

**SCOTT Ultra Series – Race TWO**  
**Thame Trot 50 “The Boat Race”**  
**7th February 2015**



After what we think was the classiest ultra-marathon race registration ever, hosted by the incredible team at the [Hawkwell House Hotel](#), round two of the [SCOTT Ultra Series](#) kicked off at 08:30 on the dot. Three hundred and thirteen runners piled out of the hotel grounds, through Iffley, and on to the Thames Path; expecting to finish almost 50 miles later in Henley-on-Thames. After the terrible flooding in 2013 and 2014 caused significant

alterations to the course, we were all very excited to be able to run the original Thames Trot course this year and looked forward to a great race. Little did we know that the weather had a slippery, muddy sting in its tail as the frozen trails thawed out. By all accounts this made Thames Trot 2015 a very tough run.



The leaders were in to check point 1 over 4 minutes ahead of the rest of the field; with Craig Holgate going for his 3<sup>rd</sup> Thames Trot win and Scott Forbes, Paul Raistrick, Robert Crussel and Peter Abraham right on his heels. Through CP3 the cracks were beginning to show and by CP4 Craig had established a dominant lead. Extending this lead still further through CP5 Craig went on to win with a time of 05:48:42. Scott Forbes came through to take second place in 06:03:32 and, winning the Male 40+ category, Paul Raistrick took 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in 06:07:44.



Despite the impressive running from the men it was, once again, the ladies who stole the show. Course record holder Mary Grace Spalton smashed her own course record (07:21:44) with an impressive 07:13:11 but, remarkably, that was only good enough for 4<sup>th</sup> place (17<sup>th</sup> overall). After finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> at Country to Capital in January Susie Cheshier is obviously in great form. With a blistering final 2 check points Susie came from behind to take the win in an incredible 06:52:58 (9<sup>th</sup> overall). With equally impressive performances Fiona Ross took 2<sup>nd</sup> Female in 06:57:03 (11<sup>th</sup> overall) and Karen Hathaway took 3<sup>rd</sup> in 07:00:13 (12<sup>th</sup> overall).





With 68 runners (over 21% of the entire field) failing to finish the course within the 11 hour cut off, it is easy to see just how tough this race was; this truly was survival of the fittest. Miles upon miles of leg sapping slippery mud certainly took its toll. It doesn't get any tougher or



muddier than this. In this light the performances of those 259 ultra runners who made it to the finish line are all the more impressive (even if a few of them were a little late).

One other notable performance for the day... Our fancy dress award goes to [Richard Lander-Stow](#) who ran dressed as a jester to raise money for The Brain Tumour Charity in loving memory of his father who sadly passed away just a few weeks prior to the race.



Despite the conditions the runners reported how much they enjoyed the race and look forward to entering next year. Particular praise was voiced for the enthusiastic marshals and the fruit cake on offer at all GU Aid stations, where the usual fare of food was supplemented with energy gels and electrolyte tablets courtesy of [GU Energy](#).



Our thanks go out to [North Kent Sports Injury and Massage Therapy](#) who worked tirelessly at the finish working their own particular brand of magic on tired and aching legs and [Adrian Howes Photography](#) for capturing your achievements. Of course special thanks go to our sponsors and retail partners [SCOTT Sports](#) and [Apex Sports](#) for helping to make sure the event can take place.

Our Charity Partners



### Results

	Male	HH:MM:SS
1	Craig Holgate	05:48:42
2	Scott Forbes	06:03:32
3	Paul Raistrick	06:07:44

Female	HH:MM:SS
Susie Chesher	06:52:58
Fionna Ross	06:57:03
Karen Hathaway	07:00:13

Vet 40	Paul Raistrick	06:07:44
Vet 50	Mark Walker	06:45:34
Vet 60	Kenneth Fancett	08:32:03

Maryann Devally	07:43:40
Tina O'Shea	09:44:02