

Press Release

Nott's athlete beats race record – but is seconds away from £1000!

Nottingham athlete, Chris Warburton beat a race record last night in the Tim Wealthall memorial mile sponsored by Cooper Parry.

Cooper Parry put £1000 up for grabs to the winner of the Tim Wealthall memorial mile. Chris Warburton won the race in 4 minutes 4 seconds, just seconds short of the sub 4 minute mile barrier.

The sub 4 minute mile challenge was set by Cooper Parry to encourage local athletes to break the 4 minute mile barrier. Up to £1000 was on offer from Cooper Parry, £200 to the fastest competitor and a further £800 if they completed the race in less than 4 minutes.

Speaking last night, the race winner Chris Warburton said 'I'm disappointed to have just fallen short of the 4 minute mile barrier but delighted to have beaten the race record by 2.3 seconds. I've been a member of the Nott's AC for many years now and it is always nice to come along and support the club on occasions like these. It was a great opportunity to chase such a big prize fund and have a good competitive race at the same time.'

Chris continued 'I did beat the 4 minute mile barrier last weekend, for the first time, in the Emsley Car Mile, finishing in just 3 minutes 58 seconds. Unfortunately though the weather was a lot more blustery tonight than it was on Saturday.'

Notts AC Senior Coach Trevor Muxlow commented on the challenge 'It is great to see two of our long standing athletes compete in such a great event as the Tim Wealthall memorial mile. I watched both Chris Warburton (race winner) and Bruce Raeside (runner up) come through the ranks in the club and it is great that they have reached International level. This year they have both competed in all the major track races (indoor and out) and I know they both have aspirations to compete in the 2008 Olympics.'

The Tim Wealthall memorial mile has been organised by the Notts Athletic Club in memory of Tim Wealthall every year since his death in 1991. Tim was a county standard middle distance athlete who competed for Notts ac in local and national competitions.

Cooper Parry Partner David Oxland said 'We were thrilled to be involved in the event, the Cooper Parry sub 4 minute mile challenge helped to encourage the elite runners to beat existing records and although Chris didn't break the 4 minute mile barrier he still beat the race record. This event was one that the whole family could attend with people from all age groups and abilities running in the graded mile races, it was a great night for all.'

For further information on this press release, please contact:

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Event History

Tim was a county standard 800/1500 middle distance athlete who competed for Notts ac in local and national competitions. He was a local lad from Bilborough who was proud to run for the club. At the age of 26 he had a malignant brain tumour and died leaving behind a wife, four year old daughter and a severely disabled two year old son. This all happened in 1991 and you can imagine the impact on his fellow athletes, family and friends. Members of Tim's family always attend and assist with prize giving. There is normally his mum/dad/sisters/wife/children and nephews etc.

Notts ac have promoted the race in his memory every year since and from about twenty athletes in the first year and now the event regularly tops one hundred competitors. Originally there was just the one race for senior men but due to demand the event now has races to cater for all ages both male and female. There are entries from all over the country and the standards vary from internationals in the senior races to fun runners, young children and veterans in the earlier races. The evening always starts off with a fun run mile for youngsters and older athletes. As the evening progresses the races get faster with athletes being seeded to appropriate races. Each race is timed by qualified officials.

Cooper Parry

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