



The London Region Classic



1st October 2016

Organised by London Region Nordic Ski Club with Swenor Rollerskis

It's been a long time since we had a mass start roller ski race in London in classic technique, but what made the London Region Classic special was that Swenor provided all the competitors with new skis to use. Swenor Alutech skis were brought over from Sweden by Hans Fagerberg and his daughter Emily. The skis were perfectly matched for speed and fitted with Salomon or NNN bindings according to individual requirements.



The event sold out well in advance and over 50 skiers arrived at the Olympic Velopark to race on the 1.6km outdoor road circuit. The senior skiers raced to see how many laps they could complete in one hour, whilst under 18s skied for 30 minutes.



"I was very happy to race on matched Swenor Skis. I really hope this can be a regular thing. Thank you Swenor for making this race possible"

Gergely Somogyi, Cambridge Rollerski Club



At the start of the Men's race Jordan Andrews, Charlie Harrigan, Patrick Rodwell, James McMillan, Iain Ballentine and Gergely Somogyi all began strongly. By lap 4 Jordan and Charlie had opened a significant gap on the others. It seemed that, of the chasers, Gergely and Patrick had paced their starts the best as they jostled for 3rd position. They held a consistent speed for the first half of the race.

By lap 8 Jordan and Charlie, still within a second of each other had opened a minute gap on those behind. On lap 10 they were still together but Patrick had fallen back 14 seconds from Gergely. However Anssi Suominen from Finland achieved a negative split, racing the second half of the race faster than the first. As a result on the last lap he overtook Patrick to move into 4th position. As Charlie and Jordan came into the finishing straight there was nothing between them but Jordan edged ahead to complete 12 laps in 58 mins 17 seconds, an excellent achievement.

"Competing on matched roller skis is just great! Everyone on a level playing field, so no excuse of having slower wheels. And all get the enjoyment of skiing on Swenor skis. It was worth travelling from Scotland for!"

Beata Nowok, Western Track Ski Club



The Women's race was led for the first couple of laps by Beata Nowok and Holly Rees-Lay however Beata then began to open up a gap which she continued to extend throughout the race. She showed a real mastery of pacing as her lap times throughout the race never varied by more than nine seconds from the

slowest to the fastest. Beata, who had travelled from Scotland on the day for the event, came in at the finish 3 minutes 33 seconds ahead of Holly. Both completed 11 laps. Amanda Richardson put in a solid race to finish 3rd, completing 9 laps.

“One of the best classic races held in the UK due to the stable matched skis kindly provided by Swenor.”
Steve Perry, RAF Nordic Ski Team

The Female Under 14 race, like the Senior men’s race was a battle between two leaders. Helena Gronski and Beth Ireland both produced a very fast first lap but then matched each other pole for pole over 5 laps until Helen managed to create a gap coming into the finish and win by 4 seconds.



“I am delighted that 9 members of the British Nordic Development Squad had the unique opportunity to race in the Olympic Park on brand new matched Swenor skis. These levelled the playing field and allowed those with strong technique to come to the fore.”
Neil Salmons, British Nordic Development Squad



This was a great day, many thanks for the generous support of Swenor and all who took part.