

## PRESS RELEASE

21 October



### **CHALLENGE IS RUNAWAY SUCCESS**

Organisers are delighted with the success of Sunday's Spires & Steeples Challenge.

The challenge, which was a charity running and walking marathon, saw over 530 participants sign up for the event.

The event, now in its third year, saw participants travelling from as far away as Cheshire, Tyne & Wear, Manchester, Hertfordshire, Essex and Kent, as well as many Lincolnshire folk.

First two 13 mile runners over the finishing line were Phil Warren and Richard Flint completing the route in 1hour and 40minutes. Twin brother to last year's 26 winner, Dennis Rainbow from Ingoldmells, was the first to complete the all terrain route in 3 hours 1 minute. Stephanie Illsley was the first lady finisher completing 13 miles in 1hours and 42 seconds

Jayne Olney, Event Organiser said: "We're already getting a lot of very good feedback from the participants who say that they thoroughly enjoyed the event, many of them determined to come again next year!" The 'volunteer army' who worked all day were superb and the participants really appreciated their enthusiastic support and help at checkpoints and marshalling points along the route."

"Thanks must also go to the tremendous work of St John Ambulance, particularly the guys on the mountain bikes who offered moral support as well as attending to blisters and sore feet!"

Weary participants were able to take advantage of 5 minute massage sessions by local professional sports therapists and were also treated to hot soup by Sleaford Rotary. "We'd like to thank all of our sponsors - Ringrose Law, Lincolnshire Co-operative, FirstAid4Sport and Jonathan Hobbs (Registered Osteopath) as well as the Chuck Wagon who supplied the flapjack".

Mike Lock from North Kesteven District Council took part and walked the 26 mile route, added "It was a great day and an excellent opportunity to enjoy the treasures of the Lincolnshire countryside. The camaraderie among participants was a lot of fun. It was very well organised, right from pre entry information through to the finish line in Sleaford."

Runner Rosalind Treadwell managed the 26 mile run in 4 hours and 7 minutes along with two friends. She said: The route is something special, you get to take in a lot more than if you were just driving past. I can't plug it enough. Everyone there was geeing everyone else on and at times you did need that camaraderie."

The Spires & Steeples Challenge was organised by Leisure Connection and artsNK in partnership with North Kesteven District Council.

## **ENDS**

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