link to the new LRRL website-

[HOME | Leicestershire Road](#)

STRIDER OF THE MONTH-

This months very worthy winner is...

Carol Stynes Martin!

Here are the nominees comments-

-For her commitment to lead the Friday evening track sessions.

-Her commitment to the new look track sessions hosted from Ratcliffe College is truly amazing. Her professionalism, knowledge, and generosity in giving up her time and to take the lead on these sessions, in frankly some brutal winter conditions, is inspiring. I heard one long-time member say after last week's well attended session 'I wish we'd done this years ago'.

'Bloody well-done Carol'.

-For putting on some cracking track sessions.

-For giving her time (on a Friday evening!), coaching expertise and commitment to plan and run the new track sessions. These wouldn't be able to happen without her and they bring something really valuable to the club. Being able to offer coaching shows that we're a club that is serious about supporting its members to work towards their running goals, but it's something that we haven't had for some time. Well done, Carol, and thank you for stepping up!



Others to receive votes are-

Rob Mee For his parkrun at Abbey Park where he smashed it in 20:30 for his gold standards. A lot of young people wouldn't have been able to keep up with him, let alone everyone else in his age group. And also how he's come back, recovered and managed to get stronger after his heart attack. So all credit to him. For his brilliant comeback and promotion of the Friday Striders.

John Martin For giving up his time to attend a cold and wet evening session in his role as lead Welfare Officer to provide support, kindness and diplomacy regarding an issue within the Junior Striders. For leading another excellent Thursday evening structured session.

Tony Oakes Always enthusiastic. Very encouraging of others. Humble and collegiate. Great attendee and advocate of XC, and dedicates time to helping with non running aspects of the club.

Kate Hill & Leigh Pick For the last cross country. As a runner with sight loss and guiding it showed courage to run that technically challenging course. The slippery mud, rain, cold and obstacles were horrendous. It required balance and focus. They both embraced it with a strong run.

A Big Fat Thank you to Tony for taking the time to encourage us all to vote for a member each month. It is amazing how much it can make someone's month!

Dates for the diary

Park Run Takeover

Saturday March 21st the Stilton Striders will be leading a Park Run takeover in Melton.

Many of you have already volunteered to help, if you are free to help then please do contact Andy Nichols or Mark 'Turbo' Tyler.



Curry Night! Saturday 21st March–

Lets mark the Park Run Takeover by joining your fellow Strider family for a curry night. Mark Preston our Curry night organiser is taking numbers of who would like to come along for giggles and poppadom's!

Grand opening of Melton's Relief Road Run- DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

Our very own Johnny Boy Houghton contacted the Melton Borough Council requesting an opportunity for the Stilton Striders to officially open the Relief Road in Melton. After further discussions with the Leicestershire County Council we have a big fat yes! Not only a yes for running the 5km route along the relief road but they will provide parking, marshals and toilets!! John will also be making approaches to other local Melton grass root sporting clubs to join us on this monumental 5km run. Further details to follow soon.



Striders AGM

Wednesday April 15th at 8pm at the Rugby Club.

Our annual AGM is a great opportunity for all Club Members to vote on any matters arising and to suggest any new ideas or changes. It is your club and your votes do matter, so please do come along on the 15th April after club run. If you would like anything adding to the agenda for discussion then please do let me know.

Club Members Fundraising Pages



**BELVOIR EDUCATION
& SPORTS TRUST**

Charity Walk • Cycle • Run

Join us!

Walk • Run • Cycle from
Belvoir Castle → Trent Bridge
via Grantham Canal

- £ Raising funds to help children lead healthy, active lives
- Refreshments on arrival
- In time to watch some Cricket!

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE vs SURREY

Sunday 10th May

Walkers 8:00am start | Runners 11.00am start
Cyclists 1.00pm start

Shorter routes available starting at Hickling

HALF WAY POINT
Hickling

Belvoir Castle Trent Bridge
Cricket Ground

Take part – make a difference

Email Darren to sign up: darren@support-best.org
✉ <https://www.support-best.org/>

A great event for all ending with a Cricket Match with bonus of fundraising for a fantastic local charity. Contact Michael Cooke for more details.

Let me know if you would like to promote your fundraising page in
our monthly Newsletter

A huge well done to all who have trained and raced in the February weather, apparently its character building!



BUT Spring is on its way!

Have a fabulous March what ever you do.



Not only does Tony take lead on The Strider of the Month voting he also does a grand job of collating all of your results and also the members Race reports. Race reports are a great way to tell your fellow club mates all about your recent run, race, event that you have taken part in. It does not have to be war and peace, two or three sentences and a couple of pictures would be wonderful. For example your could mention- the scenery, the course, the weather, the terrain, how you felt, was it a pb or first time achievement, did you not finish, you do not have to mention your finishing time. BUT they DO provide a great read!

Lets celebrate your achievements-

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS Put the Striders Running Club out there! By simply adding Stilton Striders @stiltonstridersrc and @stiltonstridersrunningclub to your posts can boost our Social Media profile..

Striders WhatsApp and Facebook Group is another way to chat to your fellow club mates for anything running related, maybe you would like to have a trot with another runner or need advice.