

SCOTTISH NORTHERN DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS

Forres

SCOTTISH mountain running international Graeme Bartlett lived up to his billing as pre-race favourite when comfortably winning the senior men's title over his home course, *Fraser Clyne* reports.

Bartlett shrugged off a strong challenge in the early stages from former Scottish junior champion Malcolm Bain and went on to win by 300m. UK junior triathlon international Fraser Cartmell was a further 150m back in third place. Alan Reid, the defending champion and five times previous winner, was in contention for a medal until sustaining a calf injury with one mile to go, and ended up hobbling home outside the top twenty finishers.

Bartlett, who also won this title in 1995 and 1996, had further reason to celebrate as he led his club to the team gold medals for the first time since 1989. Cartmell, Paul Matheson (5th) and Doug Cowie (10th) were the other scorers in the winning side.

The host club enjoyed further success by winning all three age group titles in the boys' races.

Kyle Greig, last year's U15 champion, stepped up a bracket to win the U17 age division. Last season's Scottish U13 title winner, Mark Mitchell, took the U15 crown, and Andrew Rogan completed a Forres

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Jason MacLean and James Keenan led

Stornoway Running Club to the U15 and

U13 team titles respectively and so

rewarded the islanders for their long

journey.

Veteran Fraserburgh athlete Marie

Duthie won the women's title for the

second time in four years with an

impressive win ahead of Jane Ogilvie and

Siobhan Evans.

Sixth-placed Jennifer Main led Inverness

Harriers to the team prize for the seventh

year in a row.

Shetland's former Scottish champion Claire Wilson bounced back to form by winning the U17 race from Stephanie Reynolds and Alexina MacArthur. Jennifer Houston was first home in the U15 contest in which runner-up Marina MacDougal led the far-travelled North Uist side to the team medals.

The U13 girls' race was, unfortunately, declared void as the entire field took the wrong course.

Men

1 G Bartlett (Forres) 32:53; 2 M Bain (Storn) 33:53; 3 F Cartmell (Forres, U20) 34:23; 4 F Barton (Keith, M45) 34:28; 5 P Matheson (Forres) 34:31; 6 B Fieldsend (Innes) 34:41; 7 R Arbuckle (Keith, M40) 34:54; 8 S MacKenzie (Innes) 35:28; 9 B Foreman (Moray) 35:29; 10 D Cowie (Forres, M45) 35:34

MSO: G Sim (Moray) 35:52

TEAM: 1 Forres Harriers; 2 Moray Road Runners

4 R MacDonald (I'ness) 25:59; 5 B

MacLellan (Black II) 28:32

U15

1 M Mitchell (Forres) 16:37; 2 J MacLean (Storn) 17:12; 3 J Murray (Storn) 17:29; 4 N Hay (Fraser) 18:23; 5 A Douglas (Caith) 18:24

TEAM: 1 Stornoway; 2 North Uist

U13

1 A Rogan (Forres) 12:49; 2 J Keenan (Storn) 13:02; 3 S Houston (Moray) 13:12; 4 L Taylor (Black II) 13:45; 5 M Tonge (Moray) 13:53

TEAM: 1 Stornoway; 2 Moray Road Runners

Women

1 M Duthie (Fraser, W35) 25:44; 2 J Ogilvie (Moray) 26:12; 3 S Evans (Forres) 26:33; 4 D Scott (Laber) 28:44; 5 S Johnstone (Keith) 30:02; 6 J Main (I'ness) 30:20; 7 K Boocock (I'ness, W35) 30:57; 8 N MacDonald (Laber) 31:11; 9 M MacIvor (I'ness, W35) 32:20; 10 L Cowie (Moray, W45) 33:08

TEAM: 1 Inverness Harriers; 2 Moray Road Runners

U17

1 C Wilson (Shett) 17:31; 2 S Reynolds (Elgin) 17:59; 3 A MacArthur (I'ness) 19:36; 54 F Duthie (Fraser) 22:59

U15

1 J Houston (Moray) 19:30; 2 M MacDougal (N Uist) 19:49; 3 C MacLeod (Storn) 19:53; 4 E Garrick (Shett) 20:09; 5 K Archibald (Moray) 20:25

TEAM: 1 North Uist; 2 Inverness Harriers