

TED PEPPER MEMORIAL '7'

11.00 a.m. Monday, 6th May 1985

A record field of 405 club athletes, including 44 ladies, lined up in warm sunshine for the start of the seventh running of this popular Bank Holiday Monday event.

From the gun, Peter Jones, Cambridge Harriers, set off with great determination, trailing in his wake a group comprising team mates Keith Penny and Paul Williams, Kevin Steere - Ilford AC, Ernie Barrett - Omega, P. Ross-Davies - Hercules Wimbledon, Simon Collingridge and Dave Wright - Ranelagh, Les Roberts - Blackheath Harriers, and an unnumbered ghost runner. This group held together for $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles, at which point Penny surged ahead with only the ghost runner capable of matching his pace. Simultaneously, the rest of the group broke up with Steere, Jones and Collingridge opening a gap on Wright and Roberts who, in turn, went clear of Ross-Davies, Barrett and Williams.

As the finish approached, Penny and his powerful companion were still neck-and-neck but, to the surprise of the crowd, the unknown eased up on the run-in and ran wide of the finishing funnel, leaving Penny to chalk up his third Ted Pepper win. It was later revealed that it was Australian runner, Martin Stock, a late entrant who is in this country for just a few months, who had caused Penny to run much harder than he had intended - indeed, to record his fastest time for the race.

It was nearly a minute before the next runners came into view. Steere's power over the final 400 yards had pulled Jones clear of Collingridge and then put paid to Jones in the final straight. Wright similarly disposed of Roberts to take fifth place, although the latter had the consolation of being out on his own in the veterans competition.

Glynis Penny kept the main honours in the family by winning the ladies race. Heather Beasley, Worcester AC, started fast and headed Glynis round the first lap but, as they started the second ($2\frac{1}{3}$ miles), Glynis had taken control and proceeded to pull steadily away to finish with nearly a minute in hand over her rival in a new ladies record time (38.38). Julie Barleycorn took third place, 9 seconds behind Beasley.

Cambridge easily won the Team award (4 to score) from Blackheath and Ranelagh. Their ladies made it a clean sweep, beating Bromley Ladies and Crowborough.

REPORT BY:

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