

October 10

SCOTTISH NORTH DISTRICT RELAY CHAMPIONSHIPS Forres

SIMON PRIDE made time available to lead Keith and District to a fourth successive victory in the men's championship before jetting off to Japan for this Sunday's World 100km Championships, *Fraser Clyne* reports.

Pride gave his side an emphatic lead on the opening leg when finishing over 250m ahead of Moray veteran George Sim, who in turn edged home a stride in front of Forres Harrier Andy Beattie.

Ross Arbuckle extended the defending champions' lead to almost two minutes on the second stage while Scottish Universities steeplechase champion Niall Cameron took Forres clear of Moray in second place.

Scottish hill running international Graeme Bartlett, in his first race since the World Trophy competition on Reunion, blitzed around the third circuit in the the quickest time of the day to bring Forres to within 32 seconds of the leaders.

There was to be no dramatic last lap turn around however, as top North veteran Frank Barton clinched the title for Keith with a solid effort.

Doug Cowie secured second for the host club while Andrew Munro brought Moray through in the bronze medal position.

Craig Poole anchored Black Isle to a successful defence of the boys' title with the fastest

time in the young athletes' championship.

Inverness Harriers easily won the women's title with Alison Campbell returning the fastest lap time of the contest on the opening stage.

The club from the Highland capital also won the girls' championship. North officials must however be concerned about the poor turnout for this fixture. Of the four teams taking part in the boys' race, three were from the same club. Things were even worse in the girls' championship which was contested by two teams – and they were from Inverness Harriers.

The senior races were also poorly patronised with 10 men's teams and four women's sides.

Men

1 Keith & District 50:15 (S Pride 12:11, R Arbuckle 12:13, W Johnstone 13:26, F Barton 12:25); 2 Forres Harriers 52:07 (A Beattie 13:00, N Cameron 13:12, G Bartlett 12:10, D Cowie 13:45); 3 Moray RR 52:58 (G Sim 12:59, E Paterson 13:44, B Foreman 13:08, A Munro 13:07); 4 Peterhead AC 54:54 (I Cruickshank 14:39, J Hay 13:58, J Robertson 13:48, A Reid 12:29); 5 Inverness Harriers 55:24 (P Crowe 14:53, G Mitchell 14:03, S Mackenzie 13:00, S Worsley 13:28); 6 Nairn & District 56:53 (S McKenzie 13:13, S Smirthwaite 14:25, M Norgate 15:08, M Howell 14:07); 7 Forres Harriers B 57:36; 8 BP Black Isle 59:57; 9 Moray RR B 60:54; 10 Inverness Harriers B 66:08

Fastest: Bartlett 12:10; Pride 12:11; Arbuckle 12:13; Barton 12:25, Reid 12:29

Young Athletes

1 BP Black Isle 30:31 (S Wilson 11:52, J Stephens 10:00, C Poole 8:39); 2 Forres Harriers 32:21 (G Fraser 11:24, I O'May 10:50; J Mitchell 10:07); 3 BP Black Isle B 32:30 (S Paton 12:15, S O'Bree 10:58, A Campbell 9:18); 4 BP Black Isle C 33:20 (J Watssman 11:59, L Kemp 11:40, T Golabek 9:41)

Fastest

U13: Fraser 11:24

U15: Stephens 10:00

U17: Poole 8:39

Women

1 Inverness Harriers 48:13 (A Campbell 15:56, A Smart 16:11, J Wilson 16:06); 2 Moray RR 50:58 (D Hardy 16:21, J Blount 17:21, M Thompson 17:16); 3 Moray RR B 58:25 (L Cowie 19:12, M Stewart 19:11, F Wardhaugh 20:02)

Fastest: Campbell 15:56; Smart 16:11; Wilson 16:06

Young Athletes

1 Inverness Harriers 37:22 (A McArthur 12:31, J Main 11:35, C McLennan 13:16); 2 Inverness Harriers B 38:49 (S Stevenson 12:39, M Spence 12:31, V O'Brien 13:39)

Fastest

U13: McArthur 12:31

U15: Main 11:35

U17: McLennan 13:16